

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *China to crack down on joint educational programs*

The Chinese government has decided to scrutinise education programs jointly run by Chinese and foreign colleges, to ensure that local students get value for money. With demand for post-secondary education far exceeding supply, universities and colleges from countries such as the United States, United Kingdom, Canada and Australia have set their sights on the Chinese student market. Some institutions have set up campuses in China while others collaborate with local institutes. With an increase in the number of education providers operating in the country, the quality of programs on offer is being compromised.

According to a report on the Ministry of Education's website, a recent investigation has revealed a series of irregular operations by joint educational institutions. The ministry will not approve new Sino-foreign joint programs on higher occupational education until 2009. Applications for new joint programs on postgraduate education will also be carefully scrutinised.

Source: ["China tightens supervision of joint educational programs," Xinhua, Apr. 19, 2007](#)

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Illegal colleges dupe students in Kenya*

A number of foreign institutes, based in Uganda, have been duping Kenyan students by placing impressive advertisements in local newspapers. According to an investigative report published in the *East African Standard*, many of these institutions claim to offer courses in collaboration with local varsities. In reality, most of them are unaccredited and their degrees are not recognised by education authorities in Uganda. Moreover, tuition fees charged by the colleges are as much as Kenya Shilling 150,000 (\$ 2,193 U.S.) every semester while the academic programs are of lesser duration than those offered by regular universities.

Source: ["Kenya: Illegal Institutions Prey On Ignorant Parents, Students," East African Standard, Apr. 9, 2007](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *Japan to raise share of Asian students on campus*

After efforts by Malaysia, China and South Korea, it is now Japan's turn to increase its share of Asian students on campus. At present, the country has less than 120,000 foreign students. In order to recruit more Asian students, the Japanese government has chalked out a comprehensive marketing strategy.

Partnerships between local and Asian colleges in the form of twinning programs will be encouraged. These allow for easy transfer of academic credits helping foreign students cut down on the duration of their course and course fees while in Japan. The Government is also planning to set up information centres in Asian countries to advise prospective students. A rating system will also be set up to evaluate Japanese schools on their readiness to accept foreign students, and on what they have achieved through academic partnerships with overseas colleges.

Source: ["New steps aim to raise Japan's share of Asian students on campus," Asahi, Apr. 16, 2007](#)

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Water wisdom*

If you are visiting countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, it is best to avoid drinking tap water. There are a variety of diseases that you can catch, such as hepatitis A and B. Even locals do not drink tap water in these countries. You are better off avoiding even ice cubes. Bottled water is usually safe, and you may feel safer using it to brush your teeth as well! Make sure that the bottle is sealed and the seal is opened in front of you. Also, remember to crush the bottle so that it is not re-filled and sold to an unsuspecting customer later.