

THE PLAYING FIELD

Higher education revamp in Pakistan

By establishing world-class universities, Pakistan's government hopes to reverse the trend of students studying abroad. The government has embarked on an ambitious programme to revamp higher education in the country. Investments have been made towards developing institutional facilities, introducing new disciplines in cutting-edge and market-based technologies, human resource development including faculty development, improving research facilities and student services, creating linkages with local and foreign universities and promoting university-industry interaction.

Countries such as France, Germany, Austria, Italy, China, South Korea and Japan are sharing their expertise and new universities are being established in Sialkot, Lahore, Karachi, and Islamabad. Another \$ 5 billion U.S. will be spent over the next eight years in establishing science and technology universities in the different cities of the country. According to Professor Atta-ur-Rehman, Chairman, Higher Education Commission (HEC), Pakistani parents are spending Rs 20 billion (\$330 million U.S.) annually to educate their children in the United Kingdom and this money could easily be saved if the same quality of education is provided in Pakistan.

Source: ["Govt. determined to promote higher education: Prof Atta," Associated Press of Pakistan, May 9, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Delhi University to join Universitas 21

Delhi University (DU) will be the first Indian varsity to join Universitas 21, a network of international research-intensive varsities with over 20 members in 12 countries. Some of the other members of the network include the University of Virginia, University of British Columbia, University of Birmingham and University of Edinburgh. Once DU joins the network, it will be able to collaborate and co-operate with member universities on research and student exchange programmes.

Source: ["Soon, DU to be part of elite global varsities' network," Expressindia, May 17, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

3000 scholarships for Bahraini students

Bahrain's government is awarding scholarships to 3,000 Bahraini students to study locally or abroad. Additional funds of around BHD 1.3 million (\$ 3.4 million U.S.) are being added to the scholarship budget in a bid to improve students' living conditions at foreign institutions. The proposal to increase the scholarship kitty was based on a study that highlighted discrepancies in the standard of living index in foreign countries like Britain, New Zealand, France, Jordan and Egypt. Scholarships awarded to Bahrainis enrolled at foreign universities cover tuition fees, housing, books, clothes and, health insurance.

Source: ["3000 Bahraini students to receive scholarships," Middle East North Africa Financial Network, May 21, 2007](#)

GLOBE TIPPING

Trains in Singapore

When you are in Singapore, use the Mass Rapid Transport (MRT) system to get around. This is the cheapest and most convenient way to travel. Depending on how long you are planning to stay, you can purchase a single trip or multi-trip train card at one of the stations. There is a station right at Changi Airport. Get a free map at any one of the stations so that you can find out the station closest to your destination. Remember though, the trains can get pretty crowded during peak hours.

Route map:

www.smrt.com.sg/trains/routemap/routemap.pdf

Changi Airport:

www.changiairport.com