

THE PLAYING FIELD

China's bid as next higher education superpower

Will China be the next higher education superpower? According to Professor Wei Yang, president of Zhejiang University in Hangzhou, China is making rapid strides in the higher education race. Yang shared statistics with an international audience gathered in London for the *Worldwide Universities Network* conference.

China is now the largest higher education system in the world: it awards more university degrees than the United States and India combined. While this is partly due to the sheer size of its population, the rate of university expansion in the country has also been rather swift. University enrolments in China have reportedly risen from under 10% of young people in 1999 to over 21% in 2006.

According to *THES-QS World University Rankings 2007*, three Chinese universities - Peking University, Tsinghua University and Fudan University have been ranked in the top 100 global universities. This number may go up, if current trends continue. China remains the largest provider of overseas students to foreign campuses but with lower costs, and rising prestige, of China's own rapidly expanding higher education sector, international universities may find China a declining market to deal with.

Source: "[China's bid for world domination](#),"
[BBC News, November 17, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Irish blocked from college places amid foreign rush

Ireland's efforts to grab a sizeable share of the foreign student market has led to domestic students missing out on top college places. According to the *Sunday Independent* newspaper, an Irish student is suing the government because he was refused a place in medicine reserved for a student from outside the European Union. New figures released from the Higher Education Authority (HEA) show that more than 12,000 non-Irish full-time students are now studying here every year with huge numbers coming from China, Malaysia, the United States, Britain and the Middle East. Many of these students are in

courses such as medicine, pharmacy and veterinary where demand always outstrips supply. According to media reports, the government wants to triple the number of full-fee paying foreign students studying in the country.

Source: "[Irish blocked from college places amid foreign rush](#)," [Independent, November 18, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

Examination scam in India

The arrest of two students for writing the Common Admission Test (CAT) on behalf of other students has unearthed a racket involving people from various parts of the country. Nearly 14,500 aspirants appeared for the CAT at 20 exam centers on 18 November 2007 for admission to the prestigious six Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) in the country.

A similar scam had been revealed earlier this year when several coaching centers in Kolkata were pulled up for arranging dummy candidates for students writing the Joint Entrance Examination for admission to the Indian Institutes of Technology.

Source: "[Dummy CAT candidates held](#),"
[The Times of India, November 19, 2007](#)

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