

## THE PLAYING FIELD

### *Varsity group proposes education revamp in Australia*

Concerned about the deteriorating image of Australia as a quality education provider, a consortium of eight leading Australian research universities has called for an overhaul of Australia's higher education funding framework. The Group of Eight, representing institutions such as the University of Melbourne and Monash University, has argued that without an immediate revamp, Australian universities would fail to attract the best students and remain globally competitive. According to the group's executive director, Michael Gallagher, "the price has gone up but students are not getting a better quality product. And in a global knowledge economy where there is real competition for intellectual talent, Australian needs to stay competitive."

Source: ["Students get less value for fees: unis."](#)  
[The Age, October 29, 2007](#)

## ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

### *European Qualifications Framework*

The European Commission has launched the European Qualifications Framework (EQF), a translation grid for qualifications across Europe. The core of the EQF system is its eight reference levels, covering the span of basic to the highest level qualifications. These describe what a learner knows, understands and is able to do, regardless of the system in which the learner's qualification was acquired.

The EQF will help educational institutions and organizations compare and understand qualifications presented by students and prospective employees from across the European Union. This will aid student mobility between countries.

Source: ["EU launches qualifications scaling mechanism."](#) Xinhua, November 27, 2007

## OVER THE COUNTER

### *Guinea fights examination fraud*

Educators in Guinea are taking strict action against professors and students involved in cheating during examinations. While professors are being suspended, students have been fined or jailed for examination fraud.

Corruption in the allocation of diplomas and university places are also being controlled. During exams this year the common practices of buying crib sheets, accessing tips by mobile phone or having a friend take a test as a dummy candidate have failed due to the heightened vigilance.

Source: ["Guinea: Not for Sale - Grades, Diplomas, University Places."](#) AllAfrica, November 21, 2007

## GLOBE TIPPING

### *Using cabs in India*

Taxi and auto-rickshaws fares keep changing in India and you may find that they do not always conform to readings on meters. To avoid confusion, insist on seeing the latest fare chart available with taxi/auto-rickshaw drivers and pay accordingly. Taxis and auto-rickshaws do not have meters in all cities, but where they do, insist on the meter being flagged in your presence. In case the driver refuses to cooperate, seek the assistance of a policeman. Where there are no meters, ask for assistance at your hotel and agree on the taxi fare in advance.

Source: [NDTV Travels](#)