

THE PLAYING FIELD

AICTE: Foreign degrees are illegal in India

India's stance on foreign institutions conducting their courses in the country continues to be unclear. In a recent development, the All India Council of Technical Education (AICTE), the apex body for technical education, has said that Indian institutes conducting courses on behalf of foreign institutes in the country are illegal. While the degrees are offered by the foreign institutions directly, the Council's interpretation of the current rules may sound the death knell for institutes collaborating with foreign partners to provide an overseas qualification at half the cost.

Several colleges and universities in India are collaborating with institutions in the United States, United Kingdom, Australia and Canada to provide foreign degrees. In a typical course, the local institute administers the coaching as laid out by its foreign partner and then transfers all the credit overseas. The final degree is then awarded by the international university.

A few months ago, the Council banned the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Institute from conducting its courses in India. The CFA course is conducted mainly through correspondence and home study. The CFA institute conducts its exams in centers all over the world including India. This has been the practice for the last three decades, when the AICTE decided to ban the course in May this year.

Source: ["AICTE: Institutes giving foreign degrees illegal," The Times of India, December 3, 2007](#)

OVER THE COUNTER

The rise of the Chinese MBA

With China's flourishing economy leading to a growth of local and foreign businesses, the demand for management graduates is at a high. Local universities are revamping their curriculum to make it relevant to local students, who are now opting to study at home rather than venturing to foreign shores. Today, 96 universities offer more than 230 MBA and executive MBA programs. Tuition costs as much as \$ 32,000 U.S. for a one-year program, more than any other degree in China. The government plans to increase MBA enrolment by 24% and accredit an additional 30 or so universities by next year.

Source: ["Chinese B-Schools Lift their Game," Businessweek, December 4, 2007](#)

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Foreign students buying places at Australian high schools?

According to Australia's *Herald Sun* newspaper, more than 2700 foreign students have paid more than \$ 26 million U.S. to get places at Victoria's top high schools this year. Several high-performing high schools have admitted more than 100 fee-paying foreign students, according to the newspaper report. There has been a significant rise of more than 430 per cent in the number of international fee-paying students in the past decade. More than 2700 full-fee foreign students attended state-run high schools this year, compared with just 520 in 1998.

The report has surfaced amidst concerns that rich foreign students are spending money to buy local kids out of places at leading high schools. However, the Education Minister, Ms Bronwyn Pike has defended this development with the argument that foreign students add value to the system.

Source: ["Foreign students benefit system - Minister Bronwyn Pike," The Herald Sun, December 3, 2007](#)

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