

# OVERSEAS, OVERWHELMED

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## Abroad Perspective

Last week O&O reported a growth in interest from Bangladesh for Canadian education.

As part of the Canadian High Commissioner David Preston's outreach work in Bangladesh, his office is planning an education fair in Dhaka this fall. The proposed fair, the first ever for Bangladesh, is an initiative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT). The Fair is scheduled for September 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka.

Those interested should contact Ms. Shaheen Islam ([shaheen.islam@dfait-maeci.gc.ca](mailto:shaheen.islam@dfait-maeci.gc.ca)), the Education attaché at the Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh. ♦

## Let's Go Canada!

Is the foreign student movement to the West a "brain drain" on developing nations ?

A report released this month by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) clearly articulates the great economic benefits for Asian nations. Focusing on the two large new immigrant groups (Chinese and Indians) who are attracted by education and research opportunities in the high-tech sectors, the PPIC survey indicated:

- 27% of respondents advise or consult companies in their country or origin
- 30% of respondents meet with government officials in their country or origin
- 40% of respondents arranged business contacts in their country of origin
- More than half the entrepreneurs set up business operations in their country of origin

A research brief from PPIC is found at: <http://www.ppic.org/publications/PPIC159/PPIC159RB.pdf>

According to the CBIE's recently released report on International Students, there were just over 5,000 students from these two countries combined studying in Canada in 1998-99. While the numbers in Canada are growing, they still pale in comparison to the over 100,000 Chinese and Indian students in the US. ♦

## Over the Counter

The *Times of India* reports that a recent gathering (mid-April) of leading high school principals held in New Delhi, has suggested changing the dates of the final Board examinations for Class 12. Exams are currently held in March.

The proposal is to shift the dates of the Indian School Certificate Examinations (ISCE) to December, to allow students more time to consider options after Class 12. This would be welcome news for Canadian university registrar offices who currently do not get final results until June.

The Delhi meeting brought together some of the most influential Indian schools in the area, such as Shri Ram, Welham Girls, Bishop Cotton Shimla and St Stephen's College. The ISCE is one of the two main education boards in the Delhi region. The other, and larger, is the Central Board. ♦

## Globe Tipping

Bangladesh is no longer providing entry visas at Dhaka's Zia International Airport.

Higher-Edge COO Mel Broitman reports from his visit to Dhaka two weeks ago that as many as 50 foreigners from Canada, USA, UK and New Zealand were refused entry in mid April. A BBC journalist on Mel's flight was denied entry.

Entry visa rules restricting entry-point visas to proven business persons has been law in Bangladesh since 2000. The government decided to enforce the regulation as a response to what it felt was a misrepresentation in the *Far Eastern Economic Review's* cover story, which portrayed Bangladesh as a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism.

Higher-Edge has been working in Bangladesh for five years and maintains the magazine cover story was an exaggeration. Bangladesh is a moderate working environment in Asia and presents excellent opportunities to promote Canadian education initiatives, whether these relate to student recruitment or academic linkages.

For those taking advantage of opportunities in Bangladesh, it is best to get a visa before travelling. Contact the Bangladesh High Commission in Ottawa (613.236.0138). ♦

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