

OVERSEAS, OVERWHELMED

A Bulletin For Canadian International Education Professionals

Issue 2.25

September 11, 2002

Abroad Perspective

While O&O was on a more relaxed schedule during the summer months, Higher-Edge staff were touring the planet pursuing international education opportunities for its clients, in South, East, and South East Asia.

Dani Zaretsky, our Chief Ideas Officer, attended a signing ceremony for a partnership agreement between the University of Brunei Darussalam, the sole tertiary academic institution in Brunei, and the University of Windsor. The agreement followed five visits by Dani to Brunei over the previous two years.

Vigorously supported by Canada's then High Commissioner to Brunei, His Excellency Neil Reeder, the agreement forges strong links in the biotechnology arena between the two institutions, and importantly, closer ties between Canada and Brunei. Timed with Canada's large delegation attending Brunei's ASEAN meetings, the ceremony was attended by the Hon. Bill Graham, Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. Bernard Patry, Chair of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade, and Mr. David Mulrone, Assistant Deputy Minister, Asia Pacific. See also http://onebrunei.com/news_main.asp?nid=157. The Minister took the opportunity to encourage Bruneian students to pursue higher studies in Canada.

In Shanghai, at an Ontario-hosted reception for Junior Team Canada, the Secretary of State (Asia Pacific), the Hon. David Kilgour discussed with Dani his keen interest in augmenting the efforts of Canadian higher education institutions in China.

For his part, Mel Broitman, our Chief Overseas Officer, travelled to India and Bangladesh, where he was overseeing a series of pre-departure orientation sessions for students and their families on behalf of our clients. Canada's High Commissioners to both countries were special guests at these events. ♦

Let's Go Canada!

The Canadian High Commission in Bangladesh will be holding its first ever education fair this month. The Fair is scheduled for September 26 at the Sheraton Hotel in Dhaka. Higher-Edge COO Mel Broitman and our Dhaka Office Manager Shohana Rouf, will be representing two Canadian University clients at the event. This is another important step for the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade as it moves into taking a more central role in the promotion of Canadian education.

Canada's Embassy in Egypt is organizing a Canadian Education Fair (again a DFAIT production), held from October 12 - 14, at the Nile Hilton Hotel in Cairo. The objectives of the fair are the recruitment of Egyptian students and the creation of partnerships between Egyptian and Canadian educational institutions. Higher-Edge Research Analyst Isabelle Faucher will attend. ♦

Over the Counter

According to UNESCO, China is the premier source of international students in the world, with 25,000 new full-time students going abroad each year. Such large numbers being motivated to go abroad from China has fuelled increasing problems of fraudulent documentation.

The most recent example is the decision taken by Educational Testing Services (ETS) to temporarily suspend the computer-based Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test and reintroduce paper-based versions in China, due to security breaches and cheating schemes targeted at the computer-based exam.

Higher-Edge recently opened up the latest of its overseas office in Beijing, China. Ms. Angela Khoo, our East Asia Coordinator, is managing this new office.

Higher-Edge is now rolling out a new service beginning in China, to assist Graduate programs in assessing the legitimacy and calibre of applicants from this country. This service will soon be extended to other countries facing similar fraud issues, such as India and Pakistan. For more information, contact dani@higher-edge.com. ♦

Globe Tipping

For years, the casual traveller has been able to carry film on airplanes and through airports without risking damage from X-rays. They needed only to ask for a hand-inspection.

Since the Sept. 11 attacks, this may unfortunately no longer be the case. Indeed, Hand-inspection – which averts the risks X-rays pose – may not be available at some airports. And putting film in checked baggage isn't a solution either: such luggage now is likely to be X-rayed.

The group Film Safety for Travelling on Planes (www.f-stop.org) offers guidelines to minimize the risk of film damage:

- Processed film is safe from X-rays. Take precautions with fresh rolls, or rolls that have been shot but not yet processed.
- Take undeveloped film in a carry-on bag, and ask that it be examined by hand at the security checkpoint rather than X-rayed. To make it easier, take the rolls out of the canisters and carry them in a clear zip-top bag.
- Lead-foil pouches and other protective devices are on the market and, although heavy, can work very well.

Source: The Dallas Morning News ♦

Please direct questions and comments to Isabelle Faucher: isabelle@higher-edge.com

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