

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

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Abroad Perspective - Gulf Education and Training Exhibition to take place?

With thousands of U.S. troops on the move to stations around the Persian Gulf, what is the fate of international education initiatives in the region? One of the most important fairs in the region is the Gulf Education and Training Exhibition in Dubai.

This year, the 15th for GETEX will be held from April 8 to 11 at the Dubai World Trade Centre. If there is war in nearby Iraq, will international representatives still fly into the region? Will American education interests suffer, and will U.S. visa officials clamp down due to national security concerns of a country at war? Will countries either not participating in the war effort, or taking a low profile, find themselves as more attractive education destinations?

Such is the highly complex and shifting landscape which international education finds itself in as a new calendar year begins. •

Let's Go Canada - Coderre's view from the top

Canadian Citizenship and Immigration Minister Denis Coderre has made some very strong statements regarding the positive impact of foreign students in Canada upon reaching higher immigration targets.

However, the Minister's public proclamation from the top has a long way to go to set in at ground level where decisions are made on whether Study Permits are issued. Many Visa Officers continue to be governed by the requirement of student applicants to return to their home country upon completion of their studies in Canada. For those who do come to Canada, study and graduate - obtaining residence status afterwards still presents many challenges that are not easily overcome.

Conversely, nations such as Australia and New Zealand, who are competing hard for the same students, continue to ramp up direct tie-ins between attracting foreign students and enhancing immigration of educated and qualified candidates. •

Over the Counter - Tougher INS laws: Boon or Bust?

New laws aimed at bolstering national security in the U.S. have come at the cost of international education sector profit and civil liberties. Registration deadlines have already resulted in the arrest of several international students failing to comply with regulation, and are rapidly becoming a sore point for many international education administrators.

The Association of International Educators reports that the 500,000+ foreign students enrolled in U.S. post-secondary institutions in 2001-2002 amounted to almost \$12 billion in revenue. New applicants, and students unable to return to the U.S. from holidays due to visa delays, begin to consider continuing their education elsewhere. Countries such as Britain and Australia are only too eager to pick up the pieces.

Sources: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/4742127.htm> and <http://chronicle.com/weekly/v49/i18/18a02101.htm> •

Globe Tipping - Phone code confusion in Delhi

A rolling system across India implemented in December of 2002 by local telecom service providers has left some people in the lurch as they adjust to adding 1-3 number prefixes to local phone numbers. The new prefixes are not set by a uniform regulating body, but rather by independent telecom companies.

Our India dispatch Luciana Rodrigues reports that although mobile phone and emergency phone numbers are unaffected, the prefix "2" is to be added to all local numbers in Delhi and Mumbai.

Source: <http://www.hindustantimes.com/2002/Nov/25/printedition/251102/detCIT03.shtml> •

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