

# OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

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## SARS update

- Beijing's primary and high schools, initially scheduled to re-open on May 07, will remain shut until May 19. Higher-Edge in Beijing reports that the Government has been making provisions for its students, calling on teachers to be available for instruction by Internet and telephone.

Source: [http://www.goasiapacific.com/news/GoAsiaPacificBNA\\_846918.htm](http://www.goasiapacific.com/news/GoAsiaPacificBNA_846918.htm)

- Internet cafes, along with libraries and museums, have been ordered to shut down by the Beijing municipal government. Hoping to limit the spread of SARS, authorities have closed "net bars," which are a daily feature in the lives of local Chinese, including university students.

Source: <http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,110479,00.asp>

- Hong Kong's and Singapore's primary and secondary students have been back in school for approximately three weeks now. The school year may be extended into the summer break as a result of the missed work.

Sources: <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/eastasia/view/38901/1/.html> and <http://www.channelnewsasia.com/stories/singaporelocalnews/view/38174/1/.html>

- Philippine Senate President Franklin Drilon is proposing that the nation's school year be pushed from September to June, instead of June to March, this year. Drilon is responding to similar school closures in Hong Kong and Singapore in the effort to prevent a potential outbreak of SARS. The decision has been deferred to the SARS Crisis Management Committee, and a final evaluation is pending.

Source: <http://www.newsflash.org/2003/04/hl/hl017900.htm>

- IDP Education Australia and the British Council have cancelled all International English Language Testing System (IELTS) exams scheduled for May in China.

Source: [http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5744,6357500%255E12333,00.html](http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5744,6357500%255E12333,00.html) •

<http://www.higher-edge.com/publications.htm>

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## A Higher-Edge report from the National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) 16th Annual Conference

Last week, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, the Hon. Denis Coderre, stated in an address to the Canadian Bar Association that Canada's new immigration selection system was now based on "human capital" rather than an occupational demand model to greater value a "broad set of skills and attributes such as education, knowledge of official languages and capacity to adapt."

Coderre emphasized that "Canada will likely begin to experience shortages of skilled workers across the country within the next five years — and not just in (the) larger urban areas." Hence, Coderre stated that it "is therefore becoming very important to find the appropriate ways to both attract and retain the types of skilled workers that this country will need in order to remain competitive and prosperous throughout the coming decades."

Meanwhile, at last week's National Association of Graduate Admissions Professionals (NAGAP) Annual Conference in New Orleans, the official list of registered Canadian delegates consisted of two persons from Carleton University and one from the University of Waterloo. Canadian exhibitors, too, were scarce with just the University of British Columbia's TST software program, well-known education publishing house, The EI Group, and Higher-Edge.

The NAGAP programme was replete with seminars counselling universities on how to better recruit foreign graduate students. Whether from the side of improved marketing or improved screening, Canadian institutions and faculty members must reflect on whether they are getting the best students they can possibly attract in an increasingly competitive global marketplace.

Hence, all levels of government, as implied in the Coderre speech, must be diligent to ensure that real or perceived post-graduation legislative, or other employment barriers, reduce the competitiveness of our graduate programs at the recruitment stage.

For the contents of Coderre's speech, see <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/press/speech/canadian-bar.html> •

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