

# OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

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## Over the Counter - Newly-licensed universities in Uganda

In an effort to clamp down on tertiary institutions operating illegally in the country, the National Council for Higher Education in Kampala, Uganda, has published a list of accredited schools. 17 universities, so far, have registered with the Council, which warns students against institutions that have not undergone the new accreditation process. Schools have up to May 31 to apply for legal status.

See <http://allafrica.com/stories/200305050773.html> for the official list. •

## Let's Go Canada - SARS and Canada's reputation

In filling the need for a coherent message among Canadian higher education institutions, the Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE) took the lead with last week's "SARS and Security" Learning Teleconference. Participants were concerned about the impact on international education exchanges, with specific interest in the following issues: whether, and in what circumstances, bans or quarantines should be placed on incoming international students; what would be the impact on, and the implications for, the welfare of Canadian students overseas; and the prospects for Canadian students who plan on studying overseas.

While concern was expressed with the necessity to combat "negative stereotypes and fears in terms of all Canadians being SARS carriers", the same concern for the stereotyping of those from abroad from SARS-hit countries was not canvassed during the teleconference. Due to Canada's unfortunate experience with SARS, Canadian institutions should at least have benefited by becoming more sensitive to creeping stereotypes, and being more scientific in their risk-assessments in managing flows of incoming international students from SARS-hit countries, and the flows of Canadians to study abroad programs in such countries. •

## Abroad Perspective - Selangor to recruit in Fujian Province

China's Fujian Province has possessed the tarnished reputation as a source of illegal immigrants in recent years. The State Government of Selangor, Malaysia, however, is planning to invest heavily in the area. Along with various Malaysian higher education institutions, it plans to make a tour of the cities Fuzhou, Quazhou and Xiamen in the coming months.

The group is to promote Selangor as a cost-effective education destination, in addition to being a very close neighbour geographically. It anticipates a demand among Fujianese students due to the lack of recruitment by the United States and other countries in the region.

Source: <http://www.thestar.com.my/news/story.asp?file=/2003/4/27/education/klchina&sec=education> (article unavailable at time of publication) •

## Globe Tipping - Buckle-up for safety

If travelling in your car at home has gotten you used to the idea of wearing seat belts, be cautioned that customs in some countries are not as stringent. At times, one may find a seat belt strap but no buckle, or a seat belt only in the front but not in the back seats. In cities such as Beijing and Karachi, wearing a seat belt is not a requirement of the law at all, or a requirement only while driving in certain parts of the city. One will find drivers who go as far as draping the strap across their laps without actually buckling-up.

If conscientious about using a seat belt, one's best bet is to sit in the front where a seat belt is usually found. Taxi drivers may often load the front passenger seat with personal effects, so calmly insist that space be made for one to occupy that seat. •

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