

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

LET'S GO CANADA

Canadian-Egyptian Education Initiatives

Education is a priority sector for the Commercial Section at the Canadian Embassy in Cairo, according to Commercial Officer Tarek Abdel Meguid. As reported in the March 1 issue of *CanadExport*, the Canadian International School of Egypt (CISE) was established in 2002, as a partnership between the Canadian Bureau for International Education and an Egyptian investor. CISE follows the Ontario School board curricula and currently operates up to Grade 10.

Meguid cites other successful Canadian-Egyptian initiatives: the Canadian College of Advanced Technology between the Egyptian Olympic Group and the University College of Cape Breton, (scheduled to begin classes in Fall 2004); the Al Ahram Canadian University (ACU), a project between Al Ahram Establishment and the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC); and a joint degree Business administration Bachelor degree program between Sadat Academy and University of New Brunswick.

Source: "Canadian education makes the grade in Egypt," *CanadExport*, Vol. 22, No.4, 1 March 2004.

OVER THE COUNTER

Sea Turtles

A term used in China these days to describe Chinese students who study overseas is *haigui*, which translates to "sea turtles." The sea turtles are facing increasingly difficult obstacles upon their return to China, the most notable being fewer job opportunities. What is at stake then, is how the Chinese government is responding to the situation, and what is in store for universities that recruit from China.

The government expects to increase the number of students going abroad, through providing increased funding for scholarships (the value ranging between \$6500 and \$9000 CAD), to increasing the number of countries that scholarships are available for (from five to ten). At the same time, greater efforts to entice overseas students to return home are also being encouraged.

Sea turtles and government policies are examined in Higher-Edge's upcoming "Government Watch" report from the March/April edition of *Insight, On-site: China*.

Source: "[State helps more students go abroad,](#)" *The People's Daily*, 17 February 2004.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Indian Management Schools Under Threat?

The last six months in India have seen a heated conflict between the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs) and the Human Resource Development Minister, Dr. Murali Manohar Joshi. At the root of this debate is the question of autonomy: Although the IIMs were established by Acts of Parliament and are technically fully funded by the central government, they have become financially self-sufficient, building a substantial reserve from a wide range of sources. From ordering the IIMs to contribute to an emergency fund, to establishing a Common Admission Test for all business schools in India, Dr. Joshi has been at the forefront of the government's efforts to reign in the Institutes.

The most recent maneuver involved the scaling back of IIM fees from the "exorbitant" (a Joshi term) Rs. 1.5 lakh (\$4,500 CAD) to Rs. 30,000 (\$900 CAD). Dr. Joshi argues for equal access to quality education, while the IIMs contend that those students admitted to these prestigious institutions can usually secure loans easily (as a degree from any IIM often guarantees a job that pays well). Currently, only two of the six Institutes have refused to comply with the government's directive.

Higher-Edge's "Government Watch" Report, from the March/April edition of *Insight, On-site: India*, will detail the tenuous relationship between the IIMs and the central government, in "The IIM Imbroglio." For more information on ordering, please contact Nick Yeo: nick@higher-edge.com.

GLOBE TIPPING

Upcoming Holidays

With Easter around the corner, here is a list of upcoming holidays to remember if you're traveling abroad:

- April 13 – Baisakhi (Punjabi New Year)
- April 15 – Songkran (Thai New Year)
- April 29 – Buddha Purnima (Day that Buddha was born, attained enlightenment and Nirvana)
- May 02 – Mawlid-al-Nabi (Prophet Muhammad's Birthday)

[Earth Calendar](#) is an excellent resource for international holidays and festivals.