

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

Issue 4.29
October 20, 2004

A Bulletin for
Canadian International
Education Professionals

OVER THE COUNTER

Fake Degrees In Pakistan Discovered

Pakistani police have smashed an organized gang preparing fake degrees in Sialkot, in the eastern province of Punjab. *The Dawn*, an English language newspaper, reported that the "ring leader" had been arrested, and authorities allege officials at the provincial education ministry had been involved. District legal authorities also claim foul play by officials at the institutions named on the fake degrees. Police seized a "large number" of bogus high school diplomas, as well as BA, MA and PhD degrees from institutions right across the country. The University of Punjab, Allama Iqbal Open University, AJK University and many private universities had been illegally represented in the scam.

This is not the first time that Punjabi producers of fake degrees in Pakistan have been caught. In June 2004, the Rawalpindi Education Board, located south of Islamabad, was found to have handed out bogus qualifications. The scam, investigators claimed, involved both "high ups" of the Board as well as lecturers at various Rawalpindi colleges.

Source: "[Three members of fake-degree trade ring held.](#)" *The Dawn*, 17 October 2004; "[Students with fake degrees allowed to participate in Inter-Collegiate competitions.](#)" *PakTribune.com*, 2 June 2004.

LET'S GO CANADA

New Zealand-Indian Education Ties

New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark hopes that her tour of India will result in better exchange of students between the two countries. According to Education New Zealand (an organisation devoted to exporting education), the country only received around 2,000 Indian students in 2003. Its primary focus has been China; just under 40,000 Chinese students chose the southern nation as their choice for an overseas education. Both figures represent students at all levels of education.

In light of last week's story (as well as this week's Abroad Perspective), as New Zealand looks to improve student exchange with India, it too needs to be mindful of the Asian study abroad options available to Indians. In the meantime however, cost is one of the key advantages New Zealand has over other traditional destinations.

Source: "[New Zealand seeks closer ties with India.](#)" *NDTV.com*, 20 October 2004.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

China: The Next Destination?

For just \$22,000 CAD over five years, the Indian student intent on becoming a doctor can complete his degree at the Three Gorges University in China. Although there are plenty of medical colleges in India, the costs can be prohibitive – "donations" are often required to secure a seat. According to Rediff.com, these can cost as much as 24 lakh (\$65,000 CAD). As Higher-Edge reported in [Overseas, Overwhelmed 4.27](#), affordable and quality education is available in China for international students - and Indians are taking advantage of this opportunity.

While Chinese authorities have recognised the great potential of international students, the same cannot be said about India. "India is just missing the international education bus," proclaimed S. Gopinath, an education expert, as he compared the two countries in the October 18 article. One big difference is the two-way traffic of international students. While India predominantly sends students overseas, China not only sends but also receives a large number of students.

Source: "[Indian students find a new Mecca.](#)" *Rediff.com*, 18 October 2004.

GLOBE TIPPING

Virtual Tourist

Need a quick tip on which hotel to book for your next trip to Southeast Asia? Want to know the areas you should avoid when in West Africa? Often the best source of information comes from other travelers; this is the approach that one online guide uses. At Virtual Tourist, users can search for (and supply) tips under a wide range of topics, and can even narrow their focus to specific cities. With nearly a million tips, Virtual Tourist is certainly an extensive and valuable database for travelers.

Visit: <http://www.virtualtourist.com>

EYE-ON MEDIA SERIES

Take advantage of special prices for our three Eye-On Media Series! Subscribers receive weekly summaries of news and feature articles from Indian, Chinese and West African media.

One series = \$99

Two series = \$150 (Regular price \$198)

All three series = \$200 (Regular price \$297)

This offer ends October 31, 2004.

For more information, email: editor@higher-edge.com.