

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

HIGHER
EDGE

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OVER THE COUNTER

Fair Weather in India

It's about to be "education fair" season in India. The fairs are everywhere, and it seems everyone is holding his or her own event.

According to Mel Broitman, who directs the Higher-Edge office in New Delhi, the challenge for institutions is to discern where, when and whether to partake. Not all fairs are equal. Far from it. There are credible and major players, such as the Times Education Boutique (TEB), with the publishing muscle of the Times of India behind it. But with TEB running ten fairs in ten cities, finding the best fit is not a simple answer.

Then there are numerous other fair providers looking to cash in on foreign institutions recruiting in India. Not all run efficient events. Many are just after the unsuspecting foreign institution's cash. Some fairs bring in the wrong crowd or demographic for participants, while others don't bring in crowds at all; some fairs build a participant's brand, while others defeat it.

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ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Blair Encourages Indian Students to Study in U.K.

A proposed points-based visa system will make applying to study in Britain "easier and fairer," U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair told a group of Indian students last week.

Mr. Blair's 15-minute talk, delivered from Britain via videoconference, came just days after U.S. President George W. Bush appeared before a group of students in Hyderabad, India to urge Indians to study in the U.S.

Britain needs a new set of rules to simplify its immigration process, which now includes some 80 different channels by which foreign students or workers can enter the country, Home Secretary Charles Clarke said.

The number of Indians studying in the U.K. has grown from 5,000 to 17,000 in the last five years.

Source: "[Blair: New Visa Rules 'Fairer' for Foreign Students](#)," *The Guardian*, March 7, 2006

LET'S GO CANADA

Fewer Chinese Students-But They're Staying Longer: CEC

Canadian university revenues may not necessarily be suffering--yet--despite a 35 per cent drop in visas granted to Chinese students over the past three years, an official with the Canadian Education Centre Network says.

A *Globe and Mail* article last week attributed the drop mostly to "a sharp decline in Chinese enrollment at Canadian universities." But Gardiner Wilson, the CEC's director of public policy and research, said the new numbers also show that the overall number of Chinese students in Canada has been increasing. That, he said, means the Chinese students who come here are probably taking longer programs--more university degrees and fewer ESL courses, possibly.

Canada is not alone in encountering a slump in new arrivals from China, a huge but fiercely competitive market. An enormous build-up of education capacity in China is among the reasons blamed for a decline in new enrollments at British schools.

Source: "[Canadian Universities Failing in China](#)," *The Globe and Mail*, March 7, 2006

GLOBE TIPPING

Site Lists Cell Phone Dialing Codes

If you do a lot of overseas calling, you might find that getting through to your international contacts can be a complicated affair. For example, city area codes in many countries begin with zero, but this zero should usually be dropped for calls made from outside the country, and when you're calling a cell phone from outside a country you usually need only the country code and cell number.

WWW.infostation.org has a [page](#) listing country dialing codes and cell phone dialing codes for countries from Albania to Zimbabwe. The list can be a big help, because it not only shows you that a number you've been given is for a cell phone number, but also gives you exactly the digits you have to dial to reach that number.