

OVERSEAS OVERWHELMED

LET'S GO CANADA

B.C. Pushes for New Visa Rules

The British Columbia government is lobbying Ottawa for new visa regulations in a bid to get foreign graduates of the province's universities to stay on after their studies.

B.C. Economic Development Minister Colin Hansen said last week he was urging the federal government to allow foreign graduates to remain anywhere in B.C. for two years after they graduate, rather than one year in Vancouver and two years elsewhere, as is allowed under current rules. He also said more has to be done to encourage foreign students to study in B.C.

The B.C. government is reported to be concerned about a looming labour shortage. It is anticipating needing 1 million people to fill all the jobs that will be created over the next decade, but expecting that only 650,000 people will be graduating from B.C. high schools during that time.

ABROAD PERSPECTIVE

Foreign Universities Lining up to Enter India

Around 40 foreign universities, many from the U.S. and Canada, are poised to begin building branch campuses in India.

As many as 40 universities are reported to have submitted proposals to the government of Maharashtra state alone; names include Stanford University, Georgia Tech University, the University of British Columbia, McGill University, Simon Fraser University and the University of Montreal. Most are reported to be awaiting permission from the government to start building campuses, and they are said to be most interested in the area around Mumbai, capital of Maharashtra state.

The Higher Colleges of Technology, a group of schools based in the United Arab Emirates, are planning to spend between \$300 million U.S. (\$340 Cdn.) and \$350 million U.S. (\$400 Cdn.) to build a campus in Maharashtra or Karnataka, in southern India.

Source: "[India Calling](#)," *Business Standard*, Nov. 29, 2006

OVER THE COUNTER

Malaysia Moves In

The Malaysian government hosted a gala last week in Dubai to announce its intentions to become a major recruiting force in international education. Malaysia's Minister of Higher Education, Dato Mustapha Mohamed, told an audience of leading educators in the United Arab Emirates that his government targets 100,000 international students in Malaysia by 2010—way up from the current total of 40,000.

With Dubai joining Ho Chi Minh City, Jakarta and Beijing as its recruiting centers, however, Malaysia is well positioned. The minister pointed to indicators such as the increase from 1,000 to 7,500 students in Malaysia from the Middle East and North Africa after Sept. 11, 2001.

Higher-Edge Asia Head Office Managing Director Mel Broitman, who attended the gala, said it's not an unrealistic goal.

"Malaysia is a relatively inexpensive study destination—safe, with a strong economy and terrific infrastructure," Mr. Broitman said. "Being a Muslim nation will be a big boon to recruiting in the Islamic world and yet another significant challenge to Western universities struggling to maintain their own international student numbers."

GLOBE TIPPING

Upcoming Holidays Around the World

In addition to the Western Christian Christmas and New Year's on December 25, 2006 and January 1, 2007, the next few weeks and months will feature key holidays for billions of others in the world. Here are a few:

Hanukkah: December 15 – December 23, 2006

Coptic Christmas: January 7, 2007

Orthodox Christian New Year: January 14-15, 2007

Chinese New Year: February 18, 2007

Hajj (Islamic time of pilgrimage to Mecca): December 29, 2006-January 1, 2007

Hijra (Islamic New Year): January 20, 2007

Holi (Hindu Spring Festival): March 3, 2007

If you are traveling during some of these religious observances and festivals, expect some countries to shut down completely, while in others, only banks, government offices and perhaps some streets may be affected.