

EDUCATION

Updates

13 August 2018

ASIA & PACIFIC

Myanmar, August 13. Rote learning education system puts boys in 'liquor houses': Suu Kyi [Coconuts]. Myanmar's memorization-based education system is leading to rising numbers of boys who do not complete high school. State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi said at a youth literature discussion at Mandalay University on Saturday. As a solution, Suu Kyi proposed encouraging more male students to pursue vocational training instead of university in order to fulfil the country's needs. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, August 13. Polytechnic raising funds to help rebuild villages [Straits Times]. Students and staff from Ngee Ann Polytechnic (NP) are raising funds for villagers hit by the recent spate of earthquakes in Lombok, Indonesia. Close to \$20,000 has been collected so far in a campus donation drive which started last Monday, with plans to use the funds to rebuild damaged infrastructure using quake-resistant materials, and to develop programmes to help the affected communities. [LINK](#)

Bangladesh, August 13. Science education for the future [Dhaka Tribune]. A group of Bangladeshi students are taking part in a global robotics competition. The group was chosen by The Tech Academy, an enterprise aiming to provide education on electronics, robotics, and programming to children and teenagers, and have been tasked by FIRST Global to build a robot "that is able to fuel power plants, initiate renewable energy plants, and house a resilient transmission network." [LINK](#)

Malaysia, August 8. Why is it that many universities find it a challenge to get the invention or innovation out to market? [NST]. Universiti Malaya Centre of Innovation and Commercialisation (UMCIC) director Professor Dr Rofina Yasmin Othman said rather, when looked at in reality, the technology that came out of a university's research was usually at a very early stage. SMEs, she pointed out, preferred to take on a ready-to-sell product, but would not be able to do much with fundamental research, like what UM focused on. To solve the problem, university researchers will have to be involved in forming an early-stage company to develop the research prototype into industry-ready products. [LINK](#)

Singapore, August 7. Seven more MOE kindergartens to be set up in 2021 [Straits Times]. Seven new Ministry of Education (MOE) kindergartens will open in 2021, it was announced yesterday. Each kindergarten cohort can take up to 160 children. The seven to be set up in 2021 will be located in primary schools and also offer Kindergarten Care after-school childcare services. The primary schools are Greendale, Cedar, Mayflower, Meridian, Tampines, West View and Zhenghua. [LINK](#)

Papua New Guinea, August 13. Enga To Pilot Integration Of Culture Into Education System [Post Courier]. Tourism Arts And Culture Minister Emil Tammur On Sunday Declared Enga, The Pilot Province For The Integration Of Culture Into The Formal Education System And Committed K100,000 To Kick Start The Project. Mr Tammur said

the K100,000 would be used by the National Cultural Commission, the Education Department and the Enga Provincial Government to establish a working group to explore opportunities and advise his ministry. Enga has taken it upon itself to integrate its culture into the provincial education system and it has been running effectively for two years. [LINK](#)

China, August 11. Education key in nurturing Canada-China relationship [The Province]. Canadian students in the consular district who apply for the Chinese Government Scholarship and study in Zhejiang Province will gain extra travel subsidy. Guangdong Province also provides scholarship for students from B.C. to study in Guangdong. [LINK](#)

MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia, August 7. Saudi Arabia to relocate students from Canada to other countries [Arabian Business]. Saudi Arabia has suspended scholarships to Canada and will relocate students already there after Riyadh suspended diplomatic relations with Canada. Plans to relocate 7,000 students and their families in Canada to other countries, primarily the United States and Britain, were already underway. These students are enrolled in university programmes in Canada and 2,000 of them are enrolled in graduate or medical school, accompanied by more than 5,000 dependents. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, August 6. Abu Dhabi University (ADU) invests \$5.4m in expansion, upgrade of campuses [Arabian Business]. For the academic year 2018 - 2019, ADU has announced that it is set to make improvements to laboratories and classrooms, while electrical works and internet connectivity across all campuses have already been upgraded. The enhanced facilities include a mosque, a community centre, a football field and basketball court, as well as a student guidance centre across each of the three campuses. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, August 6. Saudi Arabia suspends educational exchange programmes with Canada [Reuters]. Saudi Arabia is suspending educational exchange programmes with Canada and moving Saudi scholarship recipients there to other countries, Saudi-owned Al Arabiya reported on Monday. The kingdom froze new trade and investment with Canada after Ottawa urged Riyadh to free arrested rights activists. It also recalled its ambassador and gave the Canadian ambassador 24 hours to leave the country. [LINK](#)

AMERICA

United States, August 10. How US Assistance Is Benefiting Vietnam's Education System [Borgen]. The U.S. has partnered with Vietnam to implement multiple programs in order to improve Vietnam's education system at the university level. The three main programs are the Fulbright University Program, the IMPACT MED Alliance and the BUILD-IT Alliance. These initiatives will help alleviate poverty by allowing impoverished Vietnamese citizens to gain access to education and career opportunities in government, industry, medicine, STEM and more. [LINK](#)

AMERICA (CONT'D)

United States, August 3. Turning fads into education: Coding toys teach the next generation of tech workers [Ciodive]. Minorities continue to be underrepresented and underpaid across tech positions. Like taking medicine with a teaspoon of sugar, sometimes teaching STEM to young learners needs some subterfuge. Masking education within timeless sci-fi franchises and toy lines can teach rudimentary skills and logic processes of coding in young learners and plant the seeds for a technical career later in life. These six products and programs are chipping away at the technology talent pipeline problem one eager kid at a time. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

August 10. Four new states endorse the Safe Schools Declaration; Djibouti, Macedonia, Peru, and San Marino [Education International]. The four countries have become the latest countries to endorse the Safe Schools Declaration, bringing the total of countries joining the Declaration to 79, including 21 African Union, 35 Council of Europe, and 14 Organisation of American States members. The endorsements were announced on 9 July, during the United Nations Security Council open debate on children and armed conflict, which focused on protecting children in war as a means of preventing future conflict. "By committing to adopt conflict-sensitive approaches to education, for example, governments that have endorsed the Declaration build education systems that consciously avoid exacerbating divisions that drive conflict", said Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) Director Diya Nijhowne. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, August 9. GCSE: What is the 9 - 1 grading system? [The Telegraph]. In England, there have been major changes, with a new 9 - 1 grading system being phased in to reflect a more demanding curriculum. A 9 is the highest grade, while 1 is the lowest, not including a U (ungraded). Three number grades, 9, 8 and 7, correspond to the old-style top grades of A* and A - this is designed to give more differentiation at the top end. It is predicted that fewer grade 9s will be awarded than A*s and that anyone who gets a 9 will have "performed exceptionally". [LINK](#)

How the new grades compare with the old ones

Old grades	New grades
A*	9
A	8
B	7
C	6
	5 STRONG PASS
	4 STANDARD PASS
D	3
E	2
F	1
G	
U	U

United States, August 3. San Francisco State University [Science Daily]. Math with good posture can mean better scores, study suggests. Professor of Health Education Erik Peper said "The slumped-over position shuts them down and their brains do not work as well. They cannot think as clearly." While the students without math anxiety

did not report as great a benefit from better posture, they did find that doing math while slumped over was somewhat more difficult. These findings about body position can help people prepare for many different types of performance under stress, not just math tests. Athletes, musicians and public speakers can all benefit from better posture prior to and during their performance. [LINK](#)

Germany, August 9. The teacher shortage is the worst it has ever been [The Local]. German states are struggling to combat an increasing shortfall in teachers. Experts say that a cut back in funding for teacher training at universities combined with a growing birth-rate and higher immigration have contributed to the problem. Heinz-Peter Meidinger, head of the German Teachers' Federation said, "Politicians and the federal education ministry should have told the universities not to reduce their teacher training courses." Meidinger adds that federal states, which are responsible for education policies, were slow to react to a rise in the birth rate and should hire new teachers at a much earlier stage. [LINK](#)

Finland, August 1. National Core Curriculum for Basic Education in the Arts 2017 coming into effect in August 2018 [OPH]. Basic education in the arts is art education provided primarily for children and young people on an extracurricular basis. It is goal-oriented education that progresses from one level to the next. Basic education in the arts is organised across Finland in nine art forms: Architecture; visual arts; craft; media art; music; literary art; circus art; dance and theatre. [LINK](#)

Finland, August 1. Free early education trial for 5-year-olds begins [Daily Finland]. Finland's Ministry of Education is starting an experiment in August to provide free early childhood education and care to a portion of the country's five-year-olds. According to the ministry, the goal of the experiment is to attract more children to take part in early education, and collect information for the possible extension of pre-school education period from one year to two years. Currently, children in Finland start school at the age of seven. One year of pre-school education, which became compulsory in August 2015, is traditionally arranged for six-year-olds in kindergartens and schools. [LINK](#)

UNESCO

Nigeria, August 13. UNESCO trains teachers in Ebonyi on childcare, play, resilience [Nigerian Tribune]. A two-day capacity building workshop for teachers in Ebonyi on early childhood care and support activities services has been organized by The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). The National Education Programme Officer UNESCO, Abuja Regional Office Mrs Ngozi Amanze said "We are also collaborating with colleges of education in states to ensure that childhood play forms part of teacher-training programmes for good mastery and delivery at classroom levels." Amanze said in the spirit of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2030 Agenda especially SDG 4; target 4, 2 and within the principle of leave no child behind, the project aims to ensure everyone enjoys the right to live, thrive and achieve potentials," she said. [LINK](#)

OECD

OECD, August 8. We must invest in the transformational power of higher education [OECD]. Today's university students face the challenge of ambiguity. They have more options on many fronts, but face a world that is closing in around them. They have accepted that they will perhaps have more than one careers, and that they may be training for a type of work that could be jilted out of existence at any point by the forces of globalization and technology. [LINK](#)