

EDUCATION

Updates

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ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia, Sept 4- Entrepreneurship in education: it's more than getting kids a job [Education HQ]. Australian public education emerged in the late nineteenth century and as the industry evolves through privatisation and institutions compete for enrolments, it is timely to reflect on the value of a 21st century education. Nearly two decades into the new millennium, curriculum designers grapple with the paradigms of an education that may best serve the modern-day student. As digital skills are built into the national teaching standards, it is increasingly difficult to adopt a Luddite's approach to education. Ubiquitous job titles such as "influencer" and "social-media manager" occupy the employment landscape and the rise of the gig economy may lead to the redundancy of many current jobs. In such a tumultuous climate, how do educators equip students to cope with an ever-changing economy? [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Sept 3- Education Ministry to set up Bahasa Melayu council, says Maszlee [MalayMail]. The Education Ministry will set up a Bahasa Melayu Council which will be responsible for popularising and recognising the Bahasa Melayu Standard Framework (KSBM) within the country and overseas, the Senate was told today. Its minister Dr Maszlee Malik said setting up the councils was one of the steps taken by the government within five years to empower Dewan Bahasa dan Pustaka (DBP) and give it a more pro-active role as a centre and institution of language in an advanced country. "The DBP, Teachers' Training Institute Bahasa Melayu campus, public universities and departments in the ministry are developing KSBM as a framework of reference to measure language competencies among native and non-native speakers," he said. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Sept 3 - Alibaba launches post-graduate talent programme in Singapore [Strait Times]. Post-graduate students will get the opportunity to spend part of their studies at one of online retail giant Alibaba's research facilities. On Monday (Sept 3), Alibaba Group launched the Alibaba Talent Programme in Singapore with support from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB). The talent programme aims to equip postgraduate students with critical research and development (R&D) skills through practical work experience on projects with Alibaba. [LINK](#)

Japan, Sept 3- Legal issues and entrenched ideas about education keep talented students from skipping grades in Japan [Japan Times]. Academic acceleration systems, which enable students who excel in school to skip grades and study at a faster rate than others, have become increasingly commonplace globally. In the United States, around 180,000 students under 18 years old skip grades and enter universities early every year. But in Japan, the system has only been used by 130 students at nine universities over the past 20 years. Educators and academics who see such acceleration as a significant way to maximize each student's academic choices emphasize that the system cannot become better utilized unless many restrictions, such as those related to age, are removed. They also say the system will remain stymied in Japan as long as the tendency remains in place to give more value to age-based grade categorization and universities' prestige rankings. [LINK](#)

Korea, Aug 30 - President of Korea replaces five ministers and appointed new Minister of Education of Korea [Korea Times]. President Moon Jae-in replaced several key ministers in the priority areas of defense and education, both of which are the subject of reform as a main policy agenda. Yoo Eun-hae, a lawmaker from the ruling Democratic Party of Korea (DPK), was nominated as the education minister. The nominees are subject to National Assembly confirmation hearings. Thursday's cabinet reshuffle is the first since President Moon's inauguration in May last year. The reshuffle also involved four replacements below ministerial-level. [LINK](#)



Brief profile of the newly appointed Minister of Education of Korea: Yoo Eun-hae (55) is a two-term lawmaker who has honed her expertise in education issues while serving at the parliamentary education committee for the past seven years. She entered politics in the mid-1990s and was first elected lawmaker in 2012 and won re-election in 2016. As a lawmaker, she has been only on the parliamentary education committee and has led a series of bills aimed at improving the education sector.

Indonesia, Aug 31- International education for Indonesians, with a little help from Australia [Study International]. In a "historic" free trade deal between the two countries set to be announced this week, Indonesia could be seeing Australian universities set up campus in the Southeast Asian archipelago very soon. The announcement follows Indonesia's declaration earlier this year to permit foreign higher education providers to partner with local private universities. Among the Australian universities in line to do so sits Melbourne, Monash and RMIT, according to Patdono Suwignjo, Director General from the Indonesian Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education. With more branches in Indonesia, far greater numbers of Indonesian students will have access to higher education, he said. "The main thing is that if a university wants to set up a branch here in Indonesia it has to cooperate with an Indonesian university," he told The Sydney Morning Herald. [LINK](#)

Thailand, Aug 31 - Compulsory Buddhist Education Diminishes Religious Freedom: Un Envoy [Politics]. Students at a merit-making ceremony in June in Phetchaburi province. Affording privilege to Buddhism contradicts the principle of equal religious freedom, a UN envoy on freedom of religion said in Bangkok recently. "It is contrary to equal rights for all religions. Because parents have a right to raise their children with any religion, which means you can't have texts for [only] one religion. Recently, the Education Ministry selected 13 committee members to develop only Buddhist teaching in education institutions. This new policy was officially announced on May 16. Pathompong Bodhiprasiddhinand, director of Nanasamvara Centre for Buddhist Studies, said, "Without learning Buddhism deeply, how can a Thai touch deep into the heart of his or her own cultural heritage, which Thais have very much been proud of for many centuries?". [LINK](#)

ASIA & PACIFIC (CONT'D)



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India, Sep 03- Panel discusses how to improve minority education in India [Hindustan Times]. The National Monitoring Committee for Minorities Education (NMCME), which is chaired by the human resource development (HRD) minister, had held a meeting on July 6 and the minutes were issued on August 20. The panel comprised representatives from state governments and Parliament, academics, activists, administrators looking into minority issues and HRD ministry officials. Its primary function is to monitor minority education and the HRD ministry's schemes for the minorities. It also makes recommendations on issues related to the recognition and affiliation of minority institutes. "...the minority educational institutions do not admit students based on RTE Act. That should be looked into," said Gujarat education minister Bhupendrasinh Manubha Chudasama. Jamshid Khan, another member of the committee, said even as some states have madrasa boards, others such as Maharashtra do not have them. Talat Ahmad, the vice-chancellor of Kashmir University and a former vice-chancellor of Delhi's Jamia Millia Islamia, said: "It is desirable that the government opens more and more basic schools for minorities so that the minority children can get good opportunity for studying." [LINK](#)

India, Sept 2- How Delhi schools are revolutionising education, one teacher at a time [Gulf News]. Teachers from over 1,000 Delhi government schools have so far been sent for training to Singapore. When Roshan Lal, a 40-year-old rickshawpuller, got his son Rakesh admitted to a government school in Delhi, all he wanted for him was to get a decent education. Since he could not afford to pay for a private school, all that was on his mind was that "government school at least, he would learn something there. But, today, Roshan is a happy man because his son, now in Class VI, is doing well in school and is even able to teach him a thing or two. He feels elated that many of his son's teachers are even being trained abroad. Teachers and principals from over 1,000 Delhi government schools have so far been sent for training to Singapore and Finland, countries that are renowned for their pioneering teaching methods. [LINK](#)

AMERICA

United States of America, Sept 3 - Teachers are the keys to Quality Education [US News]. A child's first five years are the most critical for neurological development, with their brains forming more than one million neural connections per second. This is the time when the foundation is built for future success – brain wiring for social, emotional, physical and cognitive development. Genetics and experiences both play a role in a child's early development. And that is why access to early childhood education programs and to quality early educators matters so much. Many teachers working with children from birth to age five are based in private child care centers. These businesses operate on a shoe-string budget with parent fees comprising most of their operating revenue. It is simply impossible to substantially increase teacher wages without passing on those fees to parents (who already struggle

to afford the program costs). We know that high-quality care costs more to provide (to have educated teachers, to have low child-to-staff ratios, to have materials and supplies that promote creativity and learning). But, our current system is not funded in a manner to support high-quality settings. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST

Tanzania, September 3 - Demands for review of corporal punishment in schools [Guardian]. Campaigners have urged the Tanzanian government to review corporal punishment in schools after a 13-year-old boy died following a beating by his teacher. Sperius Eradius, from the northern Kagera province, died on 27 August, a few days after the punishment. Sperius had been accused of stealing from another teacher. The case is being investigated by Tanzania's health ministry, while local media reported on Monday that two teachers had been charged with Sperius's murder. The case has provoked an outcry from campaigners, who said children are being subjected to degrading and violent punishments. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

United Kingdom, Sept 4 - UK 'missing out' on overseas students [BBC]. University leaders are calling for changes to the UK visa system to allow international students to stay and work for two years after they graduate. Universities UK says otherwise overseas students, worth £26bn to the UK economy, will opt for countries such as the US, Canada and Australia. Research has shown Australia is already overtaking the UK as the second biggest destination for overseas students. The government has said there is no cap on legitimate overseas student numbers. This month, the Migration Advisory Committee, which gives the government independent advice on immigration, is to report on the impact of international students - currently counted as those from outside the UK and the European Union. [LINK](#)

Finland, Sept 2- 'Education digitalisation rapidly changing the role of teachers' [Times Malta]. Teachers from Mater Boni Consilii St Joseph School, Paola, being trained in Tampere, Finland, in the use of Seppo by Santeri Jaakkola from Seppo Finland. The teachers visited Tampere as part of an Erasmus project supported by the EUPA. Teachers from Mater Boni Consilii St Joseph School, Paola, being trained in Tampere, Finland, in the use of Seppo by Santeri Jaakkola from Seppo Finland. The teachers visited Tampere as part of an Erasmus project supported by the EUPA. Over the past years, Finland has become a centre of excellence in the field of education and students from the country excel in international study assessments. Educators from different countries, including Malta, have been visiting the country to observe the practices that are making its educational system so successful and Finnish educators and practitioners have also started to promote their ideas and educational resources in other countries. [LINK](#)

Hungary, Sept 3 - Punishing tax stops refugees studying at Hungarian universities [Al Jazeera]. When 27-year-old student and refugee Ananya Azad heard that he had been selected for a scholarship to attend Central European University (CEU) in Hungary, he quit his job in Germany and gave notice on his flat. He had been chosen as a part of an initiative to provide education to migrants and asylum seekers in Europe. A blogger and published author who fled from Bangladesh, Azad had hoped to use develop his expertise on the right to freedom of speech when the academic year begins on Monday. But last week, CEU was forced to suspend the programme after a new law went into effect imposing a hefty "immigration surtax", equal to 25 percent of the entire budget of institutions that in any capacity directly or indirectly promotes immigration. [LINK](#)