

EDUCATION

Updates

10 September 2018

ASIA & PACIFIC

Malaysia, September 10- Education Ministry Urged to Review Pros & Cons of Using Gadgets in the Classroom [World of Buzz]. The Ministry of Education has recently been urged to review the use of technological gadgets in the classroom. According to the New Straits Times, West Malaysia Teachers' Union president Jasni Md Kechik said that the review should be done because it would allow the ministry to ascertain the pros and cons of using these technological gadgets in the classroom. [LINK](#)

Australia, September 10- The future of education: with careers predicted to span 60 years, how will education and training evolve? [The Mandarin]. Education policy in Australia has many emerging issues it must contend with, not least of which is the imminent collision between an ageing population and rapidly changing workplaces driven by technological advancement. As a new report from Deloitte points out, alternatives that support and encourage lifelong learning should be integrated into an overall post-secondary policy architecture. Although there is much attention devoted to the education and training needs of millennials, little is known about the motivations, aspirations and preferences of the current workforce. Once we've learned more about these needs, we will be better placed to engineer an education sector that is responsive and timely to both the needs of individuals and industry more generally. [LINK](#)

India, September 6- Understanding the Indian Education System & The Need For Transformation [Entrepreneur]. There's Study of The Education System: In the Programme for International Student Assessment held in 2012, with 75 countries as participants, India stood 74th in place! Ironic for a country obsessed with toppers, to stand next to last. This score is enough to jolt us out of the misconception that Indian Educational System is changing. There's no denying that the system is modernizing, but it has a long way ahead, to meet the actual alarming needs of transformation. The need for academic success is so deep rooted in the country, that the competitive education system focuses more on tangible scores that reflect the same, instead of independent learning. [LINK](#)

New Zealand, September 6- Relief teacher supply hits 'critical low', agency contracted to Ministry of Education tells schools [NZ Herald]. An agency that supplies relief teachers can no longer meet demand for the first time in its history. Oasis Education, one of two main agencies authorised by the Ministry of Education to recruit teachers for state schools, says it is at "peak demand" for relievers due to winter sickness on top of the worst teacher shortage in years. "For the first time ever, we are now declining requests due to 100 per cent teacher unavailability," the agency said. Chief executive Martin Strang said in the email: "After almost 15 years in this business I have never known the supply of relief teachers to be so critically low." [LINK](#)

China, September 4- A new notice from China's Ministry of Education, and its impact on games [Gamasutra]. On August 30th 2018 the Ministry of Education issued a new notice aimed at preventing myopia, or near-sightedness, among children and adolescents. The notice also listed recommendations for regulatory bodies to carry out: 1) to

continue strengthening current regulations that limit the amount of time that minors can play games online; 2) to investigate the implementation of an age ratings system for games; and 3) to limit the number of new online games that are approved for distribution. [LINK](#)

Singapore, September 5- Teachers learn how to design better solutions [Strait Times]. It was the teacher's turn to be asked questions, at a workshop to help them guide students in using design thinking to generate solutions that benefit society. Among the question posed was, how can we help the elderly better deal with emergencies at home? A wearable device that the elderly could activate after a fall was just one of many suggestions offered. The suggestion of a wearable device came about after the use of the design thinking framework, a four-stage process that seeks to ensure solutions are based on an understanding of not just the problem, but also the people facing the problem. [LINK](#)

AMERICA

California, September 6- Gamification can help education [Venture Beat]. Gamified education apps for use outside of the classroom have proliferated, leading students to expect gamification when they're back inside of the classroom, too. ABCmouse is one great example for the youngest of students. Just recently, Google announced Grasshopper, an app that teaches coding to beginners, offering lessons through puzzles that make the topic seem less intimidating. Combine people's short attention spans with an obvious reliance on technology and personal devices, however, and the argument for gamification as a constructive learning technique is one worth paying attention to. [LINK](#)

United States, September 3- Education at risk for more than 3.5 million school-aged children in the Lake Chad Basin [UNICEF]. Ongoing conflict, displacement and fear of attacks on schools is putting the education of more than 3.5 million children at risk in the Lake Chad Basin, with almost 1,000 schools closed or non-functional due to violence or unrest in northeast Nigeria, Chad, Cameroon and Niger, UNICEF warned today. "Education supports children and young people's lifelong learning. It gives them the necessary skills to build a better future for themselves and their families, and to contribute to peaceful and prosperous communities. Yet too often overall humanitarian education funding is lacking in emergencies." UNICEF has called for USD\$41.7 million to meet the education needs of children in the crisis, and this appeal has received just 8 per cent of this amount in the first half of 2018. [LINK](#)

United States, September 6- Schools start early with career counseling [US News]. This new attention to career advising largely stems from growing expectations that institutions will help students get good jobs - which 85% of first-year students rated as "very important" among their reasons for going to college in the first place. That's more than any other reason they considered "very important", including "to gain a general education and appreciation of ideas" and "to learn more about things that interest me". Parents also rank career services as a top priority when picking a college, according to internal research shared by Washington University in St. Louis, which hosts a discussion not for students, but for parents, when they drop off their children for first-year orientation; it's among the week's most heavily attended event. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Saudi Arabia, September 10- Holding education ministry responsible [Al-Madinah]. THE Ministry of Education has confirmed that text books for both elementary and middle schools were ready, and so were for the high school. All schools received their books except for high school, which was scheduled to arrive by the end of the first week, according to the special committee overlooking the start of the new school year. According to Mubarak Al-Osaimi, official spokesman of the Ministry of Education, the committee responsible for improving school curricula was late in handing over the final draft of books to the printing press. [LINK](#)

Qatar, September 9- Ministry of Education makes amendments to academic calendar 2018-2019 [The Peninsula Online]. The Minister of Education and Higher Education H E Dr Mohammed bin Abdul Wahed Al Hammadi issued a Ministerial decision to carry out some amendments to the annual calendar for government schools for the academic year 2018-2019. Under the decision, the first term final exams for first to sixth grade, (day classes and adult education) for the academic year 2018-2019 will be held from December 4 to December 11. [LINK](#)

Oman, September 9- Ministry Initiates Project To Install Safety Devices in School Buses [Muscat Daily]. The Ministry of Education (MoE) has started installing security and safety devices in 296 school buses in South Sharqiyah. The project, targeting 12,000 students, is being undertaken in cooperation with Oman LNG Development Foundation. The project has been initiated to prevent accidents involving school buses. The security system includes an audio and video warning device to alert students on the bus after the driver leaves, GPS tracker to monitor bus movement and a remote control device to operate and stop the bus. [LINK](#)

Egypt, September 9- New Cumulative Secondary School System to be applied 2018/19 [Egypt Today]. The Media Center of the Council of Ministers reassured the public Sunday that the new Cumulative Secondary School System will be implemented at Japanese and public Arabic schools only for the 2018/2019 academic year. The Cumulative Secondary School System will not be stopped, only updated. Elaborating on the new Cumulative Secondary School System, the Ministry of Education pointed out that the new system will be applied for the first time in the academic year 2018/2019; accordingly, students will sit a total of 12 examinations through their three years in high school—each year they will sit four examinations. The Ministry also noted that the cumulative result will be calculated based on the mean of the four examinations in which students scored highest. [LINK](#)

Egypt, September 9- English language will be taught in kindergarten for the first time: Minister of education [Ahram]. Minister of Education Tarek Shawky said that the English language will be taught in Kindergarten for the first time, according to Al Mal. Shawky added that the curriculums are based on four standards: teaching the child who they are, learning about the world around them and how the world works, as well as developing methods of communication and respect for others, Al Mal said. English language will be taught as a separate subject, since kindergarten in all of Egypt's public schools use Arabic as the primary language in other subject fields such as science and mathematics until the first year of elementary education. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

France, September 10- ERUS 2018: ERUS Education Working Group on Education and Training [URO Today]. Dr. Van der Poel provided an overview of the ERUS education working group and its

current endeavors. The fields of GU Oncology and Urology are advancing rapidly including new treatments, enrolling clinical trials, screening and surveillance recommendations along with updated guidelines. To become an ERUS training center, there are several mandatory criteria. [LINK](#)

Finland, September 9- 10 reasons why Finland's education system is the best in the world [Big Think]. Here are 10 reasons why Finland's education system is dominating America and the world stage: 1) No standardized testing; 2) Accountability for teachers (not required); 3) Cooperation not competition; 4) Make the basics a priority; 5) Starting school at an older age; 6) Providing professional options past a traditional college degree; 7) Finns wake up later for less strenuous schooldays; 8) Consistent instruction from the same teachers; 9) A more relaxed atmosphere; and 10) Less homework and outside work required. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, September 5- Special needs funding at crisis point, say school leaders [Guardian]. A teaching union has accused the government of making "empty promises" to the families of one million children diagnosed with special educational needs whose schools have failed to receive additional funding. The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) said funding for schools supporting pupils with special needs and disabilities was at crisis point, citing a survey of members that found 94% said it was harder to support such pupils now than two years ago. "The picture facing schools supporting children with special educational needs is bleak. Not only are school budgets at breaking point, there have been severe cuts to health and social care provision," said Paul Whiteman, the NAHT's general secretary. [LINK](#)

OECD

September 4 - The Earth is looking for environmentally mindful students [OECD]. Looking into the environmental awareness of 15-year-olds, this month's OECD's PISA in Focus tries to answer some important questions: Are students increasingly aware of the environmental problems? Have 15-year-olds become more optimistic about the future of Earth? And who are the environmentally aware students? Results show that environmental awareness is increasing moderately among 15-year-olds. In the nine years from 2006 - 2015, and for most of the environmental issues cited in both cycles of PISA, the share of students who reported that they are informed ("I know something about this and could explain the general issue") or well-informed ("I am familiar with this and I would be able to explain this well") increased moderately, on average across OECD countries. [LINK](#)

UNESCO

September 7- Literacy and skills development in focus at UNESCO International Literacy Day conference in Paris [UNESCO]. Today, at least 750 million young people and adults still lack basic literacy skills. Two-thirds of them are women and 102 million of them are youth aged 15 to 24 (UIS, 2017). At the same time, many of the 192 million unemployed young people and adults worldwide are unable to achieve decent livelihoods due to, among others, the lack of foundational skills, including literacy, and failing to meet the skill demands of the rapidly changing labor market. Possibilities and best practices in improving outcomes of integrated approaches to literacy and skills development in a lifelong learning perspective were discussed, identified and explored by specialists from international organizations, governments, NGO's, the private sector and academia through various panel sessions. [LINK](#)