

# EDUCATION

## Updates

18 September 2018

### ASIA & PACIFIC

**New Zealand, September 18– Government spent more than AUS\$3 million on two education summits [NZ Herald].** The Government spent more than \$3 million for two education summits in May. Education Minister Chris Hipkins revealed the cost today of two two-day summits in May - one in Auckland and one in Christchurch. Hipkins released a Cabinet paper reporting back on the "conversation" with New Zealanders about making the education system fit for the future and for the needs of all. Around 1400 people took part in the two-day events. "They included teachers and principals from all levels of education, parents, young people and children, Maori, Pacific people, and other ethnic groups, and representatives of learners with disabilities," Hipkins said. The Christchurch summit cost \$1.41m, the Auckland event \$1.26m. Pre-engagement with stakeholders, and material preparation for the events and the ongoing discussions, cost just under \$440,000 to design and develop. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, September 13- Johor, Selangor among several Malaysian states facing teacher shortage [News Asia].** Malaysia's education ministry has set up a special committee to study ways to tackle the shortage of teachers in several states including Johor and Selangor. Deputy education minister Teo Nie Ching said on Wednesday (Sep 12) that among the factors leading to the shortage of teachers in these four states was the high cost of living and the location of the schools in interior areas. "The problem of a lack of teachers is not only in urban areas like Johor and Selangor but also in interior areas like Sabah and Sarawak, and the ministry has taken steps to resolve it." [LINK](#)

**Singapore, September 13– International schools opens up facilities for community organisations [Straits Times].** In an unusual move, an international school is offering the use of its facilities including the swimming pool, to community organisations. The German European School Singapore (GESS) officially opened its new \$135 million campus in Dairy Farm Lane on September 13. As part of efforts to give back to the community, the school is making its Olympic-sized swimming pool, football field, cooking laboratory and 400-seat auditorium available for use to groups that write in with their requests. Applications will be assessed on criteria such as the values and purpose of the organization, its target audience and the availability of the facilities. The facilities can be used only outside of school hours. [LINK](#)

**India, September 17– Upgrading curriculum a priority to improve higher education [Times of India].** Updating the curriculum, change in archaic regulations governing educational institutes, overhauling the examination system, upgrading pedagogy and focus on research are some of the reforms that need to be undertaken to improve higher education in the country and bring it at par with global universities, said panelists at the recently held Vice Chancellor Conference organized by the Times of India in New Delhi. Chairman of All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) said "we are still following a dated curriculum. One of the immediate steps needed to improve the quality of higher education is to redesign the curriculum of all courses to teach students what is relevant in the present age". [LINK](#)

**China, September 12- Vice premier pledges to improve rural education [MOE, China].** Vice Premier of China, Ms SUN Chunlan

pledged to advance reforms in the education sector and improve education services in rural areas. Efforts should be made to strengthen areas of weakness in rural compulsory education, address inadequacies in pre-school and vocational education, and modernise capacity and standard of governance in the sector, Sun said at the closing meeting of a two-day national education conference in Beijing. The government will effectively implement the Party Leadership's decisions on education, enhance the development on education and adhere to the correct principles of education development, she said. Vice Premier also said that the education system in the country is aimed at nurturing capable young people well-prepared to join the socialist cause. [LINK](#)

**China, September 3- China to improve use of education funds [MOE, China].** China will improve the use and management of public spending on education to promote fair and quality education. In accordance with a recent circular issued by the General Office of the State Council on improving the efficiency of education spending, priority should unswervingly be given to education and the layout for use of education funds should be optimized. The use of education funds should be well-planned to ensure the consistency between education plans at national and local levels and relevant fiscal arrangements, and more fiscal funds should be used to help areas of extreme poverty and students from needy families, according to the circular. The document requires measures to encourage and attract more competent people into the education sector and make teaching a profession that is respected by all. [LINK](#)

**Pakistan, September 15- Training workshop on 'Human Rights Education' held [Daily Times Pakistan].** Fazaldad Human Rights Institute (FHRI) and Rice Partners (Pvt) Ltd (RPL) in collaboration with Mars Food organized a one day teachers training workshop on Human Rights Education (HRE) to raise awareness and understanding on the concept of HRE. Project Officer Mr Rizwan Ali said that FHRI is the most experienced organization in Pakistan on training for human rights and democracy. "Our training program has reached over 75,000 teachers, judges, police officers, bureaucrats, and elected local body representatives," he said, adding that "170,000 students have been direct beneficiaries of this program while indirect beneficiaries run into the millions." [LINK](#)

### NORTH AMERICA

**United States, September 11– Georgia school seeks parental consent to paddle misbehaving students [US News].** A school in Georgia is implementing a policy that will allow administrators to discipline students by paddling them. Parents at the Georgia School for Innovation and the Classics, a K-9 charter school in Hephzibah, Georgia, received consent forms from the institution seeking permission for administrators to hit their children with a wooden paddle should they need to be disciplined. Jody Boulineau, the superintendent at the school stated that the school has received about 100 forms back from parents, with about a third of them giving consent. This form of corporal punishment is "just one more tool" for discipline administrators can use, Boulineau said. Parents are not required to provide consent. They can deny to allow the form of punishment be used and instead agree to a misbehaving child being suspended for up to five days. [LINK](#)

## [NORTH AMERICA \[CONT.\]](#)

**United States, September 14– Why we need a teacher workforce that’s both diverse and knowledgeable [Forbes].** Low-income minority students benefit from having teachers who look like them, but qualified minority teachers are in short supply, leading some to advocate relaxing the qualifications. The problem is, that risks putting disadvantaged kids even further behind. Only about 50% of American students in kindergarten through 12th grade are white; 16% are black and 25% Hispanic. For teachers, the proportions are different: 80% are white; only 7% are black and 9% Hispanic. So why not hire more minorities teachers, especially at schools that serve a lot of children from those groups? There’s a pipeline problem with African-Americans comprise 13% of the adult American population, they’re only 6% of those with four-year college degrees. And although Hispanics are the largest and fastest-growing minority group in the United States, they’re half as likely to hold a college degree as non-Hispanic white adults. [LINK](#)

## [AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST](#)

**United Arab Emirates, September 17– A buyer’s market for schools, homes in Dubai [Arabian Business].** A report by The Educational Intelligence Group and Property Finder found that 13 new schools have opened in Dubai recently, creating an additional 18,000 school seats, giving parents more choice and stiffening competition among schools. Faced with the prospects of parents with more choices—and more competition among schools—the report noted that new and upcoming schools are now being forced to re-evaluate their position in the market. [LINK](#)

**Kazakhstan, September 11- Technical innovations and modern teaching in the schools of Kazakhstan [Kazakh].** Technical innovations and modern teaching methods are being implemented in the schools of Kazakhstan. Specialists believe that this process meets the modern requirements. According to them, advanced technologies will provide high-quality education to the students. In the new academic year, IT classrooms, robotics rooms and science study rooms opened in the schools of Kazakhstan. A pilot project for a new method of learning the Kazakh language in Latin script was launched in the regions. [LINK](#)

**Jordan, September 15- Global education initiative starts at Marka’s girls’ school [Jordan Times].** The British Ambassador to Jordan Edward Oakden has recently launched the Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning programme at the Marka Prep Girls’ School Number 2 as part of The World’s Largest Lesson project. The schools are connected by the programme through various technological devices, giving the opportunity to children and teachers to “exchange both culture and knowledge”. “We have become friends with the girls there, because we spent a lot of time chatting in the past year. We talked about our hopes and aspirations together, and also about the challenges we face in life,” said a 10th grade Marka student, to the ambassador, at the launch. [LINK](#)

## [EUROPE](#)

**United Kingdom, September 12– Fresh call for smacking to be outlawed in the home [BBC].** The Association of Educational Psychologists has tabled a motion to the Trades Union Congress Conference calling for physical punishment to be outlawed as smacking is harmful to children’s mental health. Presently, although corporal punishment is banned in schools, parents can “smack” or physically chas-

tise a child as long as it is deemed “reasonable”. Psychologists say there are many better ways of teaching right from wrong. Member of the AEP national executive committee, John Drewicz, will tell the conference in Manchester: “Smacking is harmful to a child’s mental health, it models aggressive behaviour and it says to them that it is OK to use violence.” [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, September 11– Best independent schools in 2018 [Telegraph].**

Full league table for A-Level results. [LINK](#)

Full league table for GCSE results. [LINK](#)

**France, September 11– France to encourage children to watch cartoons in English in drive to improve poor language skills [Telegraph].** Primary school children in France will be encouraged to watch cartoons in English as the government unveils a drive to improve their ability to speak foreign languages on Wednesday. The measures outlined in a report is part of an attempt to improve France’s languist performance on the linguistic front. A recent Europe-wide survey placed the country 15th out of 16 in a ranking of how well it taught a main foreign language, and only slightly higher for a second foreign language. [LINK](#)

**Georgia, September 10– European School brings hope to Georgia [Euro News].** Coming back to school after the summer break is not always easy, but this September Miriam Keadze from the small Georgian town of Kareli has started a new adventure. Thanks to a scholarship by the European Union, she attends the first European school in the capital Tbilisi. A great opportunity to pursue her dream to become a diplomat. [LINK](#)

## [UNESCO](#)

**UNESCO, September 15- UNESCO organizes workshop on Enhancing Community Engagement for ESD [UNESCO].** The workshop is a showcase of the commitment of UNESCO and its Member States to the enhancement of quality education for sustainable development within the framework of the UNESCO Global Action Programme (GAP) on ESD and SDG4-Education 2030 Agenda. On 10-14 September 2018, the Regional Workshop on Enhancing Community Engagement for Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) was held in Okayama, Japan. More than 40 participants from 16 Asian countries shared their experience in promoting ESD and SDGs, reviewed the Community Learning Centres (CLCs) guide and teacher education resources, and shared on the follow-up country action plans. [LINK](#)

## [OECD](#)

**OECD, September 17– How technology is enabling new ways of writing [OECD].** We could be on the brink of a fundamental change in how we produce and use written material. Changes and improvements in writing technologies have occurred at several points in human history. Our instruments of handwriting have evolved from imprints in clay to brushes and ink, to the now-ubiquitous ballpoint pen (a surprisingly difficult device to perfect). Print and digital reproduction have allowed texts to be mass produced and distributed to audiences numbering in the billions; and smartphones have given us new ways to express ourselves in writing, as evidenced by the widespread use of emoji. Many of these developments are rapid and volatile, and education systems must therefore be responsive to changing needs. The written word is changing faster than ever, and with it so is our world. [LINK](#)