

# EDUCATION

## Updates

25 September 2018

### ASIA & PACIFIC

**Japan-China, Sept 19- Students look East for a wider perspective, global viewpoint [NST].** STUDY destinations in Japan and China have seen an increasing number of enrolments from Malaysian higher education students these past few years. Their affordable fees, the similarity in society and culture, as well as excellence in education and research attract students by the hordes. There is also an opportunity to master languages such as Mandarin or Japanese during their stay in the countries. Japan, for instance, has nine universities in the top 200 QS World University Rankings 2017. A large number of Chinese universities in China are also recognised by the Malaysian Qualifications Agency. These include Beijing University, Renmin University of China, Tsinghua University, Beijing Jiaotong University and Beijing University of Science and Technology. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Sept 22- Pre-school work experience to count towards degree [Strait Times].** The work experience of teachers from one of Singapore's largest pre-school operators will now count towards getting a degree. This will help them be trained in a shorter time for a sector which many have said is critical in giving children a head start in life. Under a new arrangement to start next year, the Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS) will recognise the work and teaching experience of selected pre-school teachers from NTUC First Campus and exempt them from certain modules - subject to its admissions interview. This means they can be granted up to 20 credit units - equivalent to up to four courses - and graduate six months earlier. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Sept 24- More prizes for winning ideas to tackle social issues [Strait Times].** Secondary school teams that participate in the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow challenge will now stand to win more prizes - for both themselves and their schools. In the local edition of the competition organised by tech giant Samsung - open to secondary schools for the first time - not only will three winning teams from secondary schools each receive \$20,000 worth of tech products for their school, but each of the winning student teams will also get \$1,600 cash (or \$800 a student for each team of two students). [LINK](#)

**Australia, Sept 24- SA Education signs Civica to digitally transform 900 state schools [ZDNet].** The Department for Education South Australia has announced a digital transformation initiative it hopes will raise education standards across all government schools and pre-schools in the state. Turning to Civica, the Department will be implementing the Civica Education Suite across 900 state schools, including preschools, primary schools, high schools, and various other educational institutions. The Education Management software-as-a-service solution is expected to improve learning and care, improve analytics and reporting, and improve tools to support management of sites, with the department also hoping to have consistency in systems across sites to improve reliability, support, resourcing, and training. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, 22 Sep 22- Maszlee: Chinese firms want to sponsor TVET students [The Star].** There will be more TVET scholarship and training opportunities for Malaysian students in education institutions and companies in China, says Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik. Chinese companies which met him and Education Ministry representatives expressed interest in preparing Malaysians who graduated from

technical and vocational education and training to face the challenging international industry. Dr Maszlee recently visited China where he delivered a speech during the opening of the China-Malaysia TVET forum. "Some offered scholarships to Malaysian students for training in China," he said in a statement yesterday. [LINK](#)

### EUROPE

**Finland, Sept 18- Participation in early childhood education and care has increased in Finland [OPH].** The participation rate in early childhood education and care is below the OECD average and clearly lower than in the other Nordic countries. The participation rate has however grown evenly since 2000. Participation in ECEC is voluntary except for the one-year pre-primary education at the age of 6. In 2016 circa 68 per cent of all 1–6-year-olds participated in early childhood education and care (ECEC). The majority of these children, 76 per cent, attended municipal ECEC centres. The proportion of children attending ECEC centres has increased, while the proportion of children in home-based ECEC has decreased from 32 per cent in 2000 to under 10 per cent in 2016. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Sept 23- Sport England launches £13.5m drive to boost secondary school PE [Guardian].** Sport England is launching a £13.5m scheme to train 17,000 teachers in delivering PE and sport in school, after research found that almost 20% of secondary students hated PE lessons. With more than a quarter of the nation's adults "inactive", according to the Active Lives survey released in March, Sport England wants to ensure students are leaving secondary education with an active lifestyle. Jennie Price, the chief executive of Sport England, said: "While some youngsters have a great experience of PE and sport at school, others don't, and our research shows that can put them off being active for life." [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Sept 20- Three in four London students 'from ethnic minorities by 2030' [BBC].** Almost three quarters of university students from London will be from ethnic minorities by the end of the next decade, say researchers. The analysis, based on demographic changes and university entry rates, shows 27% of students from London will be white - down from 37% at present. White students will still be the biggest ethnic group - followed by 21% from African backgrounds, up from 17%. The report, from a university access group, forecasts "hyper-diversity". [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Sept 23- Staff get chance to study in Cambridge [The Star].** SUNWAY University, through the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF), and the University of Cambridge have signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) allowing for two exceptional staff per year from Sunway University to study at the University of Cambridge for four weeks, in perpetuity. Jeffrey Cheah Foundation founding trustee and Sunway University chancellor Tan Sri Jeffrey Cheah and the University of Cambridge's Master of Gonville and Caius College Prof Sir Alan Fersht exchanged the signed MoA documents at Sunway Resort Hotel and Spa to commence the programme. "The establishment of the Scholars-in-Residence programme will further deepen the relationship between Sunway University and the University of Cambridge, which has allowed for a robust exchange of ideas between our two institutions since we first linked up in 2014. [LINK](#)

## STATISTICS ABOUT GERMANY. [LINK](#)

- Expenditure on education out of total expenditure: 11.13%
- Of which, on higher education: 26.59%
- Enrolment rate in higher education: 66.28%
- Population: 82,695,000
- Unemployment: 3.75%
- Annual GDP: 2.22%

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

**Iran, Sept 14- Enrolment rate in primary education increased to almost 100% in Iran [Tehran Times].** The Minister of Education shared that enrolment of boys and girls in primary education is almost equal in the country, Fars news agency quoted him as saying. According to data, there are still a number of out-of-school children, but the numbers show the decline of the number of out-of-children in primary school age. Primary school education today is focused on establishing the fundamental literacy and numeracy skills among children, as well as developing their understanding of the world. These skills are increasingly necessary for life in the modern world, and are essential to the functioning of developed economies. For this reason, primary education is compulsory and provided by the state in almost all countries around the world. [LINK](#)

**Jordan, Sept 17- Countries donate JD51 million to support Syrian education in Jordan [Jordan Times].** Australia, Canada, the European Union, Germany, Norway, the UK and the US announced on Monday that they will make JD51 million available to fund the Jordanian government's plan for "Accelerating Access to Quality Formal Education for Syrian Refugee Children" in school year 2018-2019. Through the "Accelerating Access to Education Initiative" (AAI) the Jordanian government with the support from donors will provide quality public education to an estimated 130,000 Syrian refugee children. The support will also help in employing and training new teachers, financing salaries for teachers and administrative staff, opening additional double shift schools, purchasing school books, providing tuition fees and covering costs for operations, and equipment in these schools, according to a statement by the Ministry of Education. [LINK](#)

**United Arab Emirates, Sept 20- UAE leads growth of private K-12 education sector in the Middle East [Zawya].** The UAE has led the Middle East's private K-12 growth. Dubai and Abu Dhabi account for 60% of the private K-12 market. This data was released by L.E.K. Consulting, a leading global management consulting firm, ahead of the IPSEF Middle East conference taking place in Dubai this weekend. According to the report, The Private K-12 Opportunity in the Middle East, the private K-12 market in the region has grown three times faster on average than GDP in the last three years alone, and is even larger than the higher education market that is valued at \$3.7b. Dubai and Abu Dhabi are among the largest and have been popular with investors. These markets widely focus on expat students since they tend to offer international K-12 options across all price points (ranging from USD 1,000 to USD 25,000). [LINK](#)

**Kenya, Sept 13- Top private schools to get funding from State [Standard].** Top performing private schools may get funding from the Government if the Ministry of Education adopts a new international financing proposal. The new multi-billion education funding system will see private schools that produce best results rewarded through a comprehensive Government funding dubbed Education Outcome Fund (OED). OED is an initiative of International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity and the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment (GSG). The programme projects to raise Sh100 billion

to pay for 'services', which will be offered by private schools in Africa and the Middle East. [LINK](#)

**Kenya, Sept 15- Pre-primary learners struggle to get quality education as they study in deplorable environment [Standard].** Counties continue to neglect Early Childhood Development Education (ECDE) six years after the pre-primary schooling was devolved. Young pupils continue to learn in deplorable conditions as their teachers work under the mercy of parents for pay. School & College conducted a tour of some ECDE centres and was met with a picture of a dire situation, characterised by muddy walls, dusty floors and classrooms without doors or windows. In most of the centres we visited, learners are congested in tiny rooms that lack basic learning materials such as desks, chairs and blackboards. At Gathima Pre-Primary in Mau Narok, children stand the risk of being electrocuted by the recently installed electricity. [LINK](#)

**Kenya, Sept 16. Four students drawn as Geography field lesson turns sour [Standard].** A Geography lesson for Form One students of a school in Yatta Sub-county in Machakos has left parents and teachers mourning the untimely death of four students. The four, a girl and three boys, were classmates at Syokisinga Secondary School in Kyua Location. They drowned in River Athi where they had been accompanied by two of their teachers for a field lesson on Friday afternoon. [LINK](#)

**Dubai, Sept 23- Dubai's education regulator to step up background checks on teachers [The National].** Background checks are being stepped up by Dubai's education regulator to ensure teachers with a criminal background cannot slip under the radar. Although individual schools have stipulated background checks already, the regulator said the five-year demand will be the standard requirement across the school network. Without that, teachers will not pass through the necessary employment and visa checks. "Teachers are in contact with minors and we don't want the wrong people to be in contact with children," said Dr Naji Al Mahdi, chief of qualifications and awards. "Someone like a paedophile will find a place where they can come in contact with children. In all developed countries, you have to go for a police check before you join a school. [LINK](#)

## [OECD](#)

**OECD, Sept 19- Why experience matters in teaching [OECD].** As parents and citizens, we expect students to leave schools not only with a solid foundation in reading, mathematics and other subjects; we also expect students to leave school as lifelong learners, with the ability to think critically about complex issues, and the will to constantly adapt to change. And we expect schools to contribute to the well-being of our children, and to strengthen the fabric of our societies. Much of the burden of delivering on these expectations falls on teachers, who are the most significant resource in today's schools. And it is easy for teachers to feel overwhelmed by these expectations, particularly at the beginning of their careers. [LINK](#)

## [UNESCO](#)

**UNESCO, Sept 21- UNESCO Director General focuses on education in United Nations General Assembly [UNESCO].** Director General Audrey Azoulay highlights UNESCO's leadership in promoting inclusive and quality education when she attends her first UN General Assembly in New York as Director General, from 23 to 26 September. Amongst the agenda that she will presenting is a call for mobilization on girls' education where it aims at mobilizing the international community around UNESCO in order to reach SDG4 in favor of girls' education. [LINK](#)