

EDUCATION

Updates

02 October 2018

ASIA & PACIFIC

Singapore, Oct 01: Electronic marking for exam scripts being tested [ST]. Answer papers for national examinations taken in Singapore could be electronically marked in future. The Singapore Examinations and Assessment Board has recently completed a pilot run in which hard copies of last year's national exam papers were scanned and digitised before being marked online. More pilot tests are planned over the next year. Electronic marking is expected to reduce the risk of scripts being lost or stolen, as well as cut the time taken to count them.

[LINK](#)

Singapore, Sept 27: Report books will not indicate students' level and class positions from next year (2018) [CNA]. The reporting of each student's progress in various domains will be better balanced to reduce an excessive focus on marks, says the Ministry of Education. Starting next year, report books in schools will no longer show certain academic indicators such as the level and class positions of the students, the Ministry of Education (MOE) announced on Friday.

[LINK](#)

Singapore, Sept 28: Fewer exams, assessments in schools to reduce emphasis on academic results: MOE Singapore [CNA]. Primary and secondary schools will reduce the number of examinations and assessments students are required to sit from next year, as part of efforts to reduce the emphasis on academic results. The changes, which will take effect starting next year, will see the removal of weighted assessments and exams for Primary 1 and 2, as well as the removal of mid-year exams for several other levels.

[LINK](#)

Singapore, Sept 30: Little tweaks, with a big difference: The value proposition of inclusive preschools [CNA]. A growing number of preschools in Singapore are beginning to offer an "inclusive model", where children with special needs are fully integrated with their typically developing peers. But does this model really work, and what are the benefits?

[LINK](#)

Indonesia, Sept 30: Indonesia wants vocational training experts to train builders, service providers [AFR]. 'In higher education we want to give more autonomy to universities': secretary general of the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education, Jakarta, Professor Ainun Na'im. Peter Braig The opportunity for Australian tertiary-sector providers in Indonesia is "huge" according to the secretary general of the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education in Jakarta, Professor Ainun Na'im.

[LINK](#)

Indonesia, Sept 30: Malaysians in Sulawesi safe: Embassy, Education Malaysia [NST]. All Malaysians on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi, which was struck by a 7.4 magnitude earthquake and 3-metre high tsunami on Friday, are accounted for and safe. A total of 288 Malaysian students are enrolled at Universitas Hasanuddin and Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu dan Bahasa in Makassar, South Sulawesi, and none of them was near the epicentre of the earthquake – the bay city of Palu.

[LINK](#)

Malaysia, Sept 28: Malaysia's education system in need of review with emphasis on English, noble values: Mahathir [NMM]. Malaysia's education system needs to be revised to make English more widely used and to inculcate noble values among children, said Prime Minister

ter Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. Responding to a question on what needs to be done to improve the country's education system during a dialogue at the Asia Society here, Dr Mahathir said it was important to increase the use of English as it was a universal language. In addition, Dr Mahathir said values play a very big role in the development of society.

[LINK](#)

Malaysia, Sept 28: Promoting Malaysian culture through internationalisation [UWN]. Malaysia used to be primarily a sending country, but it now has a strategic plan for taking in international students with the aim of becoming a hub for education and innovation, as captured in the government's National Higher Education Strategic Plan Beyond 2020 (NHESP).

[LINK](#)

Thailand, Sept 09: Bamboo dormitory in Thailand offers access to education for remote students [Design Boom]....in the midst of the mountains of ta song yang district on the burmese-thai border stands a branch of the Baan Nhong Bua school. For over a decade, the school had been providing education for children living in the area. However, as the branch school is located nearly ten kilometers away from the surrounding villages...

[LINK](#)

Thailand, Sept 27: Internationalization of Hospitality and Tourism Higher Education: A Perspective from Thailand [QWN]. Globalization and the advancement of the knowledge-based economy have resulted in a transformation in the higher education landscape across the world. Internationalization in higher education is argued to be an educational development process or educational reform for modern universities to address the increasing impacts of globalization and liberalization of trade in educational services.

[LINK](#)

Myanmar, Sept 25: Invest in Myanmar as well for Rohingya children's education: PM [Daily Star]. "We're thankful to the international community for their support in providing education to the Rohingya children in Bangladesh. I call upon them to also invest in Myanmar so that these children can enjoy their rights, including the right to education, upon their return to Myanmar," she said. The Prime Minister was addressing a roundtable discussion on 'Investment for Education of Women and Girls' organised by Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau at Conference Room-11 of the UN Headquarters on Monday.

[LINK](#)

South Korea, Sept 25: South Korea to review banning English education for pre-schoolers [KH]. Nine months after proposing a ban on English classes in kindergartens, the government is set to review related policies next month, as parents have complained that the move will only widen the education gap in a market led by pricey private pre-schools that teach in English. Last year, the Education Ministry forbid public elementary schools from teaching English to first and second graders during affordable after-school classes.

[LINK](#)

India, Sept 29 (ANI): Our govt aims to spend Rs 1 lakh cr by 2022 on education: PM Modi [BS]. Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday inaugurated Conference on Academic Leadership on Education for Resurgence, at Vigyan Bhawan in Delhi. Union Minister for Human Resource Development Prakash Javadekar was also present at the event. Speaking at the event, PM Modi said, "Our government is focusing to invest in the field of education."

[LINK](#)

[AMERICA](#)

United States of America, Sept 27: International community unites to bolster education opportunities for refugees [UNHCR]. At UN General Assembly, country leaders and humanitarian organizations join efforts to make education a priority in the refugee crisis response. When she had to leave Rwanda in 2001 with her family and became a refugee in Malawi, six-year-old Amelie Fabian was determined not to miss out school. [LINK](#)

United States, Oct 01: U.S. Department of Education Announces 2018 National Blue Ribbon Schools [ED Gov]. U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos today recognized 349 schools as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2018. The recognition is based on a school's overall academic performance or progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. "I'm pleased to celebrate with you as your school is named a National Blue Ribbon School," said U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos in a video message to the honorees. [LINK](#)

[EUROPE](#)

France, Oct 01: Foreign students up 4.5% in French tertiary institutions, figures reveal [Pie News]. There are 343,400 foreign students in the French higher education system, signaling a growth of 4.5% since 2016 according to figures released by the Ministry of Education. According to the figures released by the Ministry, about half international students are from an African country, while 22% are from Europe (18% from the EU), 21% from the Asia-Pacific and 9% from the Americas. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Oct 02: Parents head to High court over special needs cuts [BBC]. Sarah Jones is one of four mothers from Surrey taking a case to the High Court to challenge cuts to services for their five children with disabilities. Surrey County Council plans to cut £21m from services for disabled children. The council says its focus is still to make sure children get the support they need. But the mothers claim the planned cuts are unlawful, because the local authority did not consult affected families. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, Oct 01: Vital teaching funds lost to supply agencies [Guardian]. Are parents aware that supply teaching has been outsourced, asks Doreen Worthington. And Neil Macehiter questions the Department for Education's cost-cutting measures. A major drain on resources not mentioned in your report (Thousands of head teachers rally against damaging school cuts, 29 September) is the growth of the gig economy in the education sector. [LINK](#)

[AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST](#)

Kenya, Oct 01: Govt releases Sh15.4bn to primary, secondary schools. The government has finally released Sh15.4billion (Approx. USD 152m) for free day primary and subsidized secondary education. Education Principal Secretary Bellio Kipsang on Monday announced that Sh2.8billion will go to primary schools and Sh12.6billion to secondary schools. This funds primarily aims to enable the smooth running of school activities including to provide learners with essential educational service. [LINK](#)

Africa, Oct 01: Africa's Future Depends on Improving Education [Project Syndicate]. Global leaders and tech luminaries are optimistic that Africa's youngest innovators can build the continent's future prosperity. But much work remains to be done to ensure that the African workforce of tomorrow has the skills to succeed. It is time for an entrepreneurial and knowledge revolution in Africa. Only a properly educated workforce and entrepreneurial class will have the skills and drive to

thrive as new technologies change the nature of work, leisure, the environment, and society – and to tackle our continent's. [LINK](#)

Iran, Sept 29: Number of illiterates has increased from 9.5 to 11 million in Iran [Woman NCR]. The number of illiterates in Iran has reached 11 million who make up some 13 per cent of the population of different ages. Two-thirds of the illiterates in Iran are women. Seyyed Mohammad Javad Abtahi, member of the Education and Research Committee of the Mullahs' parliament, declared on September 25, 2018, that the number of illiterates in Iran had reached 11 million, a figure which indicates "numerous flaws in the country's educational system. [LINK](#)

Kuwait, Sept 30: Teachers who snap students, publish on media face sack [ATO]. The Ministry of Education has warned teachers not to take pictures of students inside the classroom, criticize them and publish them in the social media, reports Al- Shahed daily. The daily added, the teachers who fail to abide by the ministry instructions will be referred to the Public Prosecution. [LINK](#)

Kuwait, Sept 26: MoE suspends local hire of 'expatriate' teachers – Sous Chef was appointed to work as a teacher [ATO]. Ministry of Education has suspended the recruitment of male and female non-Kuwaiti teachers in order to review the conditions and methods used for the recruitment, reports Al-Anba daily quoting informed sources from the educational sector. [LINK](#)

Jordan, Oct 01: Model Inclusive Schools Helping Build a Fairer Society in Jordan [Relief]. The benefits of quality inclusive education for all children, including those with disabilities, were highlighted today during a visit by the Ambassador of Australia to Jordan, H.E Mr. Miles Armitage and UNICEF Representative Robert Jenkins to a Inclusive Education School in Amman, one of two Model Inclusive Schools in the country. [LINK](#)

Qatar, Sept 19: Workshop on providing guidance for gifted students begins [Peninsula]. A 3-day workshop on programmes for identifying, catering and providing guidance for gifted students kicked off yesterday. The event is being organised by Qatar National Commission for Education, Culture and Science (QNCECS) in cooperation with the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO). [LINK](#)

[OECD](#)

Sept 24: Special needs students still struggle to access quality education. Here's how teachers can help [OECD]. It is a shared international understanding that access to education is a human right that must be guaranteed for all children. Yet barriers to access and quality have made education elusive for the world's 93 million students with special needs. [LINK](#)

[UNESCO](#)

Oct 01: Museum on wheels: UNESCO Prize laureate brings science education to rural Peruvian girls [UNESCO]. A year after winning the UNESCO Prize for Girls' and Women's Education, Johanna Johnson, co-founder and director of MaCTec, describes how MaCTec is continuously welcoming new girls to the Academy. Each year, forty students are chosen by lottery and this year there were over 900 applications. MaCTec has also made strides to bring science education to rural girls in Peru, as they will soon be launching their new mobile science museum. Johanna explains that the most important learning MaCTec imparts is critical thinking and how to think as a scientist. [LINK](#)