

# EDUCATION

## Updates

09 October 2018

### ASIA & PACIFIC

**Singapore, Oct 8: Singapore shifts education focus from grades to learning in move to reduce stress on students [BDNEWS]** The Ministry of Education or MOE in Singapore announced a raft of changes at the primary and secondary levels, including reducing school-based tests by nearly a quarter- as part of a new phase of education for the 21st century they called 'Learn for Life,' reports The Straits Times. The decision will lessen the stress for younger pupils, whose first two primary school years will be without exams or weighted tests, the daily reported. "To meet the challenges of an increasingly complex world, our students need to be lifelong learners," the MOE said in a media statement adding that to nurture lifelong learners, it needs to help the students discover more joy and develop stronger intrinsic motivation in learning. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Oct 3: Polytechnics see 'record number' of applicants under Early Admissions Exercise: Ong Ye Kung [CAN].** A record 13,900 applicants have applied to study at polytechnics next year under the Early Admissions Exercise (EAE), with the more popular courses being early childhood, nursing and hospitality, Education Minister Ong Ye Kung revealed on Wednesday (Oct 3). Speaking at the Singapore International Technical and Vocational Education and Training Conference, Mr Ong said that the number of EAE applicants for admission year 2019 represents a 13 per cent increase over the previous year. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct 9: PAGE: Education budget should focus on life skills, language proficiency [Free Malaysia].** An education lobby group has urged Putrajaya to focus on a hands-on approach at schools in next year's budget to equip students with life skills and ensure their language proficiency. The Parent Action Group for Education (PAGE) said English tutors should be introduced in high-need national schools while Malay plays and sketches should be encouraged in vernacular schools to improve students' proficiency. Its honorary secretary Tunku Munawirah Putra said life skills subjects like Kemahiran Hidup and extra-curricular activities like sports, uniformed bodies and musical competitions should be given priority. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct 8: Education a lifetime job, says Malaysian Prime Minister [BB].** Malaysian Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad urged the public not to stop learning as education is a lifetime job. The 93-year-old Prime Minister said if Malaysia wants to progress and be recognised as a fully developed country, the people must be fully educated. Attending the convocation of Perdana University, he said today's education was not only about learning history or literature, but more about learning new sciences that are revolutionising industry in the world. "Even business is now affected by new technologies. Therefore, it is important for Malaysian youth to be trained. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Sept 30: NTU 'regrets' holding career fair targeted at top students [ST].** Nanyang Technological University (NTU) said yesterday that it "regrets" holding a career fair last month mostly for top-performing students, adding that it will open the event to the entire graduating cohort next year. From next year, regardless of grades, students will be allowed to submit their resumes in advance by posting them on a website for employers to consider. The employers taking part in the NTUtopia career fair will then draw up a shortlist of students

to be invited to the event. NTU said this would be a change from the format of the event last month, in which the university shortlisted the invitees based on their academic results and co-curricular activity (CCA) records. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Oct 8: Some children return to school in Indonesia quake city hoping to see friends [CNA].** Children in the Indonesian city of Palu began returning to school on Monday to tidy up their classrooms and to help gather data on how many of them will be coming back 10 days after a major earthquake and tsunami hit their city. Children in the Indonesian city of Palu began returning to school on Monday to tidy up their classrooms and hopefully see their friends 10 days after a major earthquake and tsunami struck. The 7.5 magnitude quake on Sept. 28 brought down many buildings in the small city on Sulawesi island, 1,500 km (30 miles) northeast of Jakarta, while tsunami waves smashed into its beachfront. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Oct 7: No Warning, No Siren: Indonesians Caught Unawares By Devastating Tsunami [NDTV].** Survivors say they heard no sirens, even though a tsunami warning was issued and then lifted 34 minutes after the earthquake. When up to six-metre (20-foot) tsunami waves crashed into the Indonesian city of Palu last month, Didek Wahyudi Kurniawan's house near the beach was quickly engulfed with water, leaving his wife and two daughters barely any time to escape. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct2: No more clerical work for teachers from next year [NST].** The Education Ministry is aiming to relieve teachers from the burden of clerical duties as early as the beginning of next year. The Education Ministry is aiming to relieve teachers from the burden of clerical duties as early as the beginning of next year. Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said, instead of being burdened with clerical work, teachers should instead be focusing on nurturing and educating students. He said the ministry is drafting a special plan to ensure that teachers return to their main focus, which is to educate and make learning a fun-filled and memorable experience. [LINK](#)

**China, Oct 5: The consolidation of Chinese private higher education [UWN].** Higher education as an industry is facing unprecedented worldwide challenges due to an increase in competition and the need for greater efficiency. In China, the private sector in higher education is witnessing a trend of convergence by acquisitions – private educational groups acquiring other private institutions. China is the world's largest higher education market, followed by India and the United States. The total student enrolment in higher education in China reached 37 million in 2016. [LINK](#)

### AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST

**Ghana, Oct 9: UB working to meet demand for international education [WBFO].** More than 600 UB students are studying overseas this year, as the university expands where they can study and recruits students to take advantages of the opportunity to learn other languages and other cultures. Interim Vice Provost for International Education John Wood says students are also learning that prospective employers like grads who know other languages and have lived in other cultures, assets to international companies. [LINK](#)

## [AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST \(CONT'D\)](#)

**UAE, Oct 7: An international education without leaving the UAE [KT].** By visiting the Global Education Fairs, you can also meet international universities that have branches in the UAE. A wide range of international universities and colleges will be at the UAE Global Education Fairs next week to advise students on the vast options of courses available overseas. Yet, there will also be many institutions present that offer the opportunity to obtain an international degree without having to leave the country. There are a wide variety of benefits for a student to study abroad, financially, socially and culturally. [LINK](#)

**Dubai, Oct 7: More remains to be done to ensure international education aid goes where it is most needed [KT].** A holistic approach for aid to education must be prioritised on an international level. UAE largest non-OECD's Development Assistance Committee donor country and seventh-highest donor to secondary education. Consider a young child in any society as a potential creator, innovator and producer. The child's conceivable possibilities for excellence, for contributing positively to their community and for finding solutions to the problems of the world is endless. What happens when we, as a global community, do not give this child the basic framework of education needed to unleash this potential talent, creativity and innovation? Only through education can the adverse and disordered elements, which now compose human society, be redirected and fused into a dynamically functioning order, to create and not destroy. [LINK](#)

## [EUROPE](#)

**Finland, Oct 8: Integration of special needs pupils adds to teacher workloads [YLE].** Finnish schoolkids with special needs are increasingly being placed in regular classrooms, making the work of teachers more complicated and stressful. The number of special needs children in the Finnish school system has doubled over the last 20 years. Combined with a drive to wind down separate special needs groups in favour of integrated classrooms, this means that teachers are often hard pressed to meet the needs of all their pupils. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Oct 8: Bilingual education – a competitive advantage [Relocate].** There are many studies exploring the positive impact of bilingualism on brain function. A second language can give students a distinct advantage in a highly competitive and globalised world, says Andrew Coombe of Cambridge Assessment International Education. A different language is a different vision of life," said the film director, Federico Fellini. Around the world, it's estimated that more than 50 per cent of the world's population speak at least two languages. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Oct 8: Statistics watchdog tells Education Department of 'serious concerns' on data use [Wirral Globe].** The chairman of the UK Statistics Authority has told the Education Secretary he has "serious concerns" about his department's use of statistics. In a letter to Damian Hinds, Sir David Norgrove said he is worried about the Department for Education's (DfE) presentation and use of statistics. He urged the DfE to ensure data are properly presented "in a way that does not mislead". The head of the watchdog added: "The UK Statistics Authority has had cause to publicly write to the Department with concerns on four occasions in the past year. [LINK](#)

## [AMERICA](#)

**United States, Oct 2: 10 Universities Where International Students Receive Aid [USNews].** At these schools, international students received nearly \$63,000 on average in financial aid, U.S. News data show. While international students don't qualify for federal financial aid

unless they are considered eligible noncitizens, such as refugees or U.S. green card holders, there are a few schools that provide generous awards. These aid awards usually include on-campus jobs or institutional money from the college or university, since international students don't qualify for federal student loans. [LINK](#)

**United States, Oct 9: Time to change how we think about early education, international study finds [HR].** The U.S. could learn a lot about early education from our international counterparts. That's the conclusion of a comprehensive, multi-year study of six early education systems that are beating the U.S. on money spent per child, percentage of children enrolled and math achievement at age 15. The project, published in September as a book called "The Early Advantage: Early Childhood Systems that Lead by Example," takes a deep look at services for young children in Australia, England, Finland, Hong Kong, Korea and Singapore. [LINK](#)

**United States, Oct 8: International Education Week celebrates global education [Tulane].** Tulane University's Center for Global Education is sponsoring International Education Week (IEW) from Oct. 15-19. The annual week of events includes a lineup of globally themed workshops, talks and performances that provide a way for the Tulane community to celebrate the benefits of a campus with international representation. In keeping with this year's theme of Language, the week kicks off with a talk on Monday, Oct. 15, during which School of Liberal Arts Dean Brian Edwards will give an address titled, "Do We Need Language Requirements for a Global Education?" [LINK](#)

## [GLOBAL](#)

**Oct 8: The shifting paradigm of higher education [UWN].** The word paradigm comes from the Greek meaning framework or example. Thus, broadly defined, a paradigm is a related set of concepts and practices (that is, a mode of inquiry together with the related theories, principles, models, taxonomies, methods, rules and assumptions) that define and provide the example of or the framework for a given knowledge domain (science, humanities, art) and discipline and field. So, from an educational perspective, at the domain level, there is the scientific paradigm, the humanistic paradigm and the artistic paradigm. [LINK](#)

## [SEAMEO](#)

**Indonesia, August 15, RPL Program to Accelerate Vocational Educators [SEAMEO].** Ministry of Research Technology and Higher Education of Indonesia (Dikti) held a Focus Group Discussion on Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Program for Vocational Teachers on 13 August 2018 at Century Park Hotel, Jakarta. The forum was led by Dr. Paristiyanti Nurwardani, Director of Learning of Dikti, and participated by Ir. Sri Renani Pantjastuti, Director of Secondary and Special Education Teachers Development, Ministry of Education and Culture of Indonesia (MoEC), Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto (SEAMEO Secretariat Director), and representatives from appointed Polytechnics and Vocational schools in Indonesia. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam, Oct 6: SEAMEO INNOTECH recommends the application of new technologies to improve the quality of education [SEAMEO].** Opening speech, Assoc. Vo Trung Hung, Head of Science, Technology and Environment, University of Da Nang - Chairman of SEAMEO INNOTECH, emphasized: "We are very fortunate to live in the interim between the two industrial revolutions (CMCN) the 3rd and 4th. The third CMCN based on information technology has brought about deep changes. In the production process, automation, communication and information processing are needed to produce a comprehensive socio-economic change of all nations. [LINK](#)