

EDUCATION

Updates

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ASIA & PACIFIC

MALAYSIA: New education minister, Dr. Maszlee Malik, to focus on tech-based learning, multilingual skills [STAR]. The minister wants to introduce learning environments that are less reliant on textbooks and more focused on play-based learning with the aid of technology.

Malaysia's Education blueprints will continue but subject to mid-term reviews [STAR]. "The evaluations are part of the efforts to strengthen the implementation of both blueprints and ensure they are understood by all stakeholders," he said after clocking in for duty at the Education Ministry on Tuesday, May 22.

Malaysia's Wanted: Teachers who make the grade. [STAR]. Cognisant of trends, the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2013-2025 (Preschool to Post-Secondary Education) has placed teachers as the most effective layer to transform primary and secondary education and deliver improved outcomes for students. To fulfil the roles that are required of school teachers, those wanting to enter Institutes of Education to pursue the teaching profession must score at least 5As in the Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia as well as fulfilling the requirement for their majors. They have to undergo physical and aptitude tests before being called for interviews and must also score at least a credit in the History and Bahasa Malaysia papers.

Are educators ready for Education 4.0? [STAR]. Can digital immigrants teach digital natives? It all depends on whether digital immigrants are able to break through the digital era and adapt to the changing environment. In the near future, according to a survey, some of the jobs today will no longer be relevant. New jobs will emerge and these will most likely be catering to the digital age. It is imperative that students are equipped with ICT and collaborative skills and be interested in lifelong learning. They also need to have critical and creative thinking and communicative skills.

Singapore students have been ranked top in the highly regarded Programme for International Student Assessment (Pisa) tests [SGT]. This has been attributed to the nation's heavy investment in a quality teaching force. This is hardly a sign of a "poor education system" or teachers who are not devoted. The better teaching in schools will curb need for private tuition. In fact, when major examinations approach, schools are expected to conduct extra preparatory lessons for students. The Ministry of Education has also been introducing new policies to remove elements that are breeding an unhealthy obsession with grades.

Singapore. \$13 million boost over next five years for Circle of Care scheme for disadvantaged children [SGT]. The Circle of Care scheme gathers the likes of educators, social workers and health professionals to support underprivileged children in partner schools. The scheme will grow from the current 10 pre-schools and two primary schools, to 30 pre-schools and seven primary schools by 2023.

Singapore. New online platform for schools provides a richer learning experience for students (SGT). SLS is a learning platform that supports teaching and learning in schools. For example, at the beginning of a lesson a teacher may use the SLS go through answers to questions that students had posted online prior to the lesson. Students will also be able to use the platform to watch videos that aid in their learning, and work together to answer questions. The platform also features games, animations, simulations and quizzes. It is currently being used in schools such as Fengshan Primary to customise lessons for individual students in a classroom, encourage collaboration and cooperation between students and allows for a richer learning experience through faster feedback from teachers.

Thailand's tension eases after school in southern Thailand lifts hijab ban [NANN]. Thailand's Education Ministry has defused a dress-code row at a school in Pattani province by giving the green light for Muslim students there. Starting on Monday (May 21), Muslim students at the Anuban Pattani School can wear hijab and long trousers.

AFRICA

Zimbabwe. A shock to the system: How new teachers in Zimbabwe learn to do their jobs [N24]. Working with early career high school English language teachers from Zimbabwe, we found that teachers obtained their knowledge about their work from three sources. First, they drew from theories of education they'd learned at university. They also explored the nature of their subject and built up knowledge from that. And they identified problematic areas in how their subject is usually taught, then found new and different ways to tackle these difficulties.

Africa. Re-engineer Africa's university education – Mahama advises [N24] Former President John Mahama has advised that, the University curriculum in Africa needs to be re-engineered to stimulate accelerated development if the continent is to remain competitive in the global space of skills acquisition and training.

EUROPE

Oxford faces anger over failure to improve diversity among students [GUARDIAN]. Figures show one in four of colleges failed to admit a single black British student each year between 2015 and 2017. Oxford's glacial progress in attracting students from diverse backgrounds has been revealed in figures showing that more than one in four of its colleges failed to admit a single black British student each year between 2015 and 2017.

Towards a European Education Area by 2025 [ERP]. European Commission presents new initiatives to further boost role of youth, education and culture policies. The Commission is advancing work to build a European Education Area by 2025, reinforce the cultural dimension of the European Union and bolster youth participation, with a new set of measures, including a new Youth Strategy and a new Agenda for Culture.

UNESCO

UNESCO lauds Saudi efforts to promote education [AN]. RIYADH: The UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) praised Saudi Arabia for its continued efforts to promote science

and education. UNESCO and Saudi Arabia have jointly dealt with the crisis of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon and the provision of educational opportunities to the displaced people.

The German secondary school matriculation exam, known as the Abitur, has been in the news lately, as has been the rise of partnerships between businesses and public universities that is of concern to a number of watchdog groups that worry about business meddling with institutions of higher education.

The UNESCO led Second Mongolia National Consultation on SDG4-Education 2030 combined with the official Launch of the Global Education Monitoring Report (GEMR) 2017/8, Accountability in Education was held on 31 May 2018 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia and combined with the capacity building workshop in SDG4 Statistics and Indicators. The Launch of the 2017/18 Global Monitoring Report coincides with the Second follow-up 2018 consultation on SDG4-Education 2030 localization in Mongolia.

SEAMEO

SEAMEO SPAFA and Siam Society were having the annual Capital's Archaeology Lectures on Wednesday, 23 May 2018 at 18.30 hrs. This year, the talks focus on the archaeology and urban heritage of Bangkok. The SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) and the Siam Society organized two lectures on the archaeology and urban conservation of Bangkok, as part of SEAMEO SPAFA's lecture series on the archaeology of the Capitals of Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA), which manages the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) Strategic Response Fund [ASRF], hosted the Donors Forum on Mobilizing Resources for Social Forestry in ASEAN at The Manila Peninsula Hotel, Makati City, Philippines on 24 May 2018. The Donors Forum is being organized to gauge the disposition of private and public sector entities in Southeast Asia and traditional and non-traditional financial and donor community to support a funding facility for social forestry in the ASEAN.

Sources:

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- News24
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- The Hindu
- SEAMEO.org