

# EDUCATION

## Updates

30 October 2018

### ASIA & PACIFIC

**Australia, Oct 30: Universities warn against defence plans to increase control over research [Guardian].** Labor and academics say freedoms will be stifled by proposed powers which officials claim are necessary because of potential overseas infiltration. Labor, Australia's leading universities, and the tertiary education union have warned a proposal to dramatically expand defence's control... [LINK](#)

**Australia, Oct 30: The silent racism in Australia's school system [EducationHQ].** Australian schools have, and continue to be, the "battering rams of assimilation", according to Dr Lawrence Bamblett. Our institutions, the scholar from ANU says, work to gradually knead the 'Indigenous-ness' out of children, offshoots of a system that to this day whispers 'yes, you are the problem, but we can fix you'. [LINK](#)

**China, Oct 26: Hong Kong and Finland want to increase education cooperation [Scandasia].** Chief Secretary of Hong Kong Special Administrative Regions (SAR) Matthew Cheung wants to increase cooperation between Finland and Hong Kong in education, innovation and technology as well as further youth exchange programmes. [LINK](#)

**India, Oct 26: Turning the page: how India's state schools are being revitalised [Guardian].** For years, efforts to improve India's failing state system focused on teachers, classrooms and curricula. Now a training scheme for head teachers is reaping dividends. Until recently, Maniram Mandiwal felt like just another cog in the wheel. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Oct 24: Indonesian Village Bans 3 HIV+ Orphans From School [VOA].** Authorities in a North Sumatra village have banned three HIV+ orphans from elementary school, and threatened the children, who are from outside the area, with expulsion from Nainggolan due to community fears of transmission. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Oct 27: In this Indonesian city, recycle plastic and get a bus ride free! [India Today].** Indonesia's second-largest city, Surabaya, has come up with a novel way to encourage its residents to recycle waste. Indonesia's plastic problem is so severe that in 2017, Indonesia's third largest city, Bandung, witnessed the concentration of... [LINK](#)

**Korea, Oct 29: Rate of Korean children in state preschools among lowest in OECD [Korea Herald].** According to analysis of an Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development report titled "Education at a Glance 2018," South Korea's figure for children between the ages of 3 and 5 in state-run preschools stood at 21.1 percent in 2016, compared to the OECD average of 66.9 percent. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct 25: Deputy education minister reiterates ban on Utusan in schools nationwide [Malay Mail].** Schools, universities and other agencies under the Education Ministry are banned from subscribing to Malay broadsheet Utusan Malaysia and its weekend edition Mingguan Malaysia even if there are sponsors for them. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct 28: Education Ministry welcomes private sector's involvement in producing skilled workforce [Malay Mail].** The Ministry of Education (MOE) is now more open to listen to the demand and needs from the industry players to improve the quality of the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) system. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Oct 29: Malaysia to Introduce Digital Textbooks in 2019 [Tech Voice Africa].** Teo Nie Ching, the Deputy Education Minister for Malaysia, has announced that schools will go digital with the introduction of e-textbooks for students. Starting 2019, students in secondary schools will be able to download their textbooks as PDF files... [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Oct 24: Economist Andrew K. Rose to join NUS as Business School dean next year [Strait Times].** The National University of Singapore (NUS) Business School will be getting a new dean next year. Economist Andrew K. Rose will join NUS as Dean Designate on March 1 next year, before succeeding current dean Professor Bernard Yeung. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Oct 29: New task force aims to give a leg-up to disadvantaged kids [Strait Times].** Recognizing that social inequality is a multi-faceted problem, an inter-agency task force has been set up to help children from disadvantaged households and enable them to meet their full potential. [LINK](#)

**Thailand, Oct 25: Finnish education sector offers invaluable lessons [Borneo Bulletin].** Thailand hopes to learn and perhaps implement the highly successful educational reform of Finland, nearly a third of the adult population was uneducated a mere six decades ago. [LINK](#)

**Thailand, Oct 25: New hybrid ministry approved [Bangkok Post].** The cabinet on Wednesday approved the establishment of the Higher Education, Research & Development Ministry, which merges the existing Science and Technology Ministry, Office of the Higher Education Commission, the National Research Council of Thailand, and the Thailand Research Fund. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam, Oct 23: Teacher shortages and surpluses: who is to blame? [Vietnam Net].** The Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) has reported a shortage of 76,000 teachers nationwide. Primary schools in HCMC complain they are overloaded. And at many secondary schools, teachers sit idle. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam Oct 23: Vietnamese university climbs 15 places in QS World University Rankings 2019 [Vietnam Net].** According to the QS's report which was released on October 23, Vietnam has seven universities in the list including Vietnam National University-Hanoi, Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City, Hanoi University of Science and Technology...[LINK](#)

### UNITED STATES

**Florida, Oct 27: Florida education news in review, week of Oct. 22, 2018 [Tampa Bay].** Religious rights group protests Pasco's treatment of transgender students. A prominent religious rights advocacy group has targeted the Pasco County School District as Florida's next flashpoint over transgender student rights. [LINK](#)

**North Carolina, Oct 29: Student dies after fight ends in gunfire at NC high school [State].** A North Carolina high school student shot and killed a fellow student during a fight in a crowded school hallway Monday, officials said, calling the incident a case of bullying that "escalated out of control" which had students scurrying to escape and parents rushing to campus to check on their children. [LINK](#)

## **UNITED STATES (CONT'D)**

**United States of America, Oct 26: The future of college entrance exams [US News].** When the Act recently released test results from the graduating class of 2018, it roiled the higher education community: For a second year in a row, the number of test-takers dropped – this, after more than a decade of consecutive climbs. [LINK](#)

**United States of America, 26 Oct: The Digital Gap Between Rich and Poor Kids Is Not What We Expected [NY Times].** America's public schools are still touting devices with screens - even offering digital-only preschools. The rich are banning screens from class altogether. The parents in Overland Park, Kan., were fed up. [LINK](#)

**United States of America, Oct 25: 3 study abroad destinations for engineering students other than US and UK [India Today].** The US is no longer the only study abroad destination favoured by engineering students, other countries are raising their heads as go-to career builders. When contemplating to study abroad, the first destination that one recalls is the United States of America. [LINK](#)

**Washington, Oct 25: Washington County Board of Education to examine purchasing, sign policies [Herald Mail].** The Washington County Board of Education will soon consider various changes to its policies concerning purchasing standards and placing signs at school facilities. The policy review and development committee discussed both policies at its meeting Tuesday, with members citing a number of grammar and content updates to both. [LINK](#)

## **EUROPE**

**Finland, Oct 24: Not Exporting But Empowering: Translational Education [QSWow].** In Finland, translational education is often termed as koulutusvientti. A literal English translation of the word would be education export. However, education is deeply rooted in culture that it cannot be exported. Hence, rather than identifying it as an education export, it should be viewed as a collaboration with foreign partners and clients, or even empowerment, particularly for foreign partners who are ready to progressively assume the entire education development progress. [LINK](#)

**New Zealand, Oct 21: Two in five newly qualified teachers experience mental health problems, new study reveals [Independent].** Two in five newly qualified teachers (NQTs) have experienced mental health problems in the last year, a new study has found. Teachers with less experience in the profession are more likely to experience panic attacks, insomnia and mood swings than their colleagues, a report from an education support charity reveals. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Oct 26: Part-time students 'down by more than half' [BBC].** Employers and universities are calling for major changes to student funding in England, to reverse the collapse in part-time student numbers. The Confederation of British Industry (CBI) says university should not only be for young people, and adults need to be able to re-train for new skills. [LINK](#)

## **AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST**

**Jordan, Oct 25: Dozens dead or missing in Jordan school trip tragedy [National].** Toll rises to 20 after rescuers find body of boy, 12, while more than 20 still missing after flash floods near the Dead Sea. Flash floods in Jordan killed at least 20 people, injured 22 and left more than 20 missing near the Dead Sea on Thursday, including schoolgirls and their teachers who were on a field trip to the area. [LINK](#)

**Jordan, Oct 26: Jordan Opens Probe in Dead Sea Flash Floods that Killed Pupils, School Teachers [Albawaba].** The government will open an investigation and hold accountable those responsible for a tragic incident that saw at least 18 people killed in flashfloods in the Dead Sea area, Minister of State for Media Affairs Jumana Ghunaimat said on Thursday. [LINK](#)

**Saudi Arabia, Oct 23: Saudi Arabia and UAE to provide \$70m to pay Yemen teachers [Arabian Business].** Saudi Arabia and the UAE will provide \$70 million towards the salaries of teachers in Yemen, in cooperation with the United Nations and UNICEF, with each country paying half of the sum. [LINK](#)

**South Africa, Oct 29: SADC students call on China to support provision of quality education [Lusaka Times].** Students of higher learning in Southern Africa who met at the 2018 Regional Education Summit in Johannesburg have advised African and Chinese leaders to ensure that Africa-China relations are strengthened to go beyond pursuit to make profits by China to contributing towards education of young Africans and building capacities among student in the region by way of provision of grants." [LINK](#)

**UAE, Oct 23: UAE's Islamic studies teachers 'failing to engage students over fear of offending' [National].** Study finds teachers are unsure of themselves and avoid being creative in case they cause offence. Islamic studies teachers in the UAE are failing to adequately engage with their students over fears they may cause offence or stray into politically sensitive areas, experts have warned. [LINK](#)

**UAE, Oct 28: New reforms will make UAE a global education hotspot [Khaleej Times].** Grade school students can now also apply for a work permit and take on part-time jobs. The UAE is positioning itself to be a popular education destination for international and local students through its recent visa reforms and labour law changes to help promote youth employment. [LINK](#)

**Uganda, Oct 29: Mandated sex ed courses in Ugandan schools draw outrage [NCR].** As he sat in the only chair in his living room in Kisenyi, an enormous slum on the outskirts of Kampala, Uganda, John Musisi lamented how government-mandated sex education courses in Catholic schools have harmed his 12-year-old son. [LINK](#)

**Uganda, Oct 29: Mental Illness Eating Up Our Students [All Africa].** The rate at which students are involved in dubious and atrocious acts in the recent past may be an alarm sounding so loud about the need for our education system to address emotional and psychosocial issues. In July for example, a Senior Two student of Nyaruhanga High School in Rubanda District was killed by fellow students over a missing school bag when students... [LINK](#)

## **UNESCO**

**Oct 24: How UNESCO staff defend the right to education on the ground [UNESCO].** Every day, UNESCO works across the globe to defend the right to education for every woman, man and child. But how does it take shape on the ground? Meet the Organization's staff who have worked on this issue in different parts of the world. [LINK](#)

**Oct 25: Europe and North America Education 2030 consultation [COE].** On 24 October the Council of Europe is hosting the Europe and North America Regional Consultation convened by UNESCO in close co-operation with the Council of Europe and the European Commission. The event will provide a platform to review progress on education in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [LINK](#)