

# EDUCATION

## Updates

13 November 2018

**Australia, Nov 13: Expanded suspension powers proving harmful and ineffective [Education HQ].** Legislation expanding Queensland principals' disciplinary powers has failed in its stated goals while seeing an increase in school suspensions, a new study says. In 2014, the Newman Government legislated to give principals greater discretion to suspend students, extend the length of short suspensions (from 1-5 to 1-10 days)... [LINK](#)

**Australia, Nov 12: Vision Australia brings tech expert, free education sessions to Newcastle [The Star].** Vision Australia is set to give Newcastle's blind and low vision community the chance to improve their technology skills and pick the brains of a world-renowned assistive technology expert. [LINK](#)

**Australia, Nov 12: Victoria faces teacher shortage as student numbers surge [ABC Net].** Victoria at risk of a teacher shortage. Victoria needs more teachers to match the 90,000 extra students enrolling in Victorian schools over the next four years. How does Victoria find the best teachers and keep them in the job? [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 11: Career development centre club launched [The Star].** Prof Driscoll (fourth from left) and representatives from the ministry, universities and polytechnics at the launch of the Career Development Centre Club. Prof Driscoll (fourth from left) and representatives from the ministry, universities and polytechnics at the launch of the Career Development Centre Club. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 11: Abdul Wahid made board chairman [The Star].** FORMER Permodalan Nasional Berhad chairman Tan Sri Abdul Wahid Omar (pic) has been appointed Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia's (UKM) board of directors chairman for a term of three years, effective this month until October 2021. He takes over from Tan Sri Dr Ibrahim Saad. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 11: Maszlee all for student book vouchers [The Star].** PETALING JAYA: The Education Ministry will push for the book vouchers aid scheme for tertiary students to continue. Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said the Finance Ministry has agreed to look into the Education Ministry's recommendation to continue the book voucher aid scheme. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 11: KL to lift ban on political activities in universities [Straits Times].** PETALING JAYA • Malaysia's Cabinet has approved legal amendments that will allow college and university students to participate in political activities on campus. The amendments to the Universities and University Colleges Act (UUCA) 1971 will involve abolishing sections which curtail students' questioning of politicians... [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 11: PTPTN 'sorry' for backing out [The Star].** KUALA LUMPUR: The National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) has backed down from a promise to allow borrowers to only begin servicing their loans once their salary hits RM4,000, saying that it is owed almost RM40bil. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Nov 7: Japan to set up three universities in M'sia [The Star].** Three Japanese higher-learning institutions have revealed plans to establish branches in Malaysia, said the Education Ministry. Its min-

ister Dr Maszlee Malik said they include Tsukuba University, one of the oldest and most comprehensive research universities in Japan, Nippon Designers School and Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 13: Continuing efforts to get students from different groups to interact [Straits Times].** The Ministry of Education (MOE) and volunteer welfare organisations running special education (Sped) schools have always sought to maximise interaction between students in Sped and mainstream schools. Satellite partnerships between the two groups of schools have been in place since 2008 and they provide purposeful and appropriate interactions between the students. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 13: Admission changes open more doors [Straits Times].** The Ministry of Education (MOE) is introducing more changes to the Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme and the university admission score system so that students may develop their talents in a range of fields and benefit from more pathways to nurture their potential. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 11: O-level scores less vital in job search than before [Strait Times].** How you fared in the O levels still matters in the search for jobs, but a lot less than in the past, as companies look for other ways of evaluating applicants beyond grades. This is also because, in general, Singaporeans are better educated and hold higher qualifications like bachelor's or master's degrees, human resource (HR) experts said. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 9: Changes to school, uni admission schemes [Straits Times].** To help nurture the potential of students and open up more pathways, the Ministry of Education is introducing more changes to the Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme and the university admission scoring system. From next year, all schools offering Secondary 1 places through DSA will use a one-stop centralised online portal to make it easier to apply. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 9: New moves to spur students to develop their abilities [Strait Times].** More changes are under way to the Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme and the university admission scoring system to encourage students to develop their talents in a range of fields, regardless of their family backgrounds. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Nov 9: More offered secondary school spots early based on talent [Strait Times].** More pupils have been given offers from their desired secondary schools through the expanded Direct School Admission (DSA) scheme, which recognises talent beyond doing well in examinations. [LINK](#)

**Taiwan, Nov 12: Education International (EI) 11th Further and Higher Education and Research Conference: Advancing conditions for staff to improve quality education [Education International].** The first day of the 11th Education International's Further and Higher Education and Research Conference has provided member organisations with a forum for exchanging information and strategies across regions for the advancement of quality terms and conditions of employment for teachers, academics and researchers, and addressed technical and vocational education and training issues. [LINK](#)

**Thailand, Nov 13: German engine too powerful for Thai vocational education [Nation Multi Media].** Last year, a team of German experts revealed the challenges they had encountered while trying to implement the German Thai Dual Excellence Education (GTDEE) vocational programme in Thailand. [LINK](#)

**Thailand, Nov 12: Media Alert: Fifteenth World Robot Olympiad Finals Set in Thailand [GLOBE NEWSWIRE].** The World Robot Olympiad™ Association plus joint sponsors LEGO® Education and Juniper Networks (NYSE:JNPR), an industry leader in automated, scalable and secure networks, today announced this year's global finals are due to take place starting this Friday, November 16, in Chiang Mai, Thailand. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam, Nov 12: Hanoi students win 4 medals at Int'l Olympiad on Astronomy-Astrophysics [English Vietnam].** A team of five students from Hanoi have obtained four medals, including a gold, at the 12th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA) held in Beijing, China, from November 3 to 11. The result helped the Vietnamese team to secure the 10th place among 39 participating countries and regions. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam, Nov 10: FCO Minister reaffirms UK's commitment to Vietnam [Gov.UK].** The minister arrived in Hanoi today to attend the InspireMe festival and reaffirm and deepen the UK's long standing relationship with Vietnam. The InspireMe Festival celebrates 45 years of diplomatic relations between the UK and Vietnam. [LINK](#)

**Vietnam Nov 8: Vietnam ranks 44th in English Proficiency Index [English Vietnam].** The 2018 global English Proficiency Index has been announced by EF Education First following a survey of 1.3 million people in 88 countries and territories which do not use English as their mother tongue. [LINK](#)

## [EUROPE](#)

**New Zealand, Nov 10: Ministry of Education Pacific language books recognised [Scoop NZ].** A series of books designed to help Pacific children with literacy was awarded last night at the SunPix Pacific Peoples Awards in Auckland. "We're thrilled that these books have been recognised. [LINK](#)

**New Zealand, Nov 9: Education Minister Chris Hipkins disappointed by primary teachers strike action [NZ Herald].** Education Minister Chris Hipkins says he's disappointed the primary teachers' union has decided to go ahead with strikes next week without taking the Government's latest offer to its members. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Nov 12: Schools should not attempt to diagnose children with mental health disorders, Government adviser says [Telegraph].** Schools should not attempt to diagnose stressed children with mental health disorders, a Government adviser has said. Tom Bennett, who guides ministers on behaviour issues in schools, warned that teachers must not give out "amateur diagnoses" to pupils, adding that there is a danger of "medicalising" normal childhood emotions. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Nov 12: University lecturer confronted with empty hall after none of her 400 students turns up [Telegraph].** For most English literature academics, delivering lectures to a less-than-full auditorium may well be considered an occupational hazard. But for one Russell Group lecturer, having no students whatsoever turn up for her address was a step too far. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Nov 10: Private schools now taking out legal insurance for teachers amid rise in legal action from parents**

**[Telegraph].** Private schools are now taking out legal insurance for teachers, amid a rise in parents calling in top law firms when their children are in trouble. If a complaint to a housemaster or head of year about their child does not yield favourable results, wealthy parents are increasing turning to solicitors' firms in an attempt to force the school's hand. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Nov 9: Bullying: Children point fingers at adults [BBC].** Children want adults to show each other more respect, with four out of 10 (41%) seeing grown-ups bullying each other in the past six months, a survey says. Research among 1,001 children aged 11 to 16 by the Anti-Bullying Alliance suggests worrying numbers of children see adults setting a bad example. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Nov 8: Where do teachers get the most respect? [BBC].** If teachers want to have high status they should work in classrooms in China, Malaysia or Taiwan, because an international survey suggests these are the countries where teaching is held in the highest public esteem. [LINK](#)

## [MIDDLE EAST](#)

**United Arab Emirates, Nov 9: Revealed: the best university in the Arab world [Arabian Business].** Saudi Arabia's King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals has been named as the top university in the Arab world. According to the 2019 QS World University Rankings: Arab Region, published by global higher education think tank QS Quacquarelli Symonds, the Saudi university replaces Lebanon's American University of Beirut, which now places second. [LINK](#)

## [OECD](#)

**Nov 13: The OECD, partner of the Paris Peace Forum, is committed to more effective international co-operation [OECD].** On 11, 12 and 13 November, the Paris Peace Forum is bringing together over 70 heads of State and government, local and national elected representatives, and actors from civil society and international organisations, who will discuss and propose solutions on issues of governance, peace and security...[LINK](#)

**Nov 8: How Wales is transforming its schools into learning organisations [OECD].** In 2011, Wales embarked on a large-scale reform to improve the quality and equity of its education system. Since then, the reform has increasingly focused on the implementation of a new, 21st-century school curriculum that calls for developing young people into "ambitious, capable and lifelong learners" who are "enterprising and creative, informed citizens, and healthy and confident individuals". [LINK](#)

## [ASEM](#)

**Nov 12: Open Call: 7th ASEM Rector's Conference and Student's Forum (ARC7) ASEM Education] ASEM has launched an open call for the ARC7 Student's Forum.** Applications can be sent until Thursday 29 November 2018. Established in 2008, the ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students' Forum (ARC) is a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform for university leaders, policy makers and student leaders to discuss higher education issues and shape the education landscape in Asia and Europe. [LINK](#)

**Nov 11: Launch of Publication: 'Looking back and looking ahead: The ASEM Education Process - History and Vision 2008-2018' [ASEM Education].** The publication of "Looking Back and Looking Ahead: The ASEM Education Process – History and Vision 2008-2018" edited by Prof. Alexandra Angress and Dr. Siegbert Wuttig has been launched officially on 17th October during the Senior Official's Meeting 1 in Krems, Austria. [LINK](#)