

EDUCATION

Updates

24 July 2018

ASIA & PACIFIC

Cambodia, July 24. Cambodia's ruling party dangles jobs, new schools ahead of vote. [Straits Times] The ruling party has thrown resources at a weak education system ahead of elections on Sunday (July 29) as it tries to entice young voters and drain resentment over low-paying jobs. The prime minister Hun Sen is promising schooling for all, hiking education spending to US\$850 million (S\$1.16 billion) this year, a record quarter of the overall government budget. "I want every district to have a high school, every commune a junior school and every village a primary school," he said in a recent campaign speech. Hun Sen has supported the founding of "new generation" schools across the country: state-of-the-art institutions boasting science labs and tablet computers, with longer class hours and a broader curriculum. "They will have a job after they graduate because here we can train them in everything," insists Khmer literature teacher Men Solaneth at Sisowath High School in the capital. [LINK](#)

Australia, July 24. Budget 2018-2019 for Supporting Australian Students to Meet the Demands of the Modern World. [Australia Government] Budget 2018-2019 will build on Australia's strong education foundations and support students to prepare for an increasingly technical and globalised world. The key budget measures: [LINK](#)

Early Childhood	Additional \$11.8 million to expand language instruction for littlest learners.
Schooling	An investment of \$243.5 billion from 2018—2027 for schools under the Quality Schools package.
Higher Education	An investment of \$42 million to expand accessibility for rural and regional students through the creation of Commonwealth supported sub-bachelor study hubs
Research Infrastructure	An investment of \$1.918 billion to 2028-2029 to support Australia's National Research Infrastructure (NRI) facilities.

Malaysia, July 23. Education Ministry to make TVET desirable, boost graduates 'employability. [NST] The Education Ministry will strive towards making TVET as students' first choice of education in the next five years. Education Minister Dr Maszlee Malik said in his speech in conjunction with the closing ceremony Asia TVET Experts Forum 2018 (ATEF2018) Grand Dinner that this is because TVET empowers every level of society towards equitable development, poverty reduction and economic prosperity. The two-day forum is organised by Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia (UTHM). He also added the reformation of TVET, by enabling industry-led approach, is crucial to

produce highly skilled human capital, especially those who can meet the industry's demand and support the migration of all economic sectors towards knowledge-intensive activities. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, July 23. Malaysia Pledges to Facilitate Education of TKI Children. [Tempo] Malaysian Foreign Affairs Minister Saifuddin Abdullah said during a meeting today with his Indonesian counterpart Minister Retno Marsudi that Malaysia was committed to providing the children of Indonesian migrant workers (TKI) with worthy education, especially in the region of Sabah, Malaysia. Malaysia's largest spread of Indonesian migrant workers is in the area of Semenanjung with 1.5 million TKIs, followed by Sabah with 500,000 and Sarawak with 300,000—including the illegal ones. "We appreciate this since it is in line with the Malaysian government's vision that has prioritized education and is open to welcome children of Indonesian migrant workers," said Minister Retno. [LINK](#)

Vietnam, July 23. Vietnam boosts cooperation with Southeast Asian education organisation. [Vietnam Plus] Vietnam's Minister of Education and Training Phung Xuan Nha and President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Council Muhadjir Efendy discussed bilateral cooperation in education and training during their talks in Hanoi on July 23. Muhadjir Efendy, who is also Indonesia's Minister of Education and Culture, is currently paying a working visit to Vietnam as President of the SEAMEO Council. Nha said he is interested in the activities of SEAMEO centres in both Vietnam and the region at large. Vietnam has highly valued the support of SEAMEO centres, especially the Indonesian centres for quality improvement of teacher and education personnel (QITEP) in maths, science, and languages, which annually provide short-term training courses for Vietnamese teachers. Minister Nha said he hopes the two countries will increase the exchanges of teachers, students, and experience-sharing to develop their education cooperation activities. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, July 18. Keeping Pace with Cybersecurity Technologies. [NST] The Faculty of Information Science and Technology at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) eyed working IT professionals as its target group when it developed the Master of Cyber Security programme. Offered since 2013 with a one to two-year duration for full-time students and two to four years of studies for part-timers, the modular programme — a collaboration between UKM and CyberSecurity Malaysia — is designed to produce graduates who, among others, will be able to employ knowledge of principles, theories, and scientific methods to come up with effective solutions to cybersecurity problems; protect organisational cyber assets as well as plan, strategise and launch cyber counter-attacks; and implement a cybersecurity management standard for the organisation. [LINK](#)

[ASIA & PACIFIC \(CONT'D\)](#)

Malaysia, July 18. UiTMSAT-1 puts Malaysia at the final frontier. [NST] Crafting the way for Malaysia to become a space-faring nation, the launch of UiTMSAT-1 to the International Space Station (ISS), which took place at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station Launch Complex in Florida, the United States, was witnessed by UiTM Vice-Chancellor Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Hassan Said, deputy vice-chancellor (academic) Professor Dr Mohamad Kamal Harun, Faculty of Electrical Engineering dean Associate Professor Dr Mohd Nasir Taib and Centre for Satellite Communication director Associate Professor Dr Mohamad Huzaimy Jusoh via satellite feed at its main campus in Shah Alam. UiTMSAT-1 is a product of Malaysia's collaboration with Japan and two other countries, Bhutan and the Philippines, in a project called Joint Global Multi-Nation BIRDS-2. Through this collaboration project, UiTM becomes the first Malaysian university to produce and launch a satellite with minimal cost compared with the traditional satellite. [LINK](#)

[AFRICA & MIDDLE-EAST](#)

Pakistan, July 19. International workshop on 'Maritime Education & Research' held. [The News] Karachi, 19 Jul 2018: A two-day International Workshop on the topic "Maritime Education & Research" was organized by Bahria University in collaboration with Higher Education Commission (HEC) Pakistan. This workshop aims to lay emphasis on the educational and skill needs for employment in maritime related fields. The increasing importance of Maritime sector in the wake of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) emphasized the need of maritime education to benefit from this development, making people competent to fill the job requirements in emerging maritime domains. This workshop draws recommendations in areas relevant to maritime education including potential job market, curriculum design, faculty development and requirements of labs and academic aids. [LINK](#)

Qatar, July 19. Qatar Charity implements education, health projects in Darfur. [Xin Hua Net] Qatar Charity (QC) is working on the implementation of the project of furnishing 40 schools and eight health centers in Darfur, said state-run Qatar News Agency (QNA) on Thursday. The implementation came as part of its second phase of Qatar's Darfur Development Initiative in the field of health and education, QC has said in a statement. In collaboration with the Qatar Fund for Development, QC will provide Darfur with furniture, laboratories and libraries to 40 schools with 14,400 students, in addition to eight health centers. According to QNA, QC is establishing eight service complexes in Darfur, which will include 40 primary and secondary schools, kindergartens, 120 housing units, health centers, mosques, police stations, water plants and solar power plants. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, July 19. The British University in Dubai (BUiD) to launch first artificial intelligence degree [Arabian Business]. BUiD has launched the country's first bachelor's degree in artificial intelligence to support the UAE's 2031 AI strategy. The research-based university, said the degree has been developed in collaboration with the University of Edin-

burgh and is open to both Emiratis and expatriates. It told media at a press conference attended by Omar bin Sultan Al Olama, Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence, that the four-year degree course will start at the end of September, and tuition fees will total AED230,000. The course follows the announcement last year by the UAE of the appointment of the world's first Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence which followed the unveiling of the UAE 2031 AI strategy, which aims to make the government more efficient and streamlined by developing AI technologies. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, July 18. Flight school is opening doors for Saudi women [Eye of Riyadh]. A flight school in Saudi Arabia is opening its doors for women, following the end of a decades-long driving ban. Oxford Aviation Academy, a leading trainer and crew recruiter, has already received applications from hundreds of women hoping to start lessons in September at a new branch in the eastern city of Dammam. The academy is part of a \$300 million project that includes a school for aircraft maintenance and an international center for flight simulators at the airport. Students receive three years of academic and practical training, said executive director Othman Al-Moutairy. [LINK](#)

[EUROPE](#)

United Kingdom, July 20- Education Secretary pledges to help teachers overwhelmed by excessive workload [The Guardian]. The education secretary, Damian Hinds, has admitted too many teachers in England are being overwhelmed by excessive workloads and has pledged to do more to relieve the causes of stress that have been pushing qualified staff out of the classroom. The move came as Hinds argued that schools were on a par with the National Health Service as a "special case" for extra government spending, as behind the scenes negotiations over funding continued to delay any announcement on a pay rise for teachers. [LINK](#)

[OECD](#)

July 19. How can teaching standards improve teaching? [OECD]. In an effort to improve education for all students, countries have been trying to identify the characteristics of good teaching and design policies to promote them. Developing teaching standards – or a description of what teachers, as professionals, are required to know and be able to do – is one way to do this. A number of questions naturally arise around standards, including how they are developed, how they relate to the teaching profession and teacher learning, and how they work in everyday practice. [LINK](#)

[UNESCO](#)

July 19. All children in school together: the quest for disability-inclusive education [UNESCO]. Children with disabilities face many barriers to quality education. In low- and lower middle-income countries, around 40 percent of primary school age children with disabilities are out of school and 55 percent at lower secondary school, according to the World Report on Disability. For those who are in school, it is typically a special school outside of the mainstream system. [LINK](#)