

EDUCATION

Updates

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ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia, August 7. Australian sex education isn't diverse enough. Here's why we should follow England's lead.

[Conversation] In Australia, sex and sexuality education continues to raise anger from more conservative elements of the community. While sex education is addressed in the Australian Curriculum, and each of the state and territory versions of the curriculum, it is largely dealt with in biological terms (the mechanics of sex); healthy relationships are expressed in vague terms; and references to sexual orientation and gender identity are just as vague. Unfortunately, many teachers are under-prepared by their pre-service teacher education courses to teach topics like changing identities and the factors that influence them effectively and inclusively. Here's what Australia can learn from the new English system, which proposes mandatory sex and relationships education across primary and secondary schools, inclusive of diversity, with age-appropriate content. [LINK](#)

Indonesia, August 6. Lombok children's refuge destroyed leaving 80 kids sobbing and begging for help on street. [Mirror] The children's centre, named Peduli Anak and built in 2006, had been transforming the lives of underprivileged kids for more than 10 years. It had been giving hope and education to the children, some of whom have been abused, neglected and exploited. But today, it lies in ruins - with four dorms, the building's kitchen and a school having been reduced to rubble. Luckily, none of the children were hurt in the massive earthquake as they had been safely in the prayer room when it struck Lombok. [LINK](#)

Singapore, August 6. Seven new MOE kindergartens to be set up in 2021. [Straits Time] Seven new Ministry of Education (MOE) kindergartens will open in 2021. The seven to be set up in 2021 will be located in primary schools and also offer Kindergarten Care services - an after-school childcare service. The primary schools are: Greendale, Cedar, Mayflower, Meridian, Tampines, West View and Zhenghua. Currently the MOE operates 18 kindergartens where it was previously announced that they are planning to set up another seven kindergartens next year and six in 2020. The MOE aims to operate 50 MOE kindergartens by 2023. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, August 6. Over 2,000 students affected by HFMD, says education ministry. [FMT] A total of 2,380 pupils from 950 schools have been affected by the Hand, Foot and Mouth (HFMD) disease as of yesterday. The education ministry in a statement today said that 149 regular classes and 65 pre-school classes were cancelled, while five schools were ordered to be closed by the health ministry under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 (Act 342). The ministry said principals and headmasters of the schools involved should promptly notify the respective state and district officers of the closures. [LINK](#)

Pakistan, July 31. Pakistan-Turkmenistan cooperation in higher education stressed. [TheNews] Minister for Federal Education and Professional Training, Muhammad Yusuf Shaikh called for better Pakistan-Turkmenistan cooperation in higher education. This includes establishment of linkages in higher education institutions of the two countries, exchange of scholars and researchers. The two countries also

agreed on the establishment of language chairs in each other's countries. [LINK](#)

Bahrain, July 30. Minister highlights Bahrain's Advance in Educational Experience. [BNA] Education Minister Majid bin Ali Al Nuaimi during the Ministerial Summit titled "Innovation Summit in Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region 2018 highlighted the Kingdom's advanced experience in using Information and Communication Technology in Education Development, particularly after the launch of His Majesty King Hamad's Future Schools Scheme in governmental schools since 2005. The project's success ushered in the next phase of further development by digitalization in education, that contributed to achievement of success stories in the field of innovation and e-education, pointing out that the Regional ICT Centre was established in Bahrain in association with the UNESCO. [LINK](#)

India, July 30. Writing on the wall: Government schools turn English medium. [Indian Express] Minister of Primary and Secondary Education N Mahesh has said the move is needed as students have moved away from government to private schools even in rural areas. The Karnataka government's proposal to have an English-medium section in 1,000 government schools as a pilot project to wean away parents from private schools has provoked protests from Kannada writers and intellectuals, who fear that English will swallow the native language. Minister of Primary and Secondary Education N Mahesh has said the move is needed as students have moved away from government to private schools even in rural areas. [LINK](#)

India, July 28. To Focus On Students' Emotional Well-Being, India Tries 'Happiness Classes'. [Indian Express] For the past three weeks, students across India's capital have been attending a radical new course: happiness. The Delhi government introduced "happiness classes" in an effort to shift the country's academic focus from student achievement to emotional well-being. In a country that uses standardized testing to determine student success, offers a limited number of seats in top universities and sets high expectations, educators have been seeing mental health consequences. Delhi's Education Minister Manish Sisodia is charged with implementing the unorthodox curriculum. "It will address the ever-growing concern - levels of happiness & wellbeing [are] decreasing, while stress, anxiety & depression are increasing," he tweeted the day the program launched at the start of the month. [LINK](#)

Cambodia, July 25 - SCIA's holistic education sets the pace in Cambodia. [PPP] Singapore (Cambodia) International Academy (SCIA) is the first international school that offers a blend of Singapore and Cambridge curriculum in Cambodia. SCIA is a member of Singapore Institute of Management (SIM) Group, the leading provider of a diverse range of education pathways and professional training in Singapore. SCIA provides students with a holistic education, infused with 21st Century competencies, which goes beyond classroom learning and grades. The academy also emphasizes the importance of embracing the Cambodian culture through learning Khmer. As China continues to play a key role in international economics with the One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative, Chinese language will be increasingly used in business communications and is thus important in preparing students to be future-ready. [LINK](#)

AFRICA

Kenya, August 2. Improving Education in Kenya through the New Literacies Teacher Leader Institute. [NCSU] As part of the New Literacies Teacher Leader Institute (NLI), North Carolina State College of Education is sending its expert to equip 60 Kenyan educators with strategies and practices to implement in their classrooms NLI is a professional development forum that works with educators to develop creative and innovative instructional solutions to use in their classrooms. A key feature of the NLI is Project-Based Inquiry (PBI) Global, an instructional approach that engages students in learning by requiring them to ask compelling questions about the subject at hand. That question is then investigated through extensive collaborative research and shared in a dynamic showcase. Additionally, students take action to create change as a result of what they learn through their research process. The project was set to benefit thousands of Kenyan children. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

United Kingdom, August 6. UK economy 'could benefit from more going to university'. [Gurdian] A report has concluded that UK economy could benefit from more people of all ages attending university. It also suggests the advance of automation, robotics, artificial intelligence and digital technology, as well as the challenges of Brexit and an ageing population are creating greater demand for those with qualifications above level 4. These include HNC/Ds, foundation, undergraduate and postgraduate degrees. The Universities UK report highlights the need for continual upgrading of skills, lifelong learning and study of higher education qualifications at all levels. The report calls on policymakers to help reverse the latter trend and encourage closer links between universities and employers. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, July 21. Measures announced to help schools reduce teacher workload. [Gov.UK] Head teachers will receive more support to free their staff from unnecessary and time-consuming tasks, under plans set out today by Education Secretary Damian Hinds. Building on his pledge to champion the teaching profession and reduce workload in schools, Mr Hinds launched a series of online resources to help head teachers take action to remove burdensome responsibilities – freeing teachers to focus on what matters: inspiring pupils in their classrooms. This comes as research published today in the School Snapshot Survey shows that almost three-quarters (73%) of surveyed school leaders and teachers say their schools have already taken action to reduce unnecessary workload, such as an overhaul or reduction of marking practices. The online toolkit will provide: (i) advice and workshops on the most burdensome tasks such as pupil feedback and marking, planning and resources, and data management; (ii) ready-made tools to help schools quickly implement new policies, and cut down on time-consuming tasks such as email communication; and (iii) a series of case studies to share knowledge of how schools across the country have used technology to streamline processes. [LINK](#)

Finland, August 5. Finland Is Leveraging Edtech to Create an Envable Education System. [ELearning Inside] Finland's edtech industry appears to assist Finland in focusing on offering a high-quality and personalized education. While technology is not the only thing driving Finnish education, there is a strong sense that teachers, parents and students are open to embracing whatever tools will enable them to better execute their bold educational vision, and this includes all forms of edtech. Finland is not only home to Europe's largest edtech accelerator (xEdu) but also dozens of fast-growing edtech startups. Seppo is an authoring tool that helps educators design pedagogically challenging

games for their students. 3D Bear helps students learn with the aid of 3D printing technologies. [LINK](#)

Brazil, August 5 - The Challenges of Industry 4.0 in Brazil. [RFid Journal] Many have increasingly used technology to interconnect the entire production chain and thus achieve their goals, in a concept that has become known in recent times as Industry 4.0. In practice, in addition to investing in modern products and services capable of meeting a company's demands, it is necessary to have more and more qualified professionals able to understand the production process in a broader way, thinking about logistics, customers and suppliers together. This poses a challenge, as many countries still have a large portion of their work force of professionals focused on the exclusive understanding of machine control. In Brazil, this is a still-distant reality, but there are sectors that have made efforts to work in this expansion, particularly automotive parts, agribusiness, and food and beverages. There is also a positive movement of industry and higher education and technical institutions to understand and implement initiatives geared toward Industry 4.0. [LINK](#)

UNESCO

UNESCO July 26. UNESCO lauds push to get kids into schools. [Bangkok Post] UNESCO has praised Thailand for its success in bringing so-called out-of-school children and youth in the violence-plagued southern border provinces into the formal education system. Out-of-school children are those in the primary school age range who are not enrolled in either primary or secondary schools. Ichiro Miyazawa, a programme specialist in literacy and lifelong learning at the UNESCO Bangkok Office, lauded Thailand for being a leading nation in ASEAN in solving the out-of-school children problem. The Education Ministry has managed to get more than 27,376 youngsters, aged three to 18, into the education system. The authorities have tried every means possible to offer children an education. Soldiers have been deployed to provide security and education personnel sent to the region. Mr Miyazawa credited the late King Rama IX for his initiatives in laws and educational policies in spearheading the education-for-all idea to ensure no one in the country is left behind. He also praised the cabinet's recent resolution to ensure education opportunities for children who have not been registered as Thai citizens and stateless people. [LINK](#)

SEAMEO

Lao PDR, August 5. Southeast Asia ministers pledge continuing education reform. [Global Nation] Laos and other members of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization for Community Education Development (SEAMEO CED) have vowed ongoing cooperation to enhance the upgrade of regional community education. Minister of Education and Sports Mrs Sengdeuane Lachanthaboun explained that raising the quality of both formal and non-formal education in Laos was challenging because 80 percent of the population lives in rural areas with poor socio-economic conditions. Particularly, having a SEAMEO CED Center in Vientiane would enable the Lao government to effectively cooperate with other SEAMEO member countries and SEAMEO Centers as well as development partners to share experiences and best practices, and learn about new teaching and learning technology for use in education. The recent development of the ASEAN community was a testament to the opportunities, with seven priorities set by SEAMEO over the next 20 years aimed at meeting the challenges head on. SEAMEO was attempting to develop an education system in Southeast Asia that was proactive and future-orientated, and yet rooted in the values and traditions of the region, he said. [LINK](#)