

EDUCATION

Updates

1 February 2020

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Singapore, Jan 27: Compulsory leave of absence for students, teachers returning from China: MOE [Channel News Asia] The leave of absence will last for 14 days, starting from the day after their arrival in Singapore. This duration mirrors the incubation period of the coronavirus. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 27: NUS, NTU, SMU hostels to be used as quarantine facilities for Wuhan virus [Channel News Asia] Local students at the affected hostel in SMU will be asked to stay home as the university does not have enough hostel facilities. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 28: Wuhan virus: Pre-schools step up hygiene measures after Chinese New Year break [Straits Times] Over the Chinese New Year week-end, parents were asked to declare their travel plans, and whether they had visited China in the past two weeks. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 28: Planning for university places needs rethink [Straits Times] Minister of Education Singapore stressed that Singaporeans will have to move away from the idea of "frontloading" education, that is, completing all their study before going out to work. [LINK](#)

The Philippines, Jan 28: 6 Manila Chinese schools suspend classes [Phil Star] The schools, which mainly cater to Chinese and Chinese-Filipino students, issued their respective advisories over the weekend as a safety precaution against the spread of the disease. [LINK](#)

The Philippines, Jan 28: DepEd assures teachers, personnel of salary increases [Manila Bulletin] The Department of Education (DepEd) assured its teaching and non-teaching personnel that their salaries will be "adjusted accordingly" once the guidelines and the funds for the new salary rate effective starting this January have been issued and released. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 28: Wuhan virus: 'Leave of absence' step to affect 800 students in Singapore [Straits Times] They will have to do home-based learning; schools to start taking temperature daily. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 31: Education ministry postpones registration of students from Wuhan, Hubei province [FMT] The ministry has advised all learning institutions to abide by the measures announced by the health authorities. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 31: Dr M announces return of English medium for Science and Maths [Malay Mail] Dr Mahathir added that it was essential for education policy to be geared towards equipping students with the necessary skills to be productive in their adult lives, and to consider Malaysia's multiracial and multicultural background. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 31: Universities to admit more based on aptitude: Minister Ong Ye Kung [Straits Times] To enable more porosity across pathways, admission system needs to rely less on academic grades and more on other meritorious yardsticks, so that the full range of an individual's aptitude and attributes can be taken into account. [LINK](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

South Korea, Jan 26: Private English Institutes Posed as Kindergartens May Face Penalties [Korea Bizwire] In South Korea, kindergartens are defined as a type of school, but private education institutes are not. [LINK](#)

China, Jan 27: China's rising STEAM education sector draws investor interest [Nikkei Asian Review] Science, tech, engineering, math and arts are all the rage for private schools. [LINK](#)

China, Jan 27: China Cancels GRE, GMAT Exams That Students Need to Study Abroad [Bloomberg] The severity of the situation calls for comprehensive "measures to contain the spread of coronavirus at all public venues, including test centers," [LINK](#)

China, Jan 28: China postpones school semester amid novel coronavirus outbreak [Xinhua] The ministry warned that students who had left campuses for the Spring Festival holiday should not return without approval before the new semester. [LINK](#)

Australia, Jan 28: Education Minister rebukes schools for isolating pupils against advice [Sydney Morning Herald] Minister for Education Dan Tehan has said Australia's international education market remains open, despite coronavirus and fires. [LINK](#)

South Korea, Jan 29: Fear of new coronavirus spreading on university campuses [YonHap News] According to Statistics Korea, the number of foreign students studying in South Korea as of April last year was 160,165. Of them, nearly half -- 71,067 -- were Chinese. [LINK](#)

ASIA PACIFIC (CONT')

Australia, Jan 29: Only unwell students or those with 'close contact' to confirmed cases need to stay home, Victorian authorities say [ABC News] Victoria's chief health officer says students who have travelled to China recently are able to return to school providing they are closely monitored for symptoms of coronavirus. [LINK](#)

Bangladesh, Jan 30: Bangladesh Announces New Myanmar Curriculum Program for Rohingya Refugee Children [The Diplomat] Under a new partnership program with the United Nations, the children will receive a formal education using a Myanmar curriculum from grade 6 to 9. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

The UK, Jan 25: Levelling up research and innovation right across the United Kingdom [Gov UK] Science Minister Chris Skidmore sets out his vision for how to level up research and development so that it benefits every corner of the UK at the opening of the Durham University Teaching and Learning Centre. [LINK](#)

Finland, Jan 27: Education Minister warns of school consequences of population decline [News Now Finland] Lack of children in some municipalities means that education services might need to be shared in the future. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 27: Boarding schools warn against virus 'xenophobia' [BBC] The Boarding Schools' Association has told schools to watch out for prejudiced reactions towards Chinese pupils, including on social media. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 28: New maths GCSE proposed for those in cycle of resits [BBC] A new maths GCSE should be introduced for those students in England stuck in a cycle of resitting maths to achieve a grade 4 or above, a charity says. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 29: Private schools criticise plans to get more poor students into university [The Guardian] Regulator's pledge to boost university access in England 'may discriminate based on class'. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 29: Education: Extra £400m needed to boost system [BBC] Education in Northern Ireland needs up to £400m more funding a year, according to the minister Peter Weir. [LINK](#)

Germany, Jan 29: China a 'challenging' partner, says German exchange scheme head [Times Higher Education] Chinese PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in Germany are "not always on the same page as we are" when it came to intellectual property. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 30: The nursery putting fitness at the heart of learning [BBC] In England alone, despite a slight improvement last year, fewer than half of five to 16-year-olds achieve the government's recommended 60 minutes' exercise a day and poorer children are most likely to miss out. [LINK](#)

Italy, Jan 31: Rome music school bans all East Asian students from class amid coronavirus fears [The Local Italy] The ban will remain in place until students are cleared by a medical exam organised by the university. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 31: The Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills (OFSTED) staff to wear body cameras to visit suspected illegal schools [BBC] Inspectors to trial use in England in effort to shut down more unregistered venues. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 31: Universities call to keep European research links [BBC] University leaders in the UK and Europe have signed a joint statement calling for UK universities to remain part of European research schemes after Brexit. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 31: More schools 'green' in Wales performance ratings [BBC] Close to half of primary schools in Wales are now rated in the best "green" category, according to the latest annual categorisation ratings. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Egypt, Jan 27: Education Ministry to establish new applied technology schools [Egypt Today] The ministry plans to establish 10 new applied technology schools every year for the number of schools to reach 100 by 2030, noting that these schools are the locomotive for developing technical education in Egypt. [LINK](#)

South Africa, Jan 28: Government moves ahead with new school rules for South Africa [Business Tech] This includes a possible prison sentence in a case where the parent of a learner, or any other person, prevents a learner who is subject to compulsory school attendance from attending school. [LINK](#)

Abu Dhabi, Jan 29: ISESCO renamed to 'Islamic World Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation' -ISWESCO [Emirates News Agency] Changing the name of the organisation aims to remove the common confusion regarding the nature of its non-advocacy tasks, and to open wider horizons for its presence at the international level—Dr. Salim M. AlMalik, ISWESCO Director-General. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, Jan 30: King Abdul Aziz University launches Saudi Association for English Language Education [Arab News] The association will offer training, events, research, school visits, and more for English language teachers in the Kingdom. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Canada, Jan 28: Toronto schools, universities on alert amid reports parents of students shared flight with patient [National Post] As well as the institutions, various Toronto private schools have taken different precautionary actions with regard to the reports about the virus. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 28: Program that flooded NYC schools with extra resources showing results: study [NY News] The "community schools" program, which infuses schools with mental health counselors, free vision and dental care, and classes for parents, boosted attendance and on-time graduation rates in participating schools from 2015-2018. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 29: Harvard University professor accused of covering up ties to Chinese school, research program [Fox News] The program was aimed at furthering the communist superpower's "scientific development, economic prosperity and national security." [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 29: With 369,000 students from China on U.S. campuses, colleges are monitoring for coronavirus symptoms [Market Watch] China sends more international students to the U.S. than any other country, and universities are on alert for symptoms of coronavirus. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 30: Kentucky high schools ban 'shooter game' Fortnite from state esports programs [Washington Post] Fortnite has been banned from varsity esports programs in Kentucky by the state's high school athletic association because of concerns about how it portrays gun violence. [LINK](#)

EDUCATION ARTICLES

Jan 28: The grass is greenest at Universities Canada [Ottawa Citizen] Returning staff members appreciate the foundation, training and opportunities for development Universities Canada has to offer. [LINK](#)

Jan 28: 'Too much risk': why Erasmus students are shunning Brexit Britain [The Guardian] With no UK funding guarantees, English language learners are heading to Ireland – while their British counterparts are left in limbo

Jan 30: Australian degrees rated less highly by graduates than bosses [Times Higher Education] Australian survey finds 'strong relationship' between graduates' attributes and demands of their jobs. [LINK](#)

Jan 31: Empowering the next generation of learners to Revive the Spirit of Mosul [UNESCO] By rebuilding education from the schoolhouse to the curriculum, UNESCO strives to empower the next generation of learners to build stronger and more resilient societies, so that history does not repeat itself. [LINK](#)

Jan 31: Open data 'tougher' than open access and needs 'mindset change' [Times Higher Education] Huge rewards could ensue if governments bankroll the systematic sharing of research data, but experts warn of unintended consequences. [LINK](#)

Jan 31: Industry-university collaboration 'key' to coronavirus fight [Times Higher Education] Dutch virologist says partnerships are vital in race to develop vaccines. [LINK](#)

Feb 1: Enrolment drops leave English universities with shrinking feeling [Times Higher Education] Expert stresses that many universities are managing to diversify their income away from full-time undergraduate fees. [LINK](#)

Feb 1: Universities will be essential to meeting the SDGs in 10 years [Times Higher Education] The Decade of Action towards the UN's sustainable development goals has begun and universities must pay them urgent attention. [LINK](#)