

EDUCATION *Updates*

8 February 2020

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia, 5 Feb [The Guardian]: Coronavirus: more than 4,000 students sign petition to delay start of university. More than 4,000 international students have signed a petition to delay the start of the university semester due to the government's ongoing travel ban on people travelling through China. Classes at a range of Australian universities are due to start in February, despite the government's announcement that any foreign nationals who have travelled through China since 1 February will be banned from entering Australia for 14 days. [LINK](#)

Australia, 5 Feb [School-news]: Bushfire education is too abstract. We need to get children into the real world. Many children – like 11-year-old Finn who drove a boat with his mother, brother and dog on board to safety – have been directly involved in the emergency response. Vast numbers of tourists have also been affected, many of them children. This shows how essential it is for all children and young people, regardless of their geographic location in Australia, to have appropriate education about bushfire prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response. [LINK](#)

India, 6 Feb [India Today]: 8-year-old creates app to help kids with dyslexia and learning disabilities. Dyslexia is one of the most common learning disabilities prevalent in children. As per the report by Dyslexia Assessment for Languages of India (DALI) and Ministry of Health & Science, 1 in 6 children has reading problems, and there are nearly 3.5 crore children with dyslexia studying in schools in India. [LINK](#)

India, 5 Feb [Indian Education News]: National STEM Awards 2020: Government Schools to Battle it out at India's First National STEM Challenge. Estimates from various government and non-government agencies show that there is a shortage of skill-talent in India. But the fact is India has the highest young population in the world and they need to be ready with future skills like 'STEM' (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 5 Feb [New Straits Times]: Bringing Learning to Life. Students who have never been to a mangrove swamp may find it hard to imagine what it's like to be there. While images and videos are helpful, they are not very effective. "Wouldn't it be better if you had the chance to go to the mangrove swamp, look up and see the leaf patterns of the canopy, look down to see the crabs scampering off, and select the animals you wish to see — the kingfisher or the butterfly?" [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 2 Feb [The Star]: Back to English for Science and Maths. English will again be used to teach Science and Maths. Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Moham

ad, who is also the acting Education Minister, said the use of English and its mastery in our education system must be promoted. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 2 Feb [The Star]: Magnifying Malaysians. A social media project promoting science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), is gaining momentum. Dubbed '100 Scientists of Malaysia', or 100 SoM, the project by three UK-based PhD researchers aims to highlight 100 local individuals who are working in STEM. Launched on Aug 31 last year, 100 SoM was founded by University of Nottingham's Anthony Beh, Josh Khoo and Sara Wong, to increase visibility of Malaysian scientists, showcase diversity of STEM, and inspire the pursuit of those subjects among students here. [LINK](#)

New Zealand, 4 Feb [Education.govt.nz]: Schools to hold local vocational careers and pathway events. The events will be held across the schooling period between term 1 2020 and term 2 of 2021. A funding round was established in 2019 for kura, state and state-integrated schools, and kāhui ako to run vocational education events. This funding is part of a comprehensive plan to strengthen vocational education and address skills gap. [LINK](#)

Philippines, 5 Feb [Inquirer]: DepEd orders schools to avoid 'crowding' of students. Avoid "crowding" of students. This was the directive of the Department of Education (DepEd) in Eastern Visayas amid the scare of the 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV). DepEd Regional Director Ramir Uytico said the holding of the flag raising ceremonies should now be held inside classrooms instead of the regular venue, which is at the school grounds. [LINK](#)

Philippines, 4 Feb [The Rappler]: House passes bill requiring GMRC subject from Kinder to Grade 3. Law-makers want to make it mandatory for students from Kindergarten to Grade 3 in all public and private schools to take a Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) subject. On Tuesday, February 4, the House of Representatives approved on 3rd and final reading House Bill (HB) No. 5829 or the "Good Manners and Right Conduct Act" with a vote of 225-0-0. [LINK](#)

Singapore, 4 Feb [Straits Times]: SMU wants students to 'interrupt' studies. When the Singapore Management University (SMU) was set up in 2000, it was the upstart in the higher education landscape. Unlike the National University of Singapore and Nanyang Technological University, which admitted students based on examination results, SMU used a broad range of criteria, including interviews and reflective essays to select students. [LINK](#)

ASIA & PACIFIC [CONT'D]

South Korea, 3 Feb [Inquirer]: Coronavirus shuts down nearly 340 schools in South Korea. According to the Ministry of Education, 245 kindergartens, 53 elementary schools, 21 middle schools, 16 high schools and one special-education school postponed reopening following the month-long winter vacation or halted operations to rein in the spread of the coronavirus. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

Germany, 4 Feb [The Jakarta Post]: German court rules against school niqab ban. A court in Germany ruled Monday against an attempt by authorities in Hamburg to forbid a 16-year-old schoolgirl from wearing a niqab during lessons. The ruling, which cannot be appealed, has fuelled debate in Germany over whether schools should allow the niqab, a facial veil worn by Muslims which leaves only the wearer's eyes visible. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 6 Feb [The Guardian]: Two in five 18-year-olds in UK apply to study at university this year. Two out of every five 18-year-olds in the UK are applying for a place to study at university this year, along with record numbers of students from China and India, according to figures from the university admissions service. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 6 Feb [The Guardian]: Early years support sets a child up for life. It should be a national priority. My oldest son is turning 10 this week, and he'll be celebrating with his mates in our local gaming emporium. I, meanwhile, will be allowing myself a misty-eyed look back at a decade of being a parent: the hits, the misses. It seems like a natural time to take stock. What have the last 10 years taught me? [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 6 Feb [The Guardian]: England's secondary school league tables to be published The tables are based on how teenagers in each school performed in their GCSE exams and A-levels last summer. They provide a snapshot of how well each school in the country is performing, by tracking pupils' progress since they left primary. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Canada, 3 Feb [The Globe and Mail]: Innovative business-school course helps entrepreneurs tackle mental health challenges. The University of New Brunswick is offering a course to help students prepare for the psychological strain of running their own businesses. Launched in January, Entrepreneurial Resilience is one of the first full-credit entrepreneurship courses in Canada to focus specifically on mental health. [LINK](#)

United States of America, 5 Feb [US News]: California report gives boost to College Admissions Tests, For Now. The long awaited-report from a task force that assessed the University of California system's admissions

policies recommended that its schools continue to require applicants to submit a test score while also outlining a nearly decade-long path to replacing the current admission testing choices. [LINK](#)

United States of America, 4 Feb [US News]: Trump calls on Congress to pass federal tax credit scholarship. President Donald Trump pressed members of Congress to pass his administration's No. 1 education priority during his State of the Union address – a controversial tax credit scholarship that would allow states to direct billions of dollars to private and religious schools. "For too long, countless American children have been trapped in failing government schools," Trump said Tuesday evening. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Jordan, 5 Feb [MENAFN-Jordan Times]. More than 20 per cent of children in Jordan multidimensionally poor – UNICEF report. Over 20 per cent of children living in the Kingdom are multi-dimensionally poor, while half of its young women are not enrolled in education, according to a recent UN study. The study noted, however, that 'significant progress' has been made over the last decade in healthcare provision and in achieving near gender parity in early education and primary education. [LINK](#)

Kenya 5 Feb [The Monitor]: How State Repeatedly Failed School Pupils. "I want to state firmly and categorically; the children of Kenyans are safe in schools." These were the words of Education Cabinet Secretary Prof George Magoha in September 23 last year. Prof Magoha was speaking at Precious Talent Academy in Dagoretti. A classroom building had tumbled, killing eight learners and injuring more than 60 others. [LINK](#)

South Africa, 2 Feb: South Africa is getting 9 new college campuses this year – here's where they are being built [Business Tech]. The Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology is building a number of new Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college campuses as a means of tackling the country's skills shortages. Higher education minister, Blade Nzimande, said that his department is currently targeting 13 priority trades comprising skillsets in bricklaying, electrician, millwright, boilermaker and automotive mechanics, among others. [LINK](#)

UAE, 4 Feb [Eye of Riyadh]: Five Student Projects Turn Heads at Abu Dhabi Municipality Innovation Nation Activities. Zayed University students participated in the "Innovation Nation" activities, which was organized by the Abu Dhabi City Municipality for the UAE Innovation Month, which comes in line with the UAE's strategy to prepare a new generation of talents as it transitions into a competitive knowledge-based economy. [LINK](#)

Uganda, 5 Feb [The Monitor]: One Arrested As Busoga Teachers Protest Over New Curriculum. Over 800 secondary school teachers who were undergoing a training on the proposed new curriculum from eight districts of Busoga Sub-region have demonstrated, saying the curriculum is 'highly lacking'. [LINK](#)