

EDUCATION

Updates

22 February 2020

ASIA & PACIFIC

Australia, 19 Feb [The Guardian]: Casual university staff struggle to cope as coronavirus travel ban locks out international students. Casual staff at Australian universities are “panicking” as the coronavirus travel ban continues into a third week, a University of Sydney lecturer has said. The lecturer, who spoke to Guardian Australia on condition of anonymity, said sessional teaching staff had been experiencing significant strain as a consequence of the Australian government refusing entry to people who have recently travelled through mainland China since the outbreak of coronavirus. [LINK](#)

Australia, 17 Feb [The Guardian]: Exempt Chinese students from coronavirus travel ban, New Zealand universities urge. New Zealand universities have called on the government to exempt thousands of Chinese students from the travel ban sparked by the coronavirus crisis, saying it could them more than NZ\$150m in tuition fees. Chinese foreign students make up roughly half of all foreign students studying at New Zealand’s universities but are unable to get into the country for the start of the academic year. Orientation week begins next week. [LINK](#)

China, 18 Feb [Bloomberg]: SAT for Chinese students scrapped, dashing dreams of foreign education. Chinese students’ plans to study in foreign schools and universities are being dashed with key entrance exams scrapped amid the ongoing coronavirus outbreak. The College Board, which organises the standardised Scholastic Assessment Test, or SAT, for admission to colleges in the U.S., canceled the March 14 test for all registered students travelling from China to other locations for the exam, according to an email sent to students and seen by Bloomberg. [LINK](#)

China, 18 Feb [CNBC]: Coronavirus outbreak forces China’s after-school activities to shut down — or move online. As local governments in China delay the re-opening of schools to limit the spread of the new virus, parents and institutions are turning to online education, putting pressure on industry players to deliver. Online classes accounted for less than 10% of revenue since Beijing-based after-school operator Zhuoyue Youcai Education Technology launched its digital program two years ago, said Lü Fei, department headmaster, according to a CNBC translation of his Mandarin-language remarks. Now, it’s the only way for the company to generate cash. [LINK](#)

Hong Kong, 16 Feb [CNN]: Chinese students spend billions overseas. Coronavirus travel bans will leave some countries seriously out of pocket. If it weren’t for the novel coronavirus outbreak, Xu Mingxi would have been in class at a prestigious New York uni-

versity this week. Instead, the 22-year-old has spent the past three weeks confined to his family’s apartment in Wuhan, the Chinese city at the center of the outbreak, which is currently on lockdown to prevent the virus spreading. But even if Xu could leave home, the United States -- where he’s studied for the past four-and-a-half years -- won’t let him in. [LINK](#)

India, 20 Feb [Times of India]: Bennett University showcases its engineering research capabilities to MSME Institute. The Office of Development, Bennett University (BU) organized Engineering Project Showcase for MSME Institute on Feb 7, 2020, at Bennett University campus in Greater Noida. The Project showcase by School of Engineering and Applied Science (SEAS) displayed 26 innovative projects across Biotech, Computer Science, Electronics, Physics, Chemistry and Mechanical domains focusing on applications in healthcare and agriculture. [LINK](#)

India, 19 Feb [Times of India]: Now, government school students can get a chance to learn robotics. Now, the government school students will get a chance to learn robotics, fashion designing, stress management and other soft skills. For holistic development of the students, the school education department has decided to conduct a myriad of co-curricular activities apart from the academics. [LINK](#)

India, 17 Feb [Inside Higher Ed]: India Opens the Door Wide for Online Learning. The government of India is for the first time allowing universities to offer fully online degrees -- a change that could reshape education delivery in the country while blowing open the door to a previously limited market for U.S.-based online education services companies. For many years, Indian universities and colleges were not permitted to offer more than 20 percent of a degree online, in part because of concerns about quality and limited mechanisms for oversight and regulation. Now, as part of a push to widen access to higher education and raise the profile of Indian institutions globally, restrictions on online learning are starting to lift. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, 20 Feb [FMT News]: The most expensive international schools in Malaysia. Parents always want the best for their children, and hence in an increasingly competitive world they are opting to send their children to international and private institutions to ensure they receive a quality education that can help them to be the best version of themselves. However, these institutions, especially international schools, don’t come cheap. Since the Malaysian government eliminated the quota for Malaysian enrolment in 2012, the floodgates have opened with international schools popping up all over the country. [LINK](#)

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

Malaysia, 18 Feb [New Straits Times]: Graduate employability: A priority of the Education Ministry. A concern for parents and students alike is the possibility of getting a job upon graduation. With the increasing number of graduates year after year coupled with the challenging economic climate, chances of getting a job appears challenging, to say the least. This, coupled with worrisome headlines published in the News Straits Times (NST) online version (Feb 3). "More and More Graduates are Facing Unemployment in Malaysia" — one is bound to believe that the future of employment seems bleak, said the Education ministry's Higher Education Department today. [LINK](#)

Singapore, 18 Feb [Channel News Asia]: Budget 2020: Enhanced bursaries for low- and middle-income students as part of education measures. The annual bursary amount for pre-university students from lower-income families will be increased from S\$900 to S\$1,000, part of enhancements to the Ministry of Education's (MOE) Financial Assistance Scheme. Announcing the enhancements during his Budget speech on Tuesday (Feb 18), Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat said transport subsidies for all students and school meals subsidies for secondary school students will also be increased. [LINK](#)

Singapore, 17 Feb [New Straits Times]: Pre-schools create home-learning kits as attendance dips. Several pre-school chains including EtonHouse, PCF Sparkletots and NTUC First Campus have come up with resources for children to learn at home, in the wake of the coronavirus outbreak, which has infected 75 people here. Some centres said they have seen a slight dip in attendance in the past few weeks after the Chinese New Year break. Home-learning kits have been given to these children, although pre-schools said they encourage the kids to continue attending school as long as they are well. [LINK](#)

[EUROPE](#)

Spain, 21 Feb [Forbes]: Legal battle in Spain over Far-Right's 'Parental Veto' on education. Spain's Ministry of Education has taken legal action against far-right party Vox's 'parental veto' on education in the region of Murcia (south-east). Murcia's Administration, which is ruled by the conservative People's Party (PP) and the center-right Ciudadanos with the external support of Vox, adopted the 'parental veto' last month raising a strong opposition among politicians and civil society. [LINK](#)

United Kingdom, 19 Feb [The Guardian]: UK university staff to strike for 14 days in pay and pensions row. University staff who are due to start 14 days of strike action at 74 campuses across the UK have expressed their anger and frustration at what they see as employers' failure to address their concerns over pay, pensions and working conditions. [LINK](#)

Germany, 19 Feb [Info Migrants]: Recognition of foreign qualifications: New advice center in Germany. A new center has opened in Bonn offering advice to migrants on how to get their qualifications recognized

in Germany. The center is aimed at helping skilled workers from abroad to fill gaps in the German labor market. "We want to welcome you to Germany" said Germany's Employment Minister Hubertus Heil during a workshop following the opening of Bonn's new service center. [LINK](#)

[AMERICAS](#)

Canada, 19 Feb [Global News]: Negotiations resume between Ontario government, Catholic teachers as more strikes loom. The unions representing Ontario's English Catholic teachers and those in the province's French system were back at the bargaining table Wednesday, two days ahead of a joint strike by all four major teacher groups. The Ontario English Catholic Teachers' Association has only had one other day of talks with the government since negotiations broke down in early January, and the union representing French teachers has had sporadic bargaining dates over the past few months. [LINK](#)

USA, 19 Feb [Politico New York]: Immigrant advocates press city schools to fund program for newly arrived students. When 17-year-old Lovely first arrived in New York City from Haiti in September 2017, she said she had no idea how she would finish her high school education. On top of having to work to support her mother and siblings, she was unfamiliar with the maze of New York City schools and how she would transfer the education she'd already received in Haiti to the city's public school system. [LINK](#)

USA, 18 Feb [New York Post]: Corey Johnson calls on DOE to provide halal, kosher meat at schools. City Council Speaker Corey Johnson called on the Department of Education to start providing kosher and halal food in schools. Johnson, a 2021 mayoral hopeful, told WNYC radio's "The Brian Lehrer Show" on Tuesday he believes the DOE should use its purchasing power to help students with religious dietary restrictions. "Yes, they should be offered because there are a lot of children who otherwise can't get food that works for them and their families," said Johnson, responding to a caller who complained his 5-year-old son didn't have halal food at PS 134 on the Lower East Side. [LINK](#)

[AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST](#)

South Africa, 19 Feb [Business Tech]: t will soon be compulsory for South African kids to start school at an earlier age – new laws to be tabled this year. Basic Education minister Angie Motshekga says the department will table a bill this year that will make two schooling years before Grade 1 compulsory. [LINK](#)

UAE, 18 Feb [AmTaleem]: Ajman Modern School To Offer Additional Learning Support. Ajman Modern School have implemented an educational offering for students that need additional learning support, with inclusive education a main priority in the UAE National Agenda 2021. This is the second year that Ajman Modern School have had an established, dedicated SEN department, and whilst parents and staff continue to support the area, as they have done this year, continued growth and success is expected in the coming years. [LINK](#)