

# EDUCATION

## Updates

11 January 2020

### SOUTH EAST ASIA

**Singapore, Jan 5: Education system tailored to bring out the best in each student: PM Lee [NST]** Secondary schools are moving away from streaming, which will be replaced by full subject-based banding by 2024, and the Primary School Leaving Examination scoring system has also been broadened to reflect a student's individual performances, regardless of how well their peers have done. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Jan 5: Ministry Dispatches Aid Packages to Schools Reeling from Floods [TEMPO]** Many schools were affected by the flood, access to schools were interrupted, and many school facilities were damaged. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Jan 6: Hong Kong parents eye Singapore schools as wild protests endure [NST]** Singapore's political stability, high education standards, green spaces, low crime and efficient infrastructure make it appealing for those considering a change of scenery. [LINK](#)

**Thailand, Jan 6: CAT seeks to capitalise on online education [NST]** CAT Telecom has entered the online interactive learning platform business to capitalise on the burgeoning trend of e-learning and open the door for those in remote areas to access alternative education. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Jan 6: Greater diversity in pathways to Singapore Bar among new ideas for legal education system: Chief Justice [Channel News Asia]** The local judiciary continues to reimagine the ways in which it can harness technology to provide access to justice. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Jan 6: Indonesian education system challenged to produce quality HR [Antara News]** Suggestion to usher in significant reform in the school curricula of the country to produce quality human resources. [LINK](#)

**Singapore, Jan 8: Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) launches new programmes in speech therapy, integrated media [ST]** Undergraduate courses, which will start in September, aim to meet rising industry demand. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Jan 8: Education Ministry urges vigilance after schools closed due to Influenza A outbreak [Malay Mail]** The Education Ministry has confirmed the temporary closure of schools in several states, including Penang and Selangor, after students there tested positive for Influenza A. [LINK](#)

**Indonesia, Jan 8: Ministry to provide extra allowance for teachers affected by floods [Jakarta Post]** The extra allowance –quite apart from professional allowances—would be given as a result of floods that caused property damage at schools and hampered education provision. [LINK](#)

**Malaysia, Jan 10: Malaysian PM Mahathir takes over as acting Education Minister after Maszlee's resignation [Strait Times]** He will hold the position until the new Education Minister is selected, the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement. [LINK](#)

### ASIA PACIFIC

**China, Jan 5: China's students cherish US education dream, despite year of uncertainty [SCM]** Spike in visa delays and rejections has not deterred applications for places at US universities. [LINK](#)

**China, Jan 6: Jack Ma Awards \$2.85M to China's Rural Educators [ALIZILA]** The Jack Ma Foundation awarded 20 school headmasters and 100 teachers RMB20 million (\$2.85 million) in financial support as part of its 10-year commitment to uplift rural educators and close China's education inequality. [LINK](#)

**Australia, Jan 7: North West schools pledge support to primary school burnt to the ground in Australian bush fires [ITV]** As well as fundraising, the schools are preparing boxes with essential items and letters to the pupils at the Australian school. [LINK](#)

**China, Jan 8: China finishes scrutiny of online after-school training businesses [Xinhua]** The MOE, in joint efforts with five other central authorities, launched a campaign in July 2019 to check the operation information, course contents and teachers' qualifications of online training businesses. [LINK](#)

**India, Jan 8: 3 Delhi govt schools ranked among top 10 govt schools in India [India Today]** A Delhi government school has been ranked No.1 among all government-run day schools in the country, while two others have made it to the top 10. [LINK](#)

**South Korea, Jan 8: Ministry to Widen Democratic Citizen Education Following Voting Age Lowering [Korea Bizwire]** Educational authorities will make sure high school students can receive education about how to exercise their rights as democratic citizens after the country's minimum voting age was lowered to 18. [LINK](#)

## ASIA PACIFIC (CONT')

**Australia, Jan 8: Prestigious Perth schools shoot up academic leaderboard as ATAR ranking released [WA Today]** Two of Perth's most prestigious private boys' schools have shot up in the annual secondary education ranking, taking over exclusive all-girls' schools that usually hold the top spots in the statewide system. [LINK](#)

**Pakistan, Jan 8: PM to launch country's largest youth skill development programme on Thursday [Gulf News]** On promotion of technical and professional education in academic institutions, the prime minister said utilisation of technology would provide effective solution to several challenges of the country. [LINK](#)

**China, Jan 8: China bans foreign teaching materials in public schools [CNN]** China to tighten its review system for all teaching materials, and those deemed to contain "problems of political direction or value orientation" would not be approved.

## EUROPE

**United Kingdom, Jan 7: Call for universities to stop keeping students and parents in dark on crime stats [The Guardian]** Only four of 143 universities publish information on crime. Now, there are demands to make them. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Jan 8: Black British history 'missing from school curricula in England [The Guardian]** An education campaign has been launched to get black British history embedded in the national curriculum and taught in schools in England year round, as an alternative to the limitation of Black History Month. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Jan 8: Ofsted report says 200,000 pupils stuck in low achieving school [The Guardian]** Regulator says 415 schools in England are in a cycle of poor performance and fail children. [LINK](#)

**United Kingdom, Jan 9: Universities could lose funding if they fail to tackle harassment [The Guardian]** Universities could face losing their status, including public funding, if they fail to improve how they tackle harassment and sexual misconduct, under proposals from the higher education watchdog for England. [LINK](#)

**Finland, Jan 10: Finland's cheapest school meal costs just 64 cents per day [YLE]** The cost of free school meals for children in Finland varies vastly depending on the municipality providing the service, according to data collected by education officials. [LINK](#)

## AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

**Kuwait, Jan 8: Biometric access control for teachers next year [Kuwait Times]** The Ministry of Education will start implementing the fingerprint biometric access control system in public schools at the beginning of the next school year. [LINK](#)

**Jordan, Jan 8: Jordan makes strides in eradication of illiteracy [Jordan Times]** Jordan marked the Arab Day for the Eradication of Illiteracy, with an Education Ministry announcement reporting that the Kingdom's illiteracy rates have dropped to 5.1 per cent. [LINK](#)

**Syria, Jan 9: Thousands of young Syrians opt to learn Russian at school [Reuters]** The Syrian Education Ministry added Russian as an optional second foreign language in schools after English or French in 2014 [LINK](#)

## AMERICAS

**US, Jan 8: Hundreds of Unvaccinated Seattle Students Miss School [US News]** The school district told families that students who do not have current vaccinations will not be allowed to return to school. [LINK](#)

**Canada, Jan 8: Striking Ontario Teachers Say Standardized Tests Don't Matter Anyway [Huff Post]** Some school boards will delay EQAO testing because of the teachers' work-to-rule campaign. [LINK](#)

**US, Jan 10: N.Y. education department dumps consultant hired to review graduation standards [Times Union]** Instead, the department will work with WestEd, a San Francisco-based nonprofit, to research other states' graduation criteria and collect feedback. [LINK](#)

**Mexico, Jan 10: Mexico school shooting: Boy, 11, kills teacher and himself in Torreón [BBC]** An 11-year-old student has opened fire in a school in northern Mexico, killing a teacher and injuring at least six other people before shooting himself dead. [LINK](#)

## EDUCATION ARTICLES

**Jan 5, How China's higher education development outpaced India's [Times Higher Education]** The two countries had similar tertiary enrolments in the late 1980s but literacy rates and policy strategy set them on very different paths. [LINK](#)

**Jan 6, Universities need to learn the early lessons of lifelong learning [Times Higher Education]** Recent enrolment data suggest a more complex relationship between work and further education. [LINK](#)