

EDUCATION

Updates

23 January 2020

SOUTH EAST ASIA

Malaysia, Jan 18: Malaysia walks back plan for students to switch to black shoes, saying colour isn't a priority [NST] Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has temporarily taken over the Education Ministry portfolio, said students "can wear brown shoes, black shoes, grey shoes, white shoes - any shoes will do. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 19: New 'degrees' for the new economy [NST] In most advanced economies including Singapore, citizens are encouraged to pursue at least 10 years of education. [LINK](#)

The Philippines, Jan 19: Pivot to quality education requires complementarity [Manila Times] With the issue of access to education largely resolved, the government will now "pivot" its focus on quality. [LINK](#)

The Philippines, Jan 19: Classes in Batangas to remain suspended while Alert Level 4 is hoisted [PhilStar] Some 264 cities and municipalities in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Metro Manila and the Southwestern Tagalog Region have suspended classes. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 20: Selangor still has highest number of influenza cases among schoolchildren [Channel News Asia] 863 cases of Influenza A and H1N1 recorded to date, recorded in 278 schools involving 10 locations.

Malaysia, Jan 20: Academic calls for video teaching of maths and science in English [FMT] The videos could ensure a uniform quality of teaching across all schools in the country, both urban and rural. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 20: Malaysia govt starts free meal programme for poor with 4,000 students [NST] Students in the morning session will get free breakfast between 7 and 7.30am, while those in the afternoon session will get lunch between 12.30pm and 2pm. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 20: ITE graduates to get more opportunities to attain diplomas [ST] ITE chief executive Low Kah Gek said that by 2025, there should be about 40 work-study diplomas offered, which should take in about 1,000 students a year. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 21: Five Percent of ITE grads go on to get degrees from local public unis [ST] ITE shared new finding from a 10-year graduate employment survey that tracked 3,500 graduates from 2007 to 2017. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 21: Playgrounds in 10 primary schools, 16 kindergartens to double in size by 2024 [ST] Playgrounds in 10 primary schools here will double in size by 2024, Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung said to encourage kids to be more physically active. [LINK](#)

Thailand, Jan 21: Schools in areas with unsafe air quality allowed to close for up to seven days [TN] Schools may consider opening on weekends, if necessary, to make up classes missed due to any closure. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 21: School in Sabah closed after six pupils test positive for H1N1 influenza [ST] Sabah Health and People's Wellbeing Minister Frankie Poon said on Tuesday the issue was not serious and that closing the school temporarily was just one way to handle the situation. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 22: No mutation of influenza virus despite growing cases in schools, says Malaysian Health Ministry [Channel News Asia] Some of the factors which contributed to this include how students mingle around freely during school hours. [LINK](#)

Malaysia, Jan 22: Principal defends Islamic programmes as critics hit out at 'outward religiosity' in schools [FMT] Critics say religious teaching in schools is excessive to the point that the studies of other subjects has been neglected. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 22: ITE students create real-life solutions with AI in Intel project [ST] Among these projects are a mini-robot that reminds elderly patients to take their medication, and an interactive signboard that "catches" errant cyclists in void decks. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 22: MOE launches pilot study to drop selection trials for CCA [TNP] Minister announces more steps to encourage children to pursue interests, increase CCA participation. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 22: School buses to get 'smart' makeovers to allow e-payment, GPS tracking and attendance taking. [ST] With the new system and accompanying mobile app, the driver and operator just have to send out a group message to parents. [LINK](#)

Singapore, Jan 23: Singapore fares well in health and education on global social mobility index [ST] In the Global Social Mobility Index, Singapore was the best performer in Internet access in schools, learning outcomes and the low proportion of disadvantaged students who reported lacking education material. [LINK](#)

ASIA PACIFIC

Australia, Jan 19: Childcare fees up 3% in last quarter and 34% since Coalition took power in 2013 [The Guardian] Education minister Dan Tehan defends government's record on childcare costs and urges families to 'shop around'. [LINK](#)

China, Jan 20: British schools rush to open new campuses in Greater Bay Area, betting on need for international schooling amid area's growth [SCM] Ten British schools are expected to open in the GBA by 2022, most of them located in Guangzhou and Shenzhen, bringing the total in the expanded metropolis to 13. [LINK](#)

Hong Kong, Jan 21: Academics prioritize public health as China virus spreads [THE] The team from Hong Kong University launched an online tool that uses modelling to help public authorities predict outbreaks. [LINK](#)

Hong Kong, Jan 21: China coronavirus: Hong Kong schools take extra precautions against outbreak including masks, temperature checks and sanitising hands [SCMP] Schools will take a more careful approach in terms of preventive measures ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday. [LINK](#)

China, Jan 22: China prioritises science in university admissions reform [THE] Academics cheer for end of 'exploited' system but urge institutions to learn from experience. [LINK](#)

Pakistan, Jan 22: PTI reforming education system in Pakistan, Mahmood tells World Education Forum [The News] Mahmood told the Forum that the PTI-led government had "increased education budget" to increase the literacy rate in the country. [LINK](#)

EUROPE

The UK, Jan 20: Scotland's first Career College to take construction training to the next level [FE News] The pioneering initiative will offer employer-led skills training to 16-18-year olds, its focus will be on the new digital methods of construction which are becoming crucial within modern industry. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 20: Thousands of UK academics 'treated as second-class citizens' [The Guardian] Report claims higher education institutions have created pool of low-paid staff for teaching and research. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 21: Scottish student loans triple under SNP despite manifesto pledge to 'dump the debt' [The Telegraph] It also found that total student loans debt has surged from £2.4 billion in 2010/11 to £5.5 billion in 2018/19. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 21: Teachers to get pay rise in attempt to boost recruitment [The Guardian] Wages will reach £30k in two years for new teachers outside London, plans show. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 21: UK gov't extends funding for int'l exchange [PIE News] The £2.5 million program is geared towards secondary schools students from disadvantaged backgrounds. [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 21: UK universities see boom in Chinese students [BBC] The number of Chinese students at UK universities has soared - rising by 34% in the last five years. [LINK](#)

Finland, Jan 22: Finnish education is No. 1 in providing youths with future skills [NST] Finland is a leader in providing future skills education for youths, according to the 2019 Worldwide Educating for the Future Index (Weffi) released recently by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). [LINK](#)

The UK, Jan 22: Maths whisperer': Cardiff teacher gets A* grades for entire class [The Guardian] Francis Elive hailed for delivering top marks for every year 11 pupil - six months early. [LINK](#)

AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST

Kenya, Jan 20: Universities take measures to end menace of learners' missing marks [Daily Nation] Mt Kenya University has invested heavily on examination booklets with security features. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, Jan 21: Saudi Arabia to Teach Chinese as Third Language [Jerusalem Post] Riyadh sees enhanced cooperation between two countries as integral part of its Vision 2030 diversification program. [LINK](#)

UAE, Jan 21: UAE's academic research output rises 16-fold in 20 years [The National] Researchers said the growth of existing universities in the country combined with the opening of new institutions had helped drive the increase. [LINK](#)

Oman, Jan 21: 15,000 school students to be trained under national youth programme [Times of Oman] The programme seeks to prepare young adults with the attitudes, skills and knowledge needed to deal with different life situations. [LINK](#)

Saudi Arabia, Jan 22: Over 5,000 Saudis benefit from new career education platform [Arab News] The Subol platform to help job seekers make better learning and career decisions by building an integrated system of education and career counseling services. [LINK](#)

AMERICAS

Canada, Jan 20: Some Ontario parents say they will donate daycare strike subsidy back to teachers, education [Huff Post] Parents with children who are six years old and younger and are in a school-based child care centre gets \$60 a day. [LINK](#)

Canada, Jan 20: Ontario Teachers Launch Week Of Rotating Strikes Across The Province [Huff Post] All four major teachers' unions are engaged in job action as they negotiate new collective agreements with the Progressive Conservative government. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 20: NYC educators push for teacher diversity in city schools [NY Dailynews] In New York City, only 15% of students are white, but more than 50% of teachers are. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 21: Districts looking at education aid, as state budget battle begins [The Buffalo News] The 3% increase in school aid proposed by Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo is less than half of what educators, district and school officials called for. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 22: UC San Diego looking to see if any students have been infected with Chinese coronavirus. [San Diego Union Tribune] The university told students by email to report to a student clinic if they've been to Wuhan, China and have certain symptoms. [LINK](#)

The US, Jan 22: University of Maryland cuts China-supported education program amid tensions between countries [Baltimore Sun] This follows after Congress passed legislation that the university said could jeopardize future federal funding if the program were to continue. [LINK](#)

EDUCATION ARTICLES

Jan 20: Third of world's poorest girls denied access to school. [BBC] Guinea, Central African Republic, Senegal and Cameroon were named as having the biggest imbalances, with public education spending being focused on rich rather than poorer children. [LINK](#)

Jan 20: Korean mobile carriers pair emerging technology with education [KJG Daily] Local mobile carriers are working to marry emerging technology with education, allowing consumers to read Harry Potter books in augmented reality (AR), listen to artificial intelligence (AI) platforms explain math problems and watch scientific theories unfold with virtual reality (VR). [LINK](#)

Jan 20: Close the Digital Learning Gap: How One District Tackled Tech Disparity in the Classroom [ED Surge] Having immediate access to digital content and resources has enabled them to quickly create and present more exciting and rich lessons for their students. [LINK](#)

Jan 22, French business schools sell luxury lifestyle to Chinese recruits. [THE] Institutions launch courses focused on top brands and spirits to boost international recruitment. [LINK](#)

Jan 23, UK universities 'increasingly reliant' on Chinese fee income. [THE] Chinese students worth at least £1.7 billion to sector, representing more than 10 per cent of revenue at several institutions. [LINK](#)