

EDUCATION

Updates

07 March 2020

ASIA & PACIFIC

Singapore, March 09: The National University of Singapore (NUS) sends foreign student home for breaching leave of absence [Today]. The National University of Singapore (NUS) has booted a foreign student for breaching her mandatory 14-day leave of absence (LOA) orders and for lying when declaring where she had travelled. NUS Dean of Students said, An international exchange student had breached her (LOA) and made a false travel declaration. The Board of Discipline has terminated her student exchange programme with NUS and she will return to her home university. [\[LINK\]](#)

Malaysia, March 06: Early exposure to STEM degrees [New Straits Times]. Exposure to potential careers and university courses can help students decide on their field of interest and ease the transition into tertiary education. The recent 21st Century Electronics Boot Camp 2020 held at Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) served as a platform for Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) leavers to gain key skills and knowledge that can prepare them for an engineering or a STEM degree. [\[LINK\]](#)

Malaysia, March 04, Emerging job trends [New Straits Times]. We often hear of how fresh university graduates are unable to get jobs due to a misalignment of qualification with current markets demands. Skills that they acquire when studying are often obsolete even before they enter the job market. With prediction of a bulk of present jobs disappearing in the future, the situation is set worsen if their eyes are not trained on what the future holds in terms of emerging and future jobs trends. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), in its recent report, Dream Jobs: Teenagers' Career Aspirations and the Future of Work, cited that at a glance, it is clear that it is overwhelmingly jobs with origins in the 20th century or earlier that are most attractive to young people. [\[LINK\]](#)

Malaysia, March 04: Form Six as an option [New Straits Times]. If you are looking for a qualification that offers admission into local and international de-

gree programmes, as well as an opportunity to join the civil service, then consider taking Form Six. Director General of Education, Dr Habibah Abdul Rahim said Form Six is in line with other pre-university options, but conducted in a school environment. Upon completion, students will be awarded the Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia (STPM) by the Malaysian Examination Council which is accredited by the Public Service Department allowing STPM holders to get government jobs with special pay scale. She added, STPM is also accredited internationally by Cambridge Assessment in the United Kingdom,

Indonesia, March 02: Most college graduates wish they majored in something different [The Jakarta Post]. Three out of five college graduates say they should have majored in something different and would go back and change their field of study if they could, according to a survey by Bestcolleges.com. About a third of dissatisfied folks aged 24—39 said they should have focused on subjects that improved their job opportunities. Meanwhile, older generations lamented not pursuing their passion. Millennials were the most likely to say their degrees failed to prepare them for the workforce, echoing recent studies that found US workers lack literacy and numeracy skills. [\[LINK\]](#)

Philippines, March 07: Benefits of continuing education entrepreneurs [ABS&CBN News]. Continuing education courses are common among doctors and other healthcare practitioners because they are required to update their knowledge of the field on a regular basis. The same goes for entrepreneurs. They need to be updated so that they can implement better rules, strategies, or techniques to improve their products and services. A major reason for the increase in demand for continuing education is because of the current economic conditions, as well as the uncertainty in the global markets. Many seek to improve their skills to ensure that they remain in business. No entrepreneur wants to be left behind by their competitors. [\[LINK\]](#)

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

Australia, March 09: Are Australian students receiving the school education they deserve? [ABC News]. International reviews have proved that the Australian school system is one of the most unequal and socially segregated the rich countries of the world. The question is, why do we continue to believe that schools will get better by doing things that all successful education systems have found to be ineffective. During the last decade, evidence from abroad and findings in the country have called for a change of courses in policies and the politics behind them that drive school education in Australia [\[LINK\]](#)

Australia, March 08: Students with lower socio-economic status go to university at a higher rate [The Sydney Morning Herald]. Data released by the Universities Admissions Centre shows the proportion of students who complete the HSC declines with socio-economics status. [\[LINK\]](#)

New Zealand, 09 March: Universities warn more cuts on the horizon [New Zealand Herald]. Universities are warning staff cuts could be on the horizon as they grapple with the financial losses from the coronavirus travel ban. Thousands of students due to begin their studies are still stuck in China, and the government has ruled out an exemption to allow them to travel here. In New Zealand. [\[LINK\]](#)

New Zealand, 01 March: Coronavirus fears throws 'spanner in works' for teacher recruitment [New Zealand Herald]. A recruitment agency has called for a halt on hiring overseas teachers because of the risk of bringing in more coronavirus cases. The Ministry of Education official rejected the call and informed that the Ministry are not looking to suspend the overseas recruitment campaign at this time but will continue to monitor the situation closely and follow Ministry of Health advice on COVID-19. [\[LINK\]](#)

[AMERICAS](#)

USA, March 06: As COVID-19 pushes classes online, some students are caught in the broadband gap [The Verge]. As COVID-19 spreads within the United States and across the globe, public health officials are calling for fewer public gathering which is pushing many activities online. The issue is particular-

ly severe for schools, where the risk of spreading the disease is high. Many US schools try , they're running into limitations of our threadbare broadband networks, which leave many students unable to connect to their new online classrooms. [\[LINK\]](#)

USA, March 03: Google and Microsoft are giving away enterprise conferencing tools due to coronavirus [The Verge]. The ongoing coronavirus has pushed more companies and organizations to transition to remote work, and now both Google and Microsoft have said they will grant access to their more robust teleconferencing and collaboration tools that are typically only available to enterprise customers to make it easier for people to work from home. Both companies want to help businesses and schools impacted by COVID-19 stay connected. [\[LINK\]](#)

[EUROPE](#)

Paris, France, March 4: 290 million students out of school due to COVID-19: UNESCO releases first global numbers and mobilizes response [UNESCO Press Release]. School closures in thirteen countries to contain the spread of COVID-19 are disrupting the education of 290.5 million students globally. UNESCO is providing immediate support to countries, including solutions for inclusive distance learning. [\[LINK\]](#)

[AFRICA & MIDDLE EAST](#)

Dubai, UAE, March 07: UAE students won't be allowed back without coronavirus screenings [Gulf News]. Students and workers at all educational facilities across the country will not be allowed in without making sure they are free of the coronavirus. According to the Ministry of Education UAE. such move is part of preventive measures after the four-week school break. [\[LINK\]](#)

Saudi Arabia, March 08: Saudi Arabia suspends schools, universities [Gulf News]. Saudi Arabia announced the suspension of schools and higher education institutions as of Monday, March 9, until further notice. The Ministry of Education of Saudi Arabia also announced on the implementation of virtual school and distance learning during the suspension period as a precaution to contain the spread of the coronavirus. [\[LINK\]](#)