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FREE TRIAL SERVICE

HE Info is a weekly electronic information service produced by the [Centre for Higher Education Management & Policy](#) at the [University of New England](#), Armidale, Australia. The purpose is to provide regular updates on the News, Publications, Events and other items of interest relating to Higher Education Policy particularly in, but not restricted to Australia. We do not claim to present all items of relevance but we do hope to achieve a good coverage of the main issues.

The service is currently in its developmental phase, so if you have any comments relating to content or if you would like to be added to, or removed from, the mailing list for the new issue alert please email chemp@une.edu.au

All information presented in each issue has been accessed from a variety of sources. Every effort has been made to acknowledge these where appropriate.

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Blair to give £1 for every £2 gift to universities (THES, 12 Feb) – “Universities will be encouraged to build up funds of billions of pounds from former students and philanthropists under plans to be unveiled by Tony Blair this week.”

Blair endowment plan 'favours elite universities' (Education Guardian, 12 Feb) – “Tony Blair's endowment plans could see cash-strapped universities slipping further into the red while elite institutions prosper, academics

Cuts creating science and languages 'blackspots' (THES, 8 Feb) – “Some UK universities cannot offer students courses in key subject areas such as core sciences and modern languages, according to two reports released today by the lecturers' union”.

Official foundation of the 3TU.Federation live on internet! (3TU: 7 Feb) – “On Wednesday 7 February, the three Universities of Technology in the Netherlands will found the 3TU.Federation. This will be a unique event within the Dutch educational establishment. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that this is the first collaboration at this level between universities in the Netherlands.”

Minister urges universities to woo part-time students (THES, 2 Feb) – “The Government has appealed to universities to make a culture shift and embrace more courses led and funded by employers.”

RAE selection gets brutal (THES, 2 Feb) – “More academics than ever before will find themselves stigmatised as research inactive, it emerged this week, as universities began the often brutal process of confirming which staff will have their work submitted in the 2008 research assessment exercise.”

For these and other stories navigate directly to [THES](#) | [Education Guardian](#) | [3TU](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Revamp for flawed ratings (Australian, 14 Feb: 21) – “A \$6 million project to overhaul the way Australian universities measure teaching quality could eventually help international rankings systems address one of their biggest problems - how to measure teaching rather than just research performance.”

Record numbers commence university (DEST Media Release, 14 Feb) - “The Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop, MP, today released statistics announcing that a record number of students commenced university in the first half of 2006.”

COMMENT: The second stage (Campus Review, 13 Feb: 8) – “Global rankings have attracted enormous attention and wield a great deal of power, yet their shortcomings are becoming increasingly apparent.”

Storm over English proficiency of international students (Campus Review, 6 Feb: 1,4) – “Headlines in the South China Morning Post, giving an 'F' to Hong Kong graduates of Australian universities for English proficiency, reflected media coverage around the globe, alarming many here and igniting a furious debate over standards.”

Labor would cut HECS on maths, science (Campus Review, 6 Feb: 7) – “Despite little evidence to suggest that lower HECS attract students into nursing and teaching courses (CR, 30.01.07), Labor unveiled the second part of its "education revolution" last week by proposing to slash the cost of maths and science degrees.”

For these and other stories access newspapers directly at [Australian](#) | [Campus Review](#) | [DEST](#)

New Publications

Centre for International Higher Education (CIHE), *Winter 2007 issue of International Higher Education*
- This issue includes articles on trends in internationalisation, private higher education and higher education in Africa. To access this issue navigate to <http://www.bc.edu/cihe/newsletter/Number46/Number46.htm>

Mark L. Matthews, *Managing uncertainty and risk in science, innovation and preparedness: Why public policy should pay more attention to geopolitical and financial considerations*, Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS) Policy Discussion Paper No. 1/2006 – “The first in a new series of major policy discussion papers – this influential paper identifies a missing factor in current policy – ‘Preparedness R&D’ – and highlights the enormous social and economic benefits that flow from science that minimises risks and provides options to deal with emerging economic, social and environmental challenges.” To download the paper navigate to http://www.fast.org/images/policy-discussion/Policy_paper_MM.pdf

PriceWaterhouseCoopers, *The economic benefits of a degree*, UniversitiesUK – “The message from this report is clear: taking a degree remains an attractive personal investment that will produce significant long-term financial gains and many other benefits for the individual graduate.” To download this report navigate to <http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/>

Speeches, papers and presentations from the recent UNESCO Bangkok 10th APEID Conference: *Learning Together for Tomorrow: Education for Sustainable Development* held 6-8 December 200 in Bangkok are now available – “The key objectives of this conference were to: strengthen co-ordination and collaboration among APEID network members, raise awareness and understanding of ESD, and serve as a catalyst for action plans in ESD. The conference will serve as a change mechanism for the new era of APEID and ESD.” To access the papers, navigate to <http://www.unescobkk.org/education/apeid/conference>

Conference Proceedings from *Going Global 2, The UK's international education conference, held 7-8 December 2006 in Edinburgh* are now available - " This conference addressed the following themes:

- internationalisation of institutions
- international students
- international education professionals
- employment and skilled migration
- public-private partnerships in education"

To access the proceedings navigate to <http://www.britishcouncil.org/goingglobal2.ht>

New Conferences Listings

FOR A FULL LISTING OF UP AND COMING EVENTS FOLLOW THIS [LINK](#)

Role of University Associations in Enhancing Quality of Higher Education, IAU 2nd Global Meeting of University Associations, Paris (France), May 31 to June 1, 2007 – “This is the second global meeting of this kind organized by the IAU, and the theme – quality of HE at home and abroad – is in line with on-going work at IAU. The more general aim is to use IAU’s convening capacity to encourage sharing of views, practices and ideas on crucial higher education issues among leaders of national, regional and international associations from all over the world.”

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.unesco.org/iau/>

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