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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

Red tape curb (THES, 20 April) - "The tickbox approach to higher education administration that consumes so much academic time has run its course in the UK, according to Scottish funding chiefs, who are pushing for reform." For these and other stories navigate directly to [THES](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Business push on education funding (The Australian, 27 April: 6) – "Business [The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry] has backed the push for higher spending on education and training, calling for a \$7.8billion boost over three years from state, territory and federal governments. "

Surge in students finding uni spots (The Australian 27 April: 6) – "Labor's push to have more students in universities has been dealt a blow, with new figures revealing the number of qualified applicants who missed out on a place has plummeted 63 per cent in the past three years."

Research front and centre (The Australian, April 25 : 37) - " While Australian universities are looking ahead to the implementation of the first cycle of the research quality framework, their counterparts across the Tasman are casting a glance in the other direction as a third year of academic life under a contentious research funding system looms in New Zealand."

Australia's commitment to EU deepens (Campus Review, April 24:1, 2) – "Student and staff mobility will be a priority of a joint declaration promoting policy dialogue and cooperation in higher education and vocational education and training signed between the European Union and Australia last week. "

UK's quality agency moves to deal with difficulties between audits (Campus Review, April 24: 3) – " The UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) has introduced new procedures for dealing with serious matters of concern at universities that arise between the six-yearly institutional audit cycle."

Tertiary funding 'falling behind' (The Australian, April 24: 7) – " Australia's spending on tertiary education per student went backwards in the eight years after the Coalition came to power, leaving the nation ranked alongside Portugal, Poland and the Slovak Republic. "

College the key to building the American dream (Campus Review, April 24:8) – "The US is a nation built on immigration, but for immigrants, realising the American dream is now almost impossible, with this group facing significant hurdles getting into university and succeeding once there. A new report, '*Opening the Door to the American Dream: Increasing Higher Education Access and Success for Immigrants*' argues that college education is essential not just for individual wellbeing but also as a key to economic competitiveness."

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

New Publications

Australian Labor Party, *New Directions for Innovation, Competitiveness and Productivity*, 24 April – "A plan to create long-term productivity for Australia, building on our education and infrastructure policies." To access the policy document, navigate to <http://www.alp.org.au/media/0407/msindloo240.php>

AVCC, *Australian University Handbook 2007* - "The AVCC has just published the Australian University Handbook 2007, with updated information on the Australian university sector including a page on each individual university. "

To access the Handbook, navigate to

<http://www.avcc.edu.au/content.asp?page=/publications/corporate/AusUniHandbook.htm>

Donald Markwell, *A Large and Liberal Education: Higher Education for the 21st Century (2007, published: Australian Scholarly Publishing and Trinity College, the University of Melbourne)* – " The papers in this collection develop a vision of higher education for this century, focussed on high-quality liberal education for undergraduates in a learning community rich in both classroom and extra-curricular engagement." To find out more, navigate to <http://www.scholarly.info/new.htm>

OECD/Japan Seminar on "Futures Thinking for Education: Policy, Leadership and the Teaching Profession" Hiroshima, Japan, 6-7 November 2006 - "The Seminar explored and developed the connections between futures thinking, on the one hand, and governance, policy formulation and decision-making in education,

on the other – setting this in the new context of complex governance in which all OECD education systems are now operating".

To view the papers and presentations, navigate to:

http://www.oecd.org/document/30/0,2340,en_2649_35845581_37190814_1_1_1_1,00.html

OECD Meeting, "The Changing Labour Market and the Future of Higher Education" Paris, France, 12-13 February 2007

– "This meeting convened 30 participants from 16 countries and from diverse occupational backgrounds. The meeting aimed to identify recent trends and expected changes in OECD labour markets in the coming decades and how these changes might affect higher education in the future. One important conclusion was that framing transition problems as "over-education" was misleading, and that possible shortages, or too long transition periods from higher education to labour market, should rather be viewed as "skill mismatches".

To view the summary report, navigate to <http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/27/40/38162059.pdf>

To view the presentations, navigate to

http://www.oecd.org/document/45/0,2340,en_2649_35845581_38038189_1_1_1_1,00.html

New Conferences Listings

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

Third Global Forum on *International Quality Assurance, Accreditation and the Recognition of Qualifications* "Learners and New Higher Education Spaces: from Principles to Practice", Dar es Salaam, Tanzania: 13–14 September 2007

- "The Global Forum will serve as a means to promote different information tools for students and other stakeholders as a means of empowerment for making choices based on quality, which remains at the heart of the debates: the UNESCO/OECD Guidelines for Quality Provision in Cross-border Higher Education, the pilot project for a UNESCO Portal of Recognized Higher Education Institutions, the conventions on the recognition of qualifications as a means to promote mobility for students and other mobility tools such as the Diploma Supplement or the credit transfer system. Issues such as bogus institutions and degree mills, impact of social software on higher education, brain drain, refugee populations and migrations will also be viewed from the learners' and policy-makers' perspectives."

To find out more, navigate to http://www.harare.unesco.org/newsletter/2007/qa/qa_global2.htm

Global Higher Education Forum (GHEF), *Knowledge and Relevant Human Resource Development*, Kuala Lumpur, 6 & 7 November 2007 - Themes proposed in the program: • Global Mobility, Access and Equity in Higher Education, • Governance, Leadership and Quality of Higher Education, • Transnational, Crossborder Education and Lifelong Learning

Detailed programme for the Global Higher Education Forum Malaysia 2007, as well as Registration Forms, fee schedule and hotel information will be available in early April on the Global Higher Education Malaysia Forum 2007 website. To be added to the mailing list for up-dated information, please send your request by e-mail to: malaysiaforum2007@yahoo.com or to iau@unesco.org and signal your interest in Malaysia Forum 2007.

OECD, *Globally Competitive, Locally Engaged: Higher Education and Regions*, Valencia, 19-21 September 2007

– "Bringing together policy makers and practitioners; public and private bodies concerned with regional development; leaders and managers of HEIs; and those responsible for community liaison and regional development at HEIs, this important conference will look at ways in how HEIs can best contribute to the region building in the knowledge-based economy."

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.oecd.org/edu/imhe/valencia>

Websites of Interest

Brisbane Communiqué Initiative - *Australian Education International Website* - The overarching objective

of the Brisbane Communiqué initiative is to better position the education systems and approaches of the broader Asia-Pacific with international developments, thus ensuring transparency and mutual trust between countries' education systems.

to access the site, navigate to <http://www.brisbanecommunique.dest.gov.au/>

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