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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

Europeans accuse MPs of arrogance over HE reform (Education Guardian, 8 May) – “The UK has been branded “insolent and arrogant” over its stance towards plans to make degrees more comparable across Europe.”

It's a world of possibilities (Education Guardian, 8 May) – “Virtual campuses are springing up in Second Life, as universities discover the advantages of cyberspace.”

Oxford tops Guardian university league tables (Education Guardian, 1 May) – "Oxford tops the Guardian rankings as the best university for students, according to new league tables published by EducationGuardian.co.uk today."

Commission launches consultation on the ERA (CORDIS, 03 May) – "The European Commission has launched an online consultation on the future of the European Research Area (ERA). The questions in the consultation are based on issues highlighted for discussion by the Commission in its recent Green Paper on the future of the ERA."

New European portal to connect research with technology transfer (CORDIS, 2 May) – "i-techpartner (<http://www.i-techpartner.eu/>) aims to connect researchers and technology transfer offices with small and medium-sized innovative companies, innovation experts, corporate partners and venture capital investors throughout Europe."

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

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

\$5bn for universities to build and dig 'forever' - (Australian, 9 May: 3) – "A \$5 billion endowment fund for universities will be created to fund capital works and research facilities "forever". The move was the centrepiece of a budget that puts education generally, and higher education in particular, squarely back on the Government's spending agenda. The Higher Education Endowment Fund will deliver universities \$900 million over three years from 2008-09, eclipsing what was an optimistic request for \$500million over three years."

Philosophy, politics to go under QUT proposal (Campus Review, 8 May: 1-6) – "The proposed axing of arts and social sciences at a Brisbane university has shocked staff and "dismayed" the Australian Academy of the Humanities".

New Generation grouping peters out (Campus Review, 8 May: 1) – "What's in a name? Everything it would seem in the case of the New Generation Universities grouping, which has quietly ceased as an alliance."

Group to advise on Bologna (Campus Review, 8 May: 4) – "A panel of 11 was announced last week to advise the government on the likely implications for Australia of the Bologna Process. Education Minister Julie Bishop said the steering committee will "act as an important source of advice and leadership on the latest developments in higher education in Europe".

Institute to promote leadership in higher education, Minister Bishop Press Release (DEST, May 1) – "Proposed by the University of Melbourne, the Martin Institute involves direct collaboration with Victoria University and the University of New England, and an advisory council that includes representatives from Innovative Research Universities Australia, the Australian Technology Network, the Group of Eight universities and the Australian Council for Private Education and Training. The Institute will involve a high level of cross-sectoral collaboration with TAFE and other vocational education and training providers and the private higher education sector."

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

New Publications

Maassen, P. and Olsen, J.P. (Eds.) 2007, *University Dynamics and European Integration*, Series: Higher

Education Dynamics, Vol. 19, Springer – "This book explores the visions underlying the attempts to reform the European University as well as two European integration processes ("Bologna" and "Lisbon") affecting University dynamics. Above all, the book presents a framework for analyzing ongoing "modernization" reforms and reform debates that take place at various governance levels, not least the European level, and a long-term research agenda."

To find out more about this book, navigate to

<http://www.springer.com/west/home/education/higher+education?SGWID=4-40670-22-173723436-0>

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. At this time the publication is available as online-only, as the AVCC will make its transition to Universities Australia over the next few months."

To access the Handbook, navigate to

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

The Guardian University Guide 2008 (Guardian Books, 1 May) – "Packed with no-nonsense advice, the Guardian University Guide takes prospective students through every process they will encounter when entering further education: from applications to interviews, accommodation to finances."

To access the Guide, navigate to <http://education.guardian.co.uk/universityguide2008/story/0,,2069022,00.html>

New Conferences Listings

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

20th annual CHER conference "The Research Mission of the University", Dublin, 30 August to 1. September 2007 – to find out more, navigate to <http://www.uni-kassel.de/incher/CHER/Conference.htm>

2nd European Education Policy Network Meeting: Advancing the European Education Agenda, Brussels, 30 November to 1 December 2007 – "The Network's 2007 conference series on the European Education Agenda aims to stimulate debate among academics and policymakers on education policy developments in the European political arena. At these three meetings, participants will analyse and critique the European educational agenda, consider its future direction and explore new research avenues."

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.educationpolicy.eu/>

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