

06 September 2007

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Reforms needed to build a modern innovation system in China, says OECD (Cordis Express, 27 Aug) – “China may not pose the immediate threat to Europe's competitiveness in research and development that many Europeans have feared. A new survey from the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) concludes that China still has a long way to go to build a modern, high-performance national innovation system.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Fund to benefit the best (Australian, 05 Sept: 39) – “Federal Education, Science and Training Minister Julie Bishop has admitted for the first time that not every university can expect money from the \$6 billion Higher Education Endowment Fund, which she said was a mechanism meant to catapult more universities into the top 100 in the world and perhaps two into the top 10.” [more](#)

Monash in Malaysia bolsters brand (Australian, 05 Sept: 40) – “Malaysia has announced an ambitious plan to snare 100,000 international students and become a regional education hub, placing it squarely in competition with Singapore and Australia.” [more](#)

Milestone moment as leadership institute opens (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 1, 6) – “The first centre dedicated to fostering future university and VET leaders for Australia's \$15 billion post-secondary sector has opened in Melbourne. Launching the LH Martin Institute, Federal Education Minister Julie Bishop said it was time for universities and TAFEs to take charge of their own destinies”.

Setting the standard in AUQA audits (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 1, 7) – “Universities and other higher education providers will need to produce evidence of how they set, maintain and review academic standards and

outcomes as part of the Australian University Quality Agency round-two audits”.

Competitiveness hinges on more scholarships (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 3) – “A policy paper to be released by the Council of Australian Postgraduate Associations (CAPA) this week calls for a 20 per cent increase in the number of Commonwealth-funded postgraduate scholarships available to students doing higher research degrees”.

Regional unis take up the fight (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 6) – “A consortium of universities with regional campuses has formally launched a campaign to convince both sides of politics they deserve a better deal”. *To access the briefing paper, see New Publications section of this issue of HEInfo.*

RQF will go ahead as scheduled (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 7) – “Calls for the Federal Government to push back implementation of the Research Quality Framework by a year have fallen on deaf ears”.

Seeds are sown ahead of RQF data harvesting (Campus Review, 04 Sept: 10) – “The introduction of the much-anticipated Research Quality Framework poses significant information management challenges for the higher education sector”.

Canberra universities win large slice of grants pie (The Canberra Times, 04 Sept: 3) – “ACT universities have scooped an unexpectedly large \$7.7 million slice of a Commonwealth funding pie aimed at improving workplace productivity.”

Why business must learn to engage with universities (The Age, 31 Aug: 10) – “When KPMG recruited more than 500 graduates from Australian universities last year it reflected that KPMG was one of the universities’ most important customers.”

New code on responsible research practices and handling misconduct (NHMRC, 29 Aug) – “The Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research advocates and describes best practice in research for researchers and institutions, as well as setting out a framework for handling breaches of the Code. While the document is aimed at universities and researchers, it can be applied by any organisation involved in conducting research.” [more](#)

New Publications

Richard James, Emmaline Bexley, Marcia Devlin and Simon Marginson, August 2007, *Australian Student Finances Survey 2006 Final Report, Universities Australia* – “The findings of this study, ...have important implications for the quality of Australian higher education. They reveal the difficult financial circumstances of many Australian university students and the significant impact of financial pressures on students’ capacity to study effectively.”

To access this report, navigate to

<http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/content.asp?page=/publications/policy/survey/index.htm>

More Funding for Regional Higher Education (29 August) - “The consortium of universities has developed a briefing paper outlining the key issues relating to regional higher education provision. The paper highlights the critical role regional higher education provision plays in the economic and social development of regional areas.”

To access the briefing paper, navigate to http://www.latrobe.edu.au/news/2007/mediarelease_2007-51.php

OECD, 24 August, *Cross-border Tertiary Education: A Way Towards Capacity Development* – “The mobility of students, professors, knowledge and even values has been part of higher education for centuries, but it has recently grown at an unprecedented pace. This presents many new opportunities among which are increased access to higher education, strategic alliances between countries and regions, as well as the expansion of human resource and institutional capacity. Parallel to these opportunities are an equal number of challenges: a potential

increase in low quality or rogue providers, a lack of recognition of foreign qualifications by domestic employers or education institutions, along with elitism and the tensions it creates. This book casts light on these opportunities and challenges, especially for developing countries willing to leverage cross-border higher education as a tool for development. It discusses the concept of capacity-building through cross-border education, emphasising the critical role of quality assurance and trade negotiations.”

To find out more, navigate to

<http://www.oecdbookshop.org/oecd/display.asp?sf1=identifiers&lang=EN&st1=962007071p1>

DEST - National Survey of Research Commercialisation 2003-2004 and Commercialisation Case Studies

(31 August) – “The National Survey of Research Commercialisation (NSRC) collects data and information on commercialisation activity in Australian publicly funded research institutions including the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), other publicly funded research institutions, universities, and medical research institutes (MRIs). The survey was first conducted for the year 2000, and again for 2001 and 2002.”

To access the report, navigate to

http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/research_sector/publications_resources/profiles/National_Survey_of_Research_Comm

New Conference Listings

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

Asia-Pacific Quality Network 2008, Conference and Annual General Meeting, *Future of Quality*

Assurance in Asia Pacific, Cooperation Amidst Diversity, Tokyo, 19-22 February 2008 – Deadline of Call for Contributions is 28 September, 2007. The sub-themes of this conference are:

- * Mutual recognition and standards;
- * Quality assurance of QA agencies; and
- * Respect of diversity and network activity.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.the-convention.co.jp/apqn2008/aboutconference/index.html>

Universities Australia International Education Conference – *Looking forward: the future of international education and our place in the landscape, Brisbane, 25-26 October 2007*

– “The conference will consider the future of international education and the changing role of and expectations for staff in universities.”

To find out more, navigate to

http://www.universitiesaustralia.edu.au/content.asp?page=/policies_programs/staff_dev/index.htm

FREE TRIAL SERVICE

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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

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