

8 November 2007

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

R&D investments key to productivity, report shows (CORDIS, 6 Nov) – “Investments in research and development (R&D) contribute significantly to increases in productivity, according to the Commission’s latest Competitiveness Report.” [more](#)

We should abolish the RAE altogether (Education Guardian, 6 Nov) – “I was once a supporter of the research assessment exercise, but in the long-term it has created an obsession with performance, resulting in many universities no longer appointing faculty on teaching ability”. [more](#)

Autonomy and accountability move to top of European higher education agenda (European University Association, 5 Nov) – “EUA’s Autumn conference last week has highlighted the extent to which the issues of university autonomy and accountability are moving to the top of the European higher education agenda.” [more](#)

CHINA: University students dominate world market (University World News, 4 Nov) – “Students from mainland China who go abroad to study far outnumber those from all other countries. Chinese students will continue to increase their domination of the international student market for decades to come.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIA: Rise in graduates but not in jobless (University World News, 4 Nov) – “Since 1990, the number of Australians completing bachelor degrees has grown by almost 65% yet the proportion of new graduates in full-time employment has remained relatively steady.” [more](#)

Exclusions from RAE see steep rise (THES, 2 Nov) – “Dramatic increases in the proportion of academics excluded from the research assessment exercise were confirmed by a number of universities this week.” [more](#)

Diplomas finally get a thumbs up (THES, 2 Nov) – “Universities across the sector this week began to signal their intention to accept the Government’s new 14-19 diplomas as a pathway to their degree courses from 2010.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Boom’s blow for foreign students (Australian, 7 Nov; 23-4) – “The federal Government may have to step in to shore up second-tier universities deprived of foreign student income by Australia’s historically high currency”. [more](#)

Claims of porkbarrelling with VSU fund (Campus Review, 6 Nov: 1, 4) – “Universities in Coalition-held electorates have enjoyed the lion’s hare of \$80 million set aside by the Federal Government to stump up student services in the aftermath of voluntary student

unionism”.

Auditors to probe benchmarks (Campus Review, 6 Nov: 7) – “The next round of higher education quality audits will involve a heavy focus on benchmarking, with Australian University Quality Agency to hunt for example of meaningful and effective comparison”.

The future university (Campus Review, 6 Nov: 10) – “Universities will soon move onto more open and uniform computing platforms, outsource their information systems and rent their software”.

New Publications

World Economic Forum, *The Global Competitiveness Report* – “The Global Competitiveness Report series has evolved over the last three decades into the world’s most comprehensive and respected assessment of countries’ competitiveness, offering invaluable insights into the policies, institutions, and factors driving productivity and, thus, enabling sustained economic growth and long-term prosperity.”

To access the report, navigate to <http://www.acr.weforum.org/>

Verbik, L. and Lasanowski, V. Sept 2007, *International Student Mobility: Patterns and Trends, Observatory on borderless higher education* – “Through an analysis of national data produced by official government sources, the report provides also an overview of recent patterns in international student mobility, assesses current factors influencing government policy towards strategic recruitment and identifies future trends likely to affect mobility in coming years.”

To access the report, navigate to

[http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=408&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=240](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=408&tx_ttnews[backPid]=240)

Marginson, S. 16 Oct 2007, *The global positioning of Australian higher education: Where to from here?, The University of Melbourne Faculty of Education Dean’s Lecture series, 16 October 2007* – “This paper is about the global positioning of Australian higher education: past, present and future. It draws on various policy-related research projects supported by the ARC and OECD and conducted or shared by the author: on globalization and higher education world-wide and in the Asia-Pacific; on global strategy; on cross-border student security; on the internationalisation of Australian universities.”

To access this paper, navigate to <http://www.cshe.unimelb.edu.au/>

The policy determinants of investment in tertiary education, Economics Department Working Papers no. 576, OECD – “This paper assesses how policies and institutions affect private returns to invest in tertiary human capital, the ability of individuals to finance this investment and the institutional characteristics of tertiary education systems.”

To find out more, navigate to http://www.oecd.org/LongAbstract/0,3425,en_2649_201185_39368513_119684_1_1_1,00.html

New Conference Listings

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

IAU 13th General Conference: *Higher Education and Research Addressing Local and Global Needs, Utrecht, The Netherlands, 15 - 18 July 2008* – “Higher Education and Research Addressing Local and Global Needs, the theme of the 13th General Conference, echoes the very reasons that led to the creation of the Association 60 years ago, namely the responsibilities of higher education and research institutions to serve the world around them. In 1948, it was the imperative of creating collaborative links and bridges of understanding in order to restore and guarantee peace among peoples and nations ravaged by WWII that motivated higher education leaders to come together. In 2008 higher education institutions and their leadership face different but equally challenging demands both locally and globally.”

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

ConnectEd, *A conference on Global Education, California, 22-24 January 2008* – “ConnectEd’s participants will ask, “How does the ever expanding global education marketplace affect universities and their students?” “How might current and future technological innovations shape global education?” “How will transnational issues, such as global warming, be incorporated into global curricular and research initiatives?” “Will English continue to increase its influence as a common language of business and research and what are the implications for non-English speaking universities?” And, “How will universities educate the next generation of global citizens and professionals?”

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

Australian Higher Education Congress 2008, *Big School is Big Business!, Sydney, 17 & 18 March 2008* – “The higher education system in Australia is changing. The institutions are becoming more businesslike and the marketplace is becoming more competitive. Universities in Australia have traditionally all followed a single business model where local students pay for standard degrees with the help of the HECS payment scheme, or international students pay full fees. However, universities are now using different business models in order to differentiate and competitively position themselves.”

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.acevents.com.au/education2008/>

Australian ePortfolio Symposium 2008, Brisbane, 7-8 February 2008 – “The program will stimulate debate about the issues central to the adoption of ePortfolios. The symposium will:

- * Discuss the preliminary findings from the project’s research activities
- * Introduce potential frameworks for measuring the level of maturity in ePortfolio practice
- * Explore case studies that provide examples of best practice.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.eportfoliopractice.gut.edu.au/symposium/>

Websites of Interest

[Webometrics Ranking of World Universities](#) - The original aim of the Ranking was to promote Web publication, not to rank institutions. Supporting Open Access initiatives, electronic access to scientific publications and to other academic material are our primary targets.

[University World News - A global window on higher education](#) - Supported by some of the world’s most experienced education journalists, and aimed at higher education readers worldwide, it is offering a weekly emailed newspaper plus access to a dedicated news website – free of charge.

[Hedda Blog, Exploring higher education from an international perspective](#) – “You will find discussions in regards to funding, governance, reform, European strategies and teaching and research. We are hoping to recruit international graduate students from around the globe to interact on this blog as a means to facilitate dialogue on higher education issues. We would encourage you to take a look at the blog and leave a comment, the more interactive, the better!”

[The Australian Researchers’ Mobility Portal](#) provides information for researchers planning to move to or out of Australia. It provides links to other country mobility portals, Australian and International funding opportunities and important information about working overseas.

[The Higher Education Network for Community Engagement \(HENCE\)](#) is a response to the growing need to deepen, consolidate, and advance the literature, research, practice, policy, and advocacy for community engagement as a core element of higher education’s role in society.

[University Futures](#) provides information and resources for university managers and planners interested in finding out more about how to integrate futures approaches into existing strategy development and implementation processes.

[Australian Education International - International Education Network, Database on International Education](#) - “This searchable web database contains details of 5922 books, articles, conference papers and reports on various aspects of international education from publishers in Australia and overseas. The database covers material published from 1990 onwards, a period of major change in education systems around the world and in the trade in educational services.”

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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