

15 November 2007

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

University rankings in the news (University World News, 15 Nov) – “Last week, the Times Higher Education Supplement published its annual top 200 university rankings while Shanghai Jiao Tong University released its top 500 listing in August.” [more](#)

OECD: Worldwide ‘obsession’ with league tables (University World News, 15 Nov) – “Higher education institutions worldwide are much more concerned about league tables and ranking systems than expected, an OECD investigation has found.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIA: Resources boom outruns graduate supply (University World News, 15 Nov) – “Booming economies around the world are experiencing a desperate shortage of skilled workers. Australia is in a worse position than most because of government failure to provide sufficient university places.” [more](#)

Universities ‘should shift to summer to be greener’ (EducationGuardian, 13 Nov) – “With a single medium-sized British university responsible for more than 12,000 tonnes of carbon emissions a year, the need for academics to do more than just study the problem of climate change is being raised this week by the University and College Union (UCU).” [more](#)

Global rulers (THES, 9 Nov) – “The world’s top ten universities are in the UK or US, according to the annual Times Higher-QS World University Rankings.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

No joy for unis in PM's vision (Australian, 14 Nov: 21-22) – “Universities, innovation and science were notably absent from John Howard's centrepiece speech on Monday.” [more](#)

Call for fund to stand alone (Australian, 14 Nov: 22) – “The federal Government's \$6 billion higher education endowment fund must be kept separate from any other funding sources”. [more](#)

Doubters expect Labor to kill RQF (Australian, 14 Nov: 23) – “The university sector would be relieved if the Coalition Government lost office because the contentious and flawed research quality framework would be cancelled by a Labor government, a Universities Australia spokesman said last week.” [more](#)

Sector sets informal course for Europe (Australian, 14 Nov: 23) – “Australian universities would take part in discussing a Europe-wide course-sharing consortium but a formal role was not on the horizon, a leading university figure has said.” [more](#)

Uni Cinderellas miss the reform ball (Australian, 14 Nov: 25) – “A well-considered combination of increased public investment and deregulation would enable higher education to contribute to the next phase of Australia's productivity growth, which has stalled in recent years for want of further reform and strategic investment.” [more](#)

Language deficit must be addressed (Campus Review, 13 Nov: 3) – “Universities should think seriously about reintroducing foreign language requirements for some courses”.

PhD slump threatens prosperity (Campus Review, 13 Nov: 3) – “Long-term decline in PhD enrolments is putting the country's future competitiveness at risk – and will have dire consequences for the aging academic workforce”.

Nothing recedes like X-cess (Campus Review, 13 Nov: 6-7) – “Mediocrity in the Australian university system can be overcome, but it would require a radical overhaul of the current structure”.

Funding needs to reflect true role of all universities (Sydney Morning Herald, 12 Nov: 15) – “Never before in Australia's history has it been so important to recognise the country's universities as partners in the economic, social and cultural development of the nation.” [more](#)

New Publications

Bob Birrell and Daniel Edwards, *Half of Australian youth aged 18-20 are not in training*, Centre for Population and Urban Research, Monash University – “The number of university, TAFE and trade completions among domestic Australia has fallen way behind employer need. This is why there are now shortages of university trained engineers, accountants and health professionals, others, as well as tradespersons, particularly in the construction area.” [more](#)

Ryan Hahn, *The Global State of Higher Education and the Rise of Private Finance*, IHEP – “The Institute for Higher Education Policy's (IHEP) Global Center on Private Financing of Higher Education (GCPF) released a report that explores the growing importance of private capital to nations where governments seek additional resources to share the rising per student costs and increasing enrolment rates. The report, *The Global State of Higher Education and the Rise of Private Finance*, also provides an overview of international good practices and lessons learned from individual countries where the business of tapping into private finance as a supplemental funding source has increased in the past two decades.” [more](#)

OECD, *Cross-border Tertiary Education: A Way towards Capacity Development* – “Cross-border tertiary education refers to the movement of people, programmes, providers, curricula, projects, research and services in tertiary (or higher) education across national jurisdictional borders. Cross-border education is a subset of educational internationalisation and can be part of development cooperation projects, academic exchange programmes and commercial initiatives. The focus of this volume is on the mobility of students, programmes and providers/institutions.” [more](#)

New Conference Listings

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

AUQF2008 Quality & Standards: Making a Difference in Higher Education, Canberra, 9-11 July 2008 - Preliminary details for AUQF2008 are now available. Deliberations and presentations at AUQF touch on a wide range of quality assurance and quality enhancement issues. AUQF2008 will offer a range of opportunities for learning and discussion of the changing nature and practice of higher education quality assurance.

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.auqa.edu.au/auqf>

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>

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.eportfolioppractice.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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