

**06 December 2007**

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## News Items & Articles

### INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

**EU Researchers are poorly paid compared to their counterparts in the USA, Japan, Australia and India (FEAST, 3 Dec)** – “A study on the salaries of researchers reveals substantial differences between the average salaries of researchers working in the EU, compared with their counterparts in countries including the US, India and Japan. According to figures released by the European Commission, the average salary for a researcher in the EU was €40,126 in 2006, far below the figure of €62,793 for researchers in the USA, and €61,991 for those in Japan. EU researchers were also beaten by their counterparts in Australia (€62,342) and India (€45,207).” [more](#)

**Better shape up (Education Guardian, 4 Dec)** – “Universities must work with employers to give students and employees the skills they need”. [more](#)

**SPECIAL REPORT: Assessing research quality (University World News, 2 Dec)** – “The world's nations have different approaches to assessing the quality of research undertaken by universities: some do not bother while others take to the task with deadly earnestness. Where research is regularly assessed, the demands on universities and their staff are enormous and academics inevitably question whether the benefits of possibly increased funding are not far outweighed by the costs in time, effort and money.” [more](#)

**The European Qualifications Framework: major benefits for citizens and employers throughout Europe (European Commission, 26 Nov)** – “The European Commissioner for Education, Training, Culture and Youth, Mr Ján Figel', today launched the European Qualifications Framework for lifelong learning (EQF) at a major education conference in Lisbon. The EQF will act as a translation device between the Member States' qualifications systems. This will help employers and educational establishments across Europe compare and better understand the qualifications presented by individuals.” [more](#)

**The Commission welcomes political agreement on the proposal establishing the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and on its financing (European Commission, 26 Nov)** – “The Competitiveness Council reached on Friday, 23 November a political agreement on the establishment of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), following the European Parliament's resolution adopted in September 2007.” [more](#)

## AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

**Triple fund, urge jumpy sector chiefs (Australian, 5 Dec)** – “Universities have upped the ante on the education revolution by calling for the Higher Education Endowment Fund to be more than tripled in size to \$20 billion within five years, while warning that the new Government faces a hostile sector if it fails to deliver on expectations.” [more](#)

**Carrick's future hangs in balance book (Australian, 5 Dec)** – “The Group of Eight research universities and the National Tertiary Education Union yesterday called on the Rudd Government to reverse proposed cuts to high-profile teaching and learning initiative the Carrick Institute.” [more](#)

**Education will sink: Bishop (Australian, 5 Dec)** – “Newly elected Opposition Deputy Leader Julie Bishop has warned that education would be “submerged” by the Rudd government following the portfolio's addition to incoming deputy prime minister Julia Gillard's responsibilities.” [more](#)

**Tony Smith to take on Gillard (Australian, 5 Dec)** – “Tony Smith, the Liberal member for the east Melbourne seat of Casey, was today named the man in charge of taking on Julia Gillard, Labor's Education Minister and Deputy Prime Minister. ... Tony Smith will be responsible for education, apprenticeships and training.” [more](#)

**Relief as RQF pronounced dead (Campus Review, 4 Dec: 6)** – Labor has been urged to make good on its promise that any new research quality assessment will be simpler than the now dead-in-the-water Research Quality Framework. The Coalition's election defeat spells the end of the RQF in its current form, although Labor has indicated it supports the idea of a research quality assurance system”.

**Getting business on board (Campus Review, 4 Dec: 7)** – “Perhaps the most telling indictment of Australian research is that most businesses think it's completely irrelevant – 49 out of every 50 firms in fact, according to Australian Bureau of Statistics”.

**Easy to get mired in metrics (Campus Review, 4 Dec: 10)** – “Australia is enjoying more success in research commercialisation than sceptics would have everyone believe, particularly when it comes to spin-off companies.”

**AUSTRALIA: Research quality scheme scrapped (University World News, 2 Dec)** – “Plans to introduce a national research quality assessment scheme for Australian universities have been abandoned following the election of a Labor government last week. The cost, however, will be high as tens of millions of dollars have already been spent by the government and universities preparing for the introduction of the controversial scheme next year.” [more](#)

## New Publications

**European Commission, *Study on the extent and impact of higher education governance reform across Europe*** – “The aim of the analysis presented in the overview is limited to a closer investigation of the following two issues:

1. How and by what means have national governance frameworks changed? What are the major themes and developments?
2. How and by what means has the autonomy of higher education institutions and professional leadership changed? What are the major themes and developments?

To access the reports, navigate to [http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/reports/index\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/education/doc/reports/index_en.html)

**Patrick M. Callan, Peter T. Ewell, Joni E. Finney, Dennis P. Jones, *Good Policy, Good Practice - Improving Outcomes and Reducing Costs in Higher Education: A Guide for Policymakers*, The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education** – “This report describes a wide range of successful strategies that states can draw from to increase the educational attainment of their residents while holding down higher education costs.”

To access the report, navigate to [http://www.highereducation.org/reports/reports\\_center.shtml](http://www.highereducation.org/reports/reports_center.shtml)

**Stéphan Vincent-Lancrin, *The Crisis of Public Higher Education: A Comparative Perspective*, Center for Studies in Higher Education** – “This paper analyses international aggregated data and examines to what extent there has been a crisis of public tertiary education in OECD countries in the past decade.” To access this paper, navigate to <http://cshe.berkeley.edu/publications/publications.php?id=288>

## New Conference Listings

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

**EUA Spring Conference, *Governance of European Universities Post 2010 (II): Enhancing Institutional Mission and Profiles*, Barcelona, 27-29 March 2008** – “During the meeting, participants will examine the policies and strategies being pursued by higher education institutions and European, regional or national authorities to improve the effectiveness of increasingly diverse higher education institutions and systems.”

To find out more, navigate to

[http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no\\_cache=1&tx\\_ttnews\[tt\\_news\]=434&tx\\_ttnews\[backPid\]=1](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=434&tx_ttnews[backPid]=1)

**EUA Experts conference: *Towards Financially Sustainable European Higher Education Institutions*, Brussels, 7-8 February 2008** – “In an increasingly competitive environment Europe’s Higher Education Institutions must find a way to become financially sustainable. This is why EUA is organising a high-level conference in Brussels, Belgium that will bring together experts from across Europe to identify the key elements necessary for financial survival. Policy makers, institutional leaders and researchers will explore the links between funding and autonomy, accountability and governance structures and pinpoint the key features of sound costing systems.” To find out more, navigate to <http://www.eua.be>

**The Guardian HE Summit 2008: *The Business of Higher Education*, London, 11 and 12 February 2008** – “The annual Guardian higher education summit will examine the global, research, and educational challenges facing higher education in the UK. This major strategic conference - for senior higher education leaders, directors and managers - will examine and set out the vision of where and what UK HE should be in the next 5 - 10 years, and then explore how to make it a reality.”

To find out more, navigate to <http://www.hesummit.com/>

## 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](mailto: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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