

14 February 2008

- [News Items & Articles](#)
- [New Publications](#)
- [New Conference Listings](#)

News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

SPECIAL REPORT: Indigenous Education (University World News, 10 Feb) – “The challenges facing the world's indigenous people are daunting and ever-present. They range from achieving land rights and self-determination for their communities to tackling widespread poverty, alcohol and drug abuse, and – perhaps most important – low educational outcomes.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Gillard removes link between AWA offers and funding in universities (Workplace Express, 13 Feb) – “University funding will no longer be tied to universities offering AWAs to their employees, under legislation introduced to Parliament by Education Minister Julia Gillard this afternoon.” [more](#)

Compacts to change campuses' make-up (Australian, 13 Feb) – “The federal Government has committed itself to a radical shift from centralised sectoral reform to mission-based compacts between the commonwealth and individual institutions aimed at improving operational flexibility.” [more](#)

Unis rely on 'risky' income (Australian, 13 Feb) – “Australian universities need to reduce their reliance on risky income sources such as international students and share market-based endowment funds, says the head of Universities Australia.” [more](#)

Victoria to review university Acts (Campus Review, 12 Feb: 1, 3) – “The Victorian Government will review the Acts governing its universities, in the first comprehensive overhaul of the state's higher education legislation in half a century”.

Diversity, research impact high on ALP agenda (Campus Review, 12 Feb: 1, 4) – “An announcement outlining the timeline for the new research quality assurance system is imminent, but other details are scant on the ground”.

Mediocre seems not to matter (Australian, 6 Feb) – “As Group of Eight executive director Mike Gallagher put it in a recent address at the University of Sydney, the nation's international education marketing agencies have delivered persistent "messages other than valuing intellectual achievement", and a "long tail of mediocrity" now threatens the sector's international reputation.” [more](#)

Education trumps tourism (Australian, 6 Feb) – “Education has replaced tourism as Australia's biggest services export and become the country's third top export overall, trailing behind only coal and iron ore production.” [more](#)

ATN outperforming peers in research: Barlow (Campus Review, 5 Feb: 1, 4) – “The Australian Technology Network group of universities have outperformed their peers in research performance, although they face several threats in the current environment which could threaten the network's status”.

New Publications

World Bank, *The Road Not Travelled: Education Reform in the Middle East and North Africa* – “This publication presents a comprehensive economic analysis of the impact of education investments on the region, as well as demographic changes, globalisation, labour migration, and the role of the labour market. It underlines that countries in the Middle East and North Africa need to overhaul their education systems to meet the demands of an increasingly competitive world and realize the potential of their large and growing youth population.” [more](#)
[http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=471](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=471)

Romina Boarini and Hubert Strauss, *The Private Internal Rates of Return to Tertiary Education: New Estimates for 21 OECD Countries*, Economics Department Working Papers No. 591, OECD – “This study provides estimates of the private Internal Rates of Return (IRR) to tertiary education for women and men in 21 OECD countries, for the years between 1991 and 2005. ... The study discusses various policy levers for shaping individual incentives to invest in tertiary education and provides some illustrative quantification of the impact of policy changes on those incentives.” [more](#)

New Conference Listings

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

21st annual CHER Conference, *Excellence and Diversity in Higher Education. Meanings, Goals, and Instruments*, 11 - 13 September 2008, Pavia, Italy - The CHER Conference aims at taking a deeper and critical look on the topic dismantling and complementing this picture. In order to do so, three main questions are raised: What is excellence? What is excellence for? How can excellence be developed in mass higher education? Participants are encouraged to address these questions presenting and discussing research-based analyses, and assuming a multi-level approach and a comparative perspective. For further information, navigate to <http://www.unipv.it/cirsis/21cher/>

AEI Industry Forum 2008, *Globally Connected*, Melbourne, 8-10 April 2008 – “This three day event will commence with a plenary day aimed at both domestic and international stakeholders. Presentations from a range of key speakers will examine how we can aspire to worlds best practice within our education systems, assess our ability to learn from other systems, and develop new visions, partnerships and practices. Days two and three will cover the latest updates and trends across global markets and also provide delegates with an opportunity to meet with AEI Counsellors. Days two and three will be restricted to members of Australian CRICOS registered organisations, Australian education industry bodies and Australian Commonwealth or State/Territory government agencies.” For further information, navigate to http://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/Events/AEI_Industry_Forum08_About.htm

EUA Autumn Conference, Rotterdam, The Netherlands, 23-25 October 2008 – The conference “will consider how best to promote the development of inclusive and responsive universities able to cope with the numerous challenges facing European universities.” To find out more navigate to <http://www.eua.be>

EURADA Annual Conference, Agora 2008: Towards Better RDA – University Partnerships for Regional Economic Development, Brussels, Belgium, 6-7 March 2008 – “EUA is actively involved in several sessions of the conference to explore how to improve the synergies between universities and Regional Development Agencies (RDA) and how to increase entrepreneurship to foster regional innovation and competitiveness. EURADA conferences bring together its members-practitioners from the RDAs.” To find out more, navigate to [http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=469](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=241&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=469)

International Coaching Workshop "Creating R&D value - Roads to Capital", France, 21 & 22 February 2008 – “This Workshop will provide extensive information on: 7th EU-framework programme opportunities, calls and project proposal; IPR, partnerships, adding value to technology; incubation and business planning; and alternative funding opportunities (venture capital, etc.)” To find out more, navigate to http://www.match2biosme.com/content.asp?menu_id=106&id=61&langue_id=1

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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