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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

SPECIAL REPORT: Universities and community engagement (University World News, 24 Feb) – “Around the world, community engagement is widely accepted as one of the core functions of public universities along with teaching and research. It nevertheless remains regarded by most higher education institutions as a moral rather than a strategic imperative, with few institutional returns, and so receives limited intellectual, managerial and financial resources.” [more](#)

Higher Education Organisations team up to launch EU-Asia Higher Education Platform (EUA, 21 Feb) – “A consortium of three major higher education organisations – the European University Association (EUA), the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) and the Netherlands Organisation for International Cooperation in Higher Education (Nuffic) – has been selected by the European Commission to establish an EU-Asia Higher Education Platform for European and Asian academics and policy makers.” [more](#)

The Talloires Network: Building a Global Movement of Engaged Universities (GUNI, 21 Feb) – “A revolution is underway in higher education on all continents—a movement to recognize the university’s role in educating students for lives of civic engagement and social responsibility and to provide students with opportunities to gain the skills necessary to assume these roles.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Carrick spared Rudd’s razor (Australian, 27 Feb) – “The Rudd Government appears to have bowed to criticism and transferred an unpopular \$30 million cut from the Carrick Institute to the contentious Learning and Teaching Performance Fund.” [more](#)

Mergers a must to sit atop the world (Australian, 27 Feb) – “The two leading research universities in Melbourne or Sydney should be merged to achieve cost savings rather than take scarce public resources from younger universities, University of Canberra vice-chancellor Stephen Parker said.” [more](#)

Larkins calls for right to set fees (Australian, 27 Feb) – “THE HECS loan system should be deregulated and universities should be free to set student fees for degrees, prominent vice-chancellor Richard Larkins says.” [more](#)

Split responsibility lacks bite (Australian, 27 Feb) – “The lack of a national body responsible for all of tertiary education has meant that the sectors have grown increasingly apart, sometimes drifting apart by their different dynamics, but often driven apart by incompatible policies.” [more](#)

It's time... to change the policy framework (Campus Review, 26 Feb: 8-9) – “Australian higher education is a perverse beast indeed. We have a system than penalises excellence while promoting mediocrity, and the time is ripe to embrace change.”

Social Inclusion: a watershed in equity (Campus Review, 26 Feb: 10-11) – “Social inclusion is important for any university and is likely to be part of university compacts – along with teaching and research.”

DIISR Media Release - New Era for Research Quality (DIISR, 26 Feb) – “The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, today announced his plans for a new research quality and evaluation system. The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative, to be developed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in conjunction with the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, will assess research quality using a combination of metrics and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.” [more](#)

AUSTRALIA: Mixed attitudes to community involvement (University World News, 24 Feb) – “If their annual reports are any guide, Australian universities take community engagement seriously although attitudes clearly vary from one institution to the other, as does the nature of involvements that occur.” [more](#)

Uni chief attacks Chubb on fund (Canberra Times, 23 Feb) – “Professor Chubb antagonised a number of university chiefs this week with a call for Labor to abandon the Dawkins reforms of the 1980s and channel more funding to the top-performing universities, to propel Australia into the world league of research. ... ‘I think the basic setting for higher education policy reform is one that probably both parties recognise, and that is diversity you want a diverse sector with 38 universities doing 38 things splendidly well, but, crucially, you want each of them funded and valued for what they are doing well,’ he said.” [more](#)

New Publications

Enders, J. and Jongbloed, B. (Forthcoming) *Public-Private Dynamics in Higher Education.*

Expectations, Developments and Outcomes – Selected papers presented in the 2004 conference of the Consortium of Higher Education Researchers (CHER) will be published shortly in a new book: *Public-Private Dynamics in Higher Education. Expectations, Developments and Outcomes.* The book, edited by Jürgen Enders and Ben Jongbloed and published by Transcript Verlag in Bielefeld, addresses the changing relationships and boundaries between the public and private spheres in higher education. The book is for sale for (only) €36 and has more than 500 pages. More info on the book and its contributing authors may be found at:

<http://www.transcript-verlag.de/ts752/ts752.htm>

Universities Australia, *Solutions for Building Australia's Human Capital Through Universities, Position*

Paper No. 1/08 – “The paper proposes a package of support for the higher education sector which is fully consistent with the broad budget parameters facing the Federal Government, but also allows the contribution of universities to government goals for the nation to be enhanced into the future.” To access this paper, navigate to

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

New Conferences and Events

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

LH Martin Institute Executive Seminar Series, *Strategic Institutional Positioning*, Professor Frans van Vught, Brisbane 17 March 2008, Melbourne 19 March 2008 – “The workshop will be in two parts. The first will consist of a presentation, followed by discussion. The presentation will address the following broad issues: • globalisation and internationalisation in higher education; • the dynamics of diversity in higher education systems; • the reputation race; • impacts on and consequences for higher education institutions on these three sets of variables.” To find out more, navigate to <http://www.mihelm.unimelb.edu.au/news/seminars.html>

6th Annual Higher Education Summit, Sydney, 3-4 April 2008 – “The program will offer vital updates on the future direction of policy, funding, regulation and examine a range of governance approaches and development strategies. The agenda will focus especially on plans for better interaction with the demands and cultural frameworks of business, government and the general public.” To find out more, navigate to http://www.informa.com.au/ibcoz/marlin/system/render.jsp?MarlinViewType=MARKT_EFFORT&siteid=3000000421&

CHEMP International Study Tour, US and Canada (visiting San Francisco Bay Area, Seattle, Vancouver and Victoria), 6-15 August 2008 - Designed for university executives/managers, governing body members, and university commercialisation company executives, this program will focus particularly on:

- Research commercialisation and industry partnerships
- Leadership, governance and strategic direction setting
- Funding issues and private higher education
- Graduate studies and research management
- Building new 'on-campus' integrated urban communities

Scheduled immediately before the International Meeting of University Administrators (IMUA) to be held in Vancouver from 17-21 August 2008.

To find out more about our study our, navigate to <http://www.une.edu.au/chemp/activity/tours/2008tour.php>

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.