

10 April 2008

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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Researchers believe results culture puts quality at risk (THE, 10 Apr) – "Three in four academics believe that pressure to increase research productivity is a threat to the quality of research, according to a survey of 1,700 UK scholars." [more](#)

Launch of REF to be delayed a year (THE, 10 Apr) – "Funding changes rescheduled to give more time to pilot new metrics-based system". [more](#)

English universities face funding falls (Education Guardian, 8 Apr) – "Universities face tougher times ahead after years of funding increases, the head of the Higher Education Funding Council for England has warned." [more](#)

SPECIAL REPORT: Infrastructure - Critical but neglected (University World News, 6 Apr) – "Higher education and research ministers, university managers and others responsible for maintaining and providing safe, comfortable working conditions and adequate space for increasing numbers of students must find the funds to keep university buildings up to acceptable standards, and to ensure they are investing in the latest technologies to produce the skills and innovation needed to keep a step ahead in today's fiercely competitive, knowledge-driven global economy. How are they doing? Our correspondents report." [more](#)

EUROPE: EUA plots future for university leadership (University World News, 6 Apr) – "The nature of university leadership in Europe will have to change as institutions respond to the developments of a competitive knowledge economy while meeting the demand for greater social cohesion. This was one of the conclusions of the European University Association conference at the University of Barcelona late last month." [more](#)

Regulation poses threat to sector's 'resilience', warns Warwick chief (THE, 3 Apr) – "Reviews and initiatives put pressure on universities to constantly prove their worth." [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Scientists savage ALP hub plan (Australian, 9 Apr: 21) – "Twelve universities at the heart of the country's innovation system and the group that speaks for 60,000 scientists and technologists have expressed serious reservations about the Rudd Government's proposed "hubs and spokes" system for sharpening the nation's research effort." [more](#)

Student places lost to the boom (Australia, 9 Apr: 23) – "Eight universities have handed back to the government or deferred 4041 university places worth \$34 million as the resources boom and high employment continue to depress student demand." [more](#)

Australia in Thomson's top 10 (Campus Review, 8 Apr: 1, 4) – "Australia continues to punch well above its weight both in its output of academic publications and the amount they're cited, according to recent analysis by global research and development scrutineers Thomson Scientific".

Citations a good start, but lets broaden metrics (Campus Review, 8 Apr:1, 4) - "Citations are an important measure of research excellence but much more needs to be measured by the new Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) system, according to research experts."

Sustainability and engagement (Campus Review, 8 Apr: 9) – "Engagement with whom? To whom should I talk? Well, who employs my students? Who needs my discoveries? Answer these questions, Greenfield says, and staff are well on the way to working out where they should focus their research effort."

A funding review (Campus Review, 8 Apr: 10, 12) – "Government funding drives behaviour as universities scramble to meet certain indicators".

New Publications

Australian Education International, *Country Education Profiles: Australia 2008* – "The Australia CEP describes the Australian education system, including higher education, vocational education and training and school education. The Profile is used internationally by individuals, educational institutions, government agencies and others seeking information about Australian educational qualifications and the structure and regulation of education in Australia." To access the publication, navigate to <https://aei.dest.gov.au/AEI/CEP/Default.htm>

Center for International Education, *Spring 2008, No. 51, International Higher Education* – Articles include The Subprime Market and International Higher Education, Foreign Backed Universities and articles from Africa, India, Israel and Europe. To access the latest issue, navigate to http://www.bc.edu/bc_org/avp/soe/cihe/newsletter/Number51/Number51.htm

DEST, *Scholarships for a Competitive Future* – "The Government is keen to consult widely with stakeholders and interested parties about the new scholarships, including which disciplines should be covered under the National Priority Scholarships. To facilitate this, the Minister for Education, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, released a Discussion Paper on 7 April 2008 for comment." To access the discussion paper, navigate to http://www.dest.gov.au/sectors/higher_education/policy_issues_reviews/key_issues/scholarship/Scholarships_Compet

Go8 update, April – Newsletter of the Group of Eight available from <http://www.go8.edu.au/>

Higher Education Funding Council for England, *Counting what is measured or measuring what counts? League tables and their impact on higher education institutions in England, April 2008/14 Issues paper* – "This report was commissioned by HEFCE to investigate league tables and their impact on higher education institutions in England. It presents findings from an analysis of five league tables, and an investigation of how higher education institutions respond to league tables generally and the extent to which they influence institutional decision-making and actions." To access the report, navigate to http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2008/08_14/

New Conferences and Events

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

OECD/CERI International Conference, *Learning in the 21st Century: Research, Innovation and Policy*, Paris, 15-16 May 2008 – "The OECD/CERI International Conference, on the occasion of CERI's 40th anniversary, will address the state of the art on learning at an international conference on "Learning in the 21st Century: Research, Innovation and Policy". This conference that will take place at the OECD Headquarters, Paris, on 15-16 May 2008, is a forum for the discussion of recent major CERI analyses on Learning Sciences and Brain Research, Alternative Models of Learning, and New Millennium Learners. It will incorporate related OECD analyses on learning and learning environments -PISA and the Programme on Educational Building (PEB)." To find out more, navigate to http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_37455_40406535_1_1_1_37455,00.html

4th National Conference, *The Role of Higher Education in the Regions: Driving economic, civic and societal development*, 21 May 2008, Manchester – "ringing together HEIs, Regional Development Agencies (RDAs) and the voluntary and community sector, this important event will consider how to grasp and capitalise on the opportunities to develop 'third stream' activity, will examine future directions for the regional agenda, and will set out how to enhance regional engagement to the benefit of students, the regional economy and beyond." To find out more, navigate to <http://www.neilstewartassociates.com/jb248/>

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

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