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News Items & Articles

INTERNATIONAL ITEMS

Research into university league tables shows room for improvement (HEFCE, 8 Apr) – "The researchers found that the rankings of the most influential league tables of UK institutions largely reflect reputational factors such as entry qualifications, level of degree attained and Research Assessment Exercise grades." [more](#)

FINLAND: Merger fever hits universities (University World News, 20 Apr) – "The Finnish higher education sector is about to enter a phase of institutional mergers. Perhaps this is long overdue given that Finland currently has 20 universities with 176,000 enrolments, and 26 polytechnics with another 130,000, to service its five million-strong population." [more](#)

Commission urges universities to improve knowledge transfer activities (EUA, 17 Apr) – "The European Commission last week adopted a recommendation which provides universities and other public research organizations with a series of principles designed to encourage more effective management of intellectual property (IP) in their knowledge management activities." [more](#)

The verdict: universities are failing too few people (THE, 17 Apr) – "Universities "don't fail enough people" and are setting pass marks too low, panels set up by the Government to gauge student opinion have heard." [more](#)

Business to fund 30,000 new places in university shake-up (The Guardian, 14 Apr) – "Radical plans to reshape universities by making them more business-friendly and targeting most future new course places at adults in work are laid out today." [more](#)

AUSTRALIAN ITEMS

Academics, unis drive summit goals (Australian, 23 Apr) – "Universities were barely mentioned as a sector at the 2020 Summit in Canberra last weekend, although academics attended in force, contributed many of the ideas and will be crucial in their eventual implementation." [more](#)

HECS discount offer to suit wealthy (Australian, 23 Apr) – "Rich university students will be the biggest beneficiaries of any 2020-inspired scheme to offer HECS discounts in exchange for community service, a leading economist has warned." [more](#)

HEEF balance flourishes despite rocky market (Campus Review, 22 Apr: 3) – "The Higher Education Endowment Fund will abandon initial proposals for it to play a role in managing university endowments and to solicit donations directly from philanthropists."

Melbourne's grand plan (Campus Review, 22 Apr: 6) – "Melbourne's radical experiment in higher education reform is now under way with its first intake of students."

AUSTRALIA: Too few graduates – too many tradespeople (University World News, 20 Apr) – "Australia faces a desperate shortage of university-trained professionals whereas the new Labor government and its conservative predecessor have promoted vocational training. Ignoring the need for government to create more university places for its young people." [more](#)

New Publications

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education, *Partnerships for Public Purposes: Engaging Higher Education in Societal Challenges of the 21st Century* – "This report summarizes the discussion from an invitational roundtable that engaged fifteen leaders in higher education. The essay finds that colleges and universities have become preoccupied with advancing their prestige instead of achieving publicly-defined purposes, and calls for the restoration of a greater sense of public purpose to learning in ways that directly meet the country's educational needs for the 21st century." To access this publication, navigate to http://www.highereducation.org/reports/reports_center.shtml

CHERI, Open University and Hobsons Research, *Counting what is measured or measuring what counts? League tables and their impact on higher education institutions in England, April 2008/14 Issues Paper, HEFCE* – "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/

Commission of the European Communities, *Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and Code of Practice for universities and other public research organisations* – To access this document, navigate to [http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=531](http://www.eua.be/index.php?id=48&no_cache=1&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=531)

Fuglestad, K. *Diversity In The Knowledge Economy And Society: Heterogeneity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, NIFU-STEP* – "The authors address the concept of heterogeneity in a multi-disciplinary fashion, including perspectives from evolutionary economics and innovation system studies, and relate this approach to existing theories in a broad range of fields." To find out more, navigate to http://english.nifustep.no/english/news/diversity_in_the_knowledge_economy_and_society_heterogeneity_innovation

New Conferences and Events

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

Does size matter? - universities competing in a global market, Reykjavik, Iceland, 5-6 June 2008 – "Is size necessary for success, and is higher education bound to follow the path of other industries with fewer and fewer

larger and larger actors? Join us in Iceland to hear from some leading practitioners and commentators and have your say on these questions. Keynote speaker: Sir Alan Gilbert, President of the University of Manchester. To find out more, navigate to <http://www.congress.is/doessizematter2008/index.asp>

The 20th International Conference on Higher Education (ICHE), *The Role of the University in Bridging Civilisations*, Malaysia, 22-24 August 2008 - "ICHE and UKM have launched a call for papers for the conference, which will discuss universities' role in "shaping an integrated world community as universities prepare their students for 'global leadership', a 'wise society' and 'responsibility for ecological survival'." To find out more, navigate to <http://www.intconfhighered.org>

AIR 2008 Annual Forum, *Adapting to Meet New Challenges*, 24-28 May 2008 – "One of the greatest attributes of an institutional researcher is the ability to adapt; whether it be developing a new set of skills, anticipating and responding to institutional needs, or changing directions in the middle of a project, being able to adapt is required of all institutional researchers. The sessions that will be presented will provide you with new skills and knowledge to help you adapt to these challenges." To find out more, navigate to <http://www.airweb.org/?page=4>

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 tour, 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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