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ISSUE NO. 10 • AUGUST–OCTOBER 2013

A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR
UNIVERSITIES BY QS ASIA

www.qsnews2wow-u.com

MICA (P) 190/07/2011

Qassim University to promote education in India's Muslim-populated areas



Qassim University representatives with their Indian counterparts. (Source: Tauheed Education Trust)

Qassim University of Saudi Arabia will be promoting higher education, research and training in Muslim-populated areas in India.

Kishan Ganj district of Bihar with a 70% Muslim population has been selected as the starting point of this mission. Qassim University dispatched a four-member delegation—led by Pro Vice Chancellor Abdur Rahman Saleh Raham Al Wasel—to visit the area and identify their primary higher education needs.

Motiur Rahman Madani, chairman of Tauheed Educational Trust—an institution working to promote education—said Qassim University had expressed its willingness to respond to the Trust's initiative and help promote education and research in backward Muslim-populated areas. He added that after Kishan Ganj, the university's delegation will visit some other poor, Muslim-populated areas of the country. He further mentioned that Qassim University will also provide scholarships to deserving students of these areas.



QS World University Rankings approved by IREG—Observatory on Academic Rankings and Excellence



QS Quacquarelli Symonds is the first compiler of global and regional university rankings to receive the "IREG Approved" label for three of its research outputs.

The International Ranking Expert Group (IREG) Executive Committee, at its meeting in Warsaw on May 15, 2013, decided to grant to QS the rights to use the "IREG Approved" label in relation to the following three rankings: QS World University Rankings, QS University Rankings: Asia, and QS University Rankings: Latin America.

The purpose of the audit, conducted by independent experts, is to verify that the rankings under review are compiled professionally and with a transparent methodology. Successful organizations also need to show that they observe good practices and respond to a need for relevant information from a range of stakeholders, in particular students, higher education institutions, employers and policy makers.

"QS is committed to the pursuit of best practice in international university rankings. We are, naturally, pleased to be the first international ranking to be IREG Approved," said Ben Sowter, QS head of research. "Beyond the result itself, it signals the willingness to open our systems and processes up to external, independent scrutiny and exhibit the same transparency we demand of universities."

"We are proud and honored to have received the IREG approval," said Nunzio Quacquarelli, managing director of QS. "It is a testimony to the vision, dedication and sheer passion that our team has put into pioneering the evaluation of universities at a

global, regional and subject level." He continued "Since the inception of the World University Rankings in 2004, QS has focused on criteria that are relevant to millions of international students and their parents."

Separately, QS Asia concluded three higher education events from April–June. QS Asia held the 6th WorldClass seminar from April 1–3, 2013, in Taipei city. The seminar convened close to one hundred university leaders from more than sixty institutions to exchange their valuable knowledge, learn from the discussions and presentations, and network in the most relaxed atmosphere. Taipei Medical University was QS's Organizing Partner in this prestigious event.

QS's second biggest event and one of the biggest events in the Middle East and Africa—QS-MAPLE conference and exhibition—concluded its third occurrence on May 8, 2013 in Johannesburg, South Africa. The 3rd QS-MAPLE conference and exhibition was a great success convening more than 200 academics from 108 Institutions and from a record-breaking array of 45 countries to exchange their valuable knowledge and explore potential partnerships. Also, for the first time in the history of QS higher education events, two universities from two continents—University of Johannesburg from Africa and Nanyang Technological University from Asia—co-hosted the conference.

Finally, the QS *in conversation* seminar—co-hosted by Jordan University of Science and Technology in Jordan from June 9–10, 2013—proved to be a great success gathering nearly 120 academics from 50 Institutions in 24 countries.

Zhejiang University and Imperial College London to have a joint campus

Zhejiang University—one of China's top five universities—signed a memorandum of understanding with Imperial College London to establish a campus in London for enhanced academic collaboration. The university had previously launched a number of joint projects with other world-leading universities. Situated in the capital of Zhejiang province, Hangzhou, the university has about 44,000 students, half of whom are postgraduates.

According to the vice president of Zhejiang University, Prof Yonghua Song, both institutions will explore the feasibility of establishing facilities in the new western campus of Imperial College for joint academic activities.

"I believe that such cooperation not only benefits students and teachers, but also society," Zhang Xiuqin, head of the department of International Cooperation and Exchanges at the Ministry of Education. According to the Ministry of Education, as of January 2013 China has about 1,780 joint institutions and programs, including NYU Shanghai, Wenzhou Kean University and Kunshan Duke University. Chinese universities are increasingly looking overseas to broaden their horizons. However, only about 70 Chinese universities have joint programs overseas, including campuses. The Education Ministry would like to encourage more eligible universities to establish an overseas presence.

Xiamen University—listed among the top 20 universities in China—announced this year that it will open its first overseas campus in Malaysia in September 2015. Also last year, Tongji University in Shanghai announced the opening of its first overseas campus in Florence, Italy.

According to a report by the Social Sciences Academy Press, in 2011 nearly 340,000 Chinese students went abroad for further study, including the high school graduates who decided to skip China's national college entrance exam.

Manipal University India's Greenest university

Manipal University has for the second consecutive year won the Golden Peacock Environment Management Award (GPEMA). The award was instituted by the World Environment Foundation in 1998. It is designed to encourage and recognize effective implementation of environment management system, and continual improvement. The emphasis is on development, management and country-wide awareness of duties of government, corporations, voluntary sectors and individuals to maintain ecological balance by minimizing adverse environmental impact.

The University was assessed by an awards Jury under the Chairmanship of Justice P. N. Bhagwati, former chief justice of India and member of UN Human Rights Commission. The award was presented at a specially organized "Golden Peacock Awards Nite" on July 19, 2013, New Delhi, in the presence of distinguished business leaders, jurists, academics, environmentalists, economists, legislators and policy makers during the 15th World Congress on Environment Management.

Separately, The Formula Manipal car to race at Hockenheimring at the Formula Student Germany 2013 and CzechRing at the Formula Student Czech Republic 2013 was formally launched by the chancellor of Manipal University, Dr Ramdas M Pai, at the Innovation Centre of Manipal Institute of Technology (MIT) on June 24, 2013.

The car—the fifth one designed and assembled by the students of MIT—will participate in two competitions, for the first time in the history of Formula Manipal. Since inception in 2008, Formula Manipal cars have participated in competitions in Italy (2008 and 2011), UK (2009), and Austria (2010).

The university has also decided to explore the possibility of a having its own track where the university's future cars could practice before going to international competitions.

Established in 1993, Manipal University has emerged as the leading higher education provider in India with 24 professional institutions in medicine, engineering, management and humanities. The University is making marked improvement in research as well. Just recently, SCImago research group declared Manipal University as the leading research institution among non-government universities in India. Manipal University has reached the top spot in the this category after publishing 2,762 research documents. VIT and BITS are second and third with 1,183 and 911 research documents respectively.

Spread over 600 acres of green expanse, the university is home to 28,000 students pursuing undergraduate and post-graduate programs in various subjects. The university has a strong alumni network of over 94,000 members.

QS News2WOWU

QS News-2-WOW-U is a quarterly newsletter published by QS Asia Quacquarelli Symonds, the Singapore-based regional subsidiary of QS Quacquarelli Symonds, producer of the widely respected QS World University Rankings in London. www.qsnews2wow-u.com

Editorial Profile

QS News-2-WOW-U features news, views and pictures on higher education achievements and developments in Asia, Middle East and Africa that are extraordinary, outstanding and unusual.

Circulation Profile

Up to 5,000 complimentary copies of the print edition are sent to the presidents of universities in Asia, Middle East and Africa. Copies are also distributed at QS events worldwide, including QS-APPLE and QS-MAPLE international higher education conferences, and QS WorldClass globalisation seminar.

The online edition is also emailed to our database of over 300,000 university academics and administrators across the world.

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MICA (P) 190/07/2011

Tel Aviv University researchers introduce nerve-regeneration solution

While damage to some parts of the body like the liver is repairable, other parts like the nervous system never recover from damage or their recovery process is very slow, causing painful and limited mobility, or even paralysis.

Fortunately, this problem seems to have been resolved as a team of Tel Aviv University (TAU) researchers, including Dr Shimon Rochkind of the Faculty of Medicine and Prof Zvi Nevo of TAU's Department of Human Molecular Genetics and Biochemistry have invented a biodegradable implant that helps the body repair damaged peripheral nerves. The implant is combined with a newly-developed Guiding Regeneration Gel (GRG) that increases nerve growth, ultimately restoring the functionality of the damaged nerve. The solution has already been tested in animals and is expected to be ready for clinical use in a few years.

The success of this project has been recently reported at several renowned scientific congresses, including the World Federation of Neurological Societies and the European Neurological Society.

HKU researchers have found a cure for AIDS



Hong Kong University researchers have developed a vaccine that boosts the number of a certain white blood cell that fights the HIV virus and can kill it ultimately.

Although the vaccine has been so far tested on mice only and is few years away from clinical application, the researchers' method has already earned a US patent. The vaccine was delivered to the mice via an implant that released doses into the muscle.

"You could say we had a 100% success rate," said Professor Chen

Zhiwei, director of the university's Aids Institute. Chen said the clinical trial could happen in around five years' time. He said he was talking to Tsinghua University and the Chinese Academy of Sciences about adding the new technique to a clinical trial that was being planned for another vaccine.

HIV deaths do not occur due to the body's incapability to fight the virus, but because the HIV virus weakens the body's immune system. The virus can be managed with medication, allowing infected patients to live to an old age.

Boosting the number of a specific type of white blood cells that target the virus—the T cells—has proven effective in treating HIV infections. The DNA vaccine developed at HKU boosts the T cells at a higher frequency than other previous techniques so far have, meaning patients would not have to take HIV medication regularly.

Michael Bartos of UNAids said it was at an early stage, but that "each step forward in new approaches and potential candidate vaccines is good news."

NTU president receives honorary doctorate from Hanyang University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) president, Professor Bertil Andersson has been awarded a prestigious honorary degree by the South Korean Hanyang University—his fourth in three years. The honorary doctorate was awarded to Dr Andersson in recognition of his years of research in biochemistry, and for his commitment to education and to the fostering of closer relations between the two universities.

Prior to this, Prof Andersson was honored by Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Symbiosis International University (India), and the University of New South Wales.

The internationally-respected biologist received the Honorary Doctor of Science degree at the Hanyang University's Seoul campus this morning. The degree was conferred by Hanyang University president, Prof Duck-Ho Lim.

Prof Andersson has had an illustrious

career as a plant biochemist of international reputation and has had outstanding achievements in the field of science and engineering. Dr Bertil Andersson played an instrumental role at NTU; he introduced institutional changes leading to new programs and he increased competitive funding for NTU. This has enabled NTU to strengthen its reputation to become the fastest-growing university in the world's top 50.

Prof Andersson has now joined the distinguished list of honorary doctorate recipients from Hanyang University, which includes Harvard University Professor Howard Gardner, who pioneered the theory of multiple intelligences, His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan Bin Mohammed Al Qasimi, an established historian, member of the Supreme Council of the United Arab Emirates and the current ruler of the Sharjah emirate; and Dr Tamás Aján, president of the International Weightlifting Federation and

member of the International Olympic Committee, who contributed to the successful organization of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul.

"I am deeply honored to receive this award by Hanyang University. Hanyang is number one among South Korea's universities for technology transfer. It is also famous for producing a remarkably high number of chief executive officers and executives at Korea's top 100 companies. These are commendable achievements that we in NTU and Singapore can emulate," said Prof Andersson.

Prof Andersson is the author of over 300 papers in photosynthesis research, biological membranes, protein and membrane purification and light stress in plants. In November 2010, he received the Wilhelm Exner Medal in Vienna, Austria, joining an illustrious list of laureates, which includes Nobel Prize winners.



National Chiao Tung University

Taiwan (NCTU)

--A leading research university in Taiwan

2013 QS World University Rankings Asia: 30 TOP 2 in Taiwan



■ NCTU Current Status:

- ◆ 9 colleges, 19 departments and 32 graduate institutes: Colleges of Electrical and Computer Engineering; Computer Science; Engineering; Science; Biological Science and Technology; Management (AACSB-accredited); Humanities and Social Sciences; Hakka Studies, and Photonics
- ◆ No. of Students: 14,624 (Ph.D. students 2,184, Master students 6,913, undergraduates 5,527)
- ◆ No. of International students: 1,044
- ◆ Faculty and staff as of 2013: 963 teaching and research faculty (678 teaching faculty, 285 research faculty)

■ Research – 8 Top Research Centers Focusing on Interdisciplinary Approaches to Explore Cutting Edge Technologies

- ◆ The Nanoelectronics and Infotonics System Research Center
- ◆ Intelligent Information Communications Research Center
- ◆ Frontier Photonics Research Center
- ◆ Biomedical Electronics Center for Translational Research
- ◆ Center for Interdisciplinary Science
- ◆ Center for Bioinformatics Research
- ◆ Brain Research Center
- ◆ Disaster Prevention and Water Environment Research Center

■ 2012 ESI (Essential Science Indicators):

- ◆ 21st in Computer Science (Top 1 in Taiwan); 27th in Engineering; 75th in Physics; 92nd in Material Science

■ 2013 QS Top Universities Subject Rankings:

- ◆ Rank 51-100: Engineering - Electrical and Electronics; Engineering - Mechanical; Statistics and Operational Research
- ◆ Rank 101-150: Computer Sciences and Information Systems; Engineering - Chemical; Engineering - Civil and Structural; Material Sciences; Mathematics
- ◆ Rank 151-200: Communication and Media Studies; Linguistics; Physics

■ NCTU Advantages

- ★ NCTU has laid a firm foundation with the companies in the nearby Hsinchu Science-based Park (HSP) – the Silicon Valley of Taiwan, providing international students with opportunities to participate in the forefront of the cutting edge technologies on the island and around the world. (HSP Annual Gross Revenue: >US\$33 billions in the past three years; total companies: >513; total employees: >150,000).
- ★ NCTU has a distinguished alumni network; more than two-thirds of the CEOs and general managers of the companies in the Park are NCTU alumni.
- ★ NCTU has determined to expand her foreign student population to about at least 10 % of the total student body in the near future.

■ International Students Scholarships

- ◆ Ph.D. students: NT\$15,000 (~US\$500)/month plus tuition waiver
- ◆ Master students: NT\$10,000 (~US\$300)/month plus tuition waiver
- ◆ Undergraduates: NT\$7,000 (~US\$250)/month plus tuition waiver
- ◆ Note: average living cost per person: ~NT\$8,000 (~US\$270)/month



NCTU URL: <http://www.nctu.edu.tw/>

University of Lahore and COMSATS hold QS ranking workshops



QS ranking workshop organized by University of Lahore on April 30 in Lahore, Pakistan.

The University of Lahore (UoL) organized an “International workshop on Quality Based Ranking”—first of its kind in Pakistan—on April 30, 2013 at its Defence road campus, in collaboration with the QS team and the HEC. All universities from Gujrat (Punjab) to southern regions of Pakistan were present at the event.

The QS team explained to the participants how they can enhance the quality of their universities in order to find themselves in the QS World University Rankings and QS Asian University Rankings.

The main objective of this assembly of leaders of quality enhancement in the universities was to formulate strategies and direct the universities’ efforts towards enhancing academic quality and promoting cooperation amongst various higher education institutions in the areas of quality-based ranking, exchange of teachers, and research.

It is worth noting that in 2007, the University of Lahore was the first university from Pakistan to be included in the QS World University Rankings. Some more universities from Pakistan have joined UoL in the past few years.

Following the workshop in Lahore, QS team travelled to Islamabad to participate in the 1st “International Workshop on QS University Rankings” organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT)—on May 2, at Serena Hotel. Higher Education Commission (HEC), Ministry of Science & Technology and National Testing Service collaborated with CIIT in organizing the event.

The workshop was attended by vice chancellors, rectors, presidents and the senior management of universities across the country. Also, among the attendees were academics from the



QS ranking workshop organized by COMSATS Institute of Information Technology (CIIT) on May 2 in Islamabad, Pakistan.

eight campuses of CIIT as well as the top management of HEC, including Executive Director Mukhtar Ahmed.

The QS team consisted of Ms Mandy Mok, the managing director of QS Asia, Mr Michael Fung, director of planning and institutional research in the office of the president at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Mr Hung Truong, senior manager of international affairs at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, and Mr Samuel Wong, senior researcher of QS Intelligence Unit. The team gave presentations on a diverse range of topics related to rankings and internationalization of higher education, in order to help Pakistani universities fulfill their aspirations of becoming world-class institutions.

In the closing ceremony, the vice chancellor of Quaid-e-Azam University and International Islamic University, Dr Masoom Yasinzai, ascertained that all universities believe in rankings and are serious about internationalization. Speaking on the occasion, Dr S. M. Junaid Zaidi, rector of CIIT, highlighted the various initiatives taken by COMSATS to bring itself at par with international standards, and benchmarked rankings as the guiding star. He also said that the only purpose of rankings is for the universities to follow the international norms in a systematic way. He praised the hard work done by the Quality Enhancement Cell (QEC) and the organizing team of this workshop for making this event a huge success.

During both workshops, Ms Mandy Mok (managing director, QS Asia) emphasized that it was of crucial importance for universities to highlight their unique features, and enhance internal institutional growth by focusing on the strategies of “engaging”, “empowering”, and “re-branding”.

Liverpool Hope University hosts entrepreneurship trade fair



Liverpool Hope University’s Hope Business Gateway hosted an entrepreneurship trade fair on April 19, 2013 in the Great Hall at the Creative Campus. The event saw the university’s enterprising students, graduates and staff demonstrate their flair for business by showcasing their companies to external delegates and competing to win an award for Best Trade Stand. They also used the opportunity to trade, network and establish beneficial business links to help them further their enterprises.

Liverpool Hope University is the only ecumenical university foundation in Europe. It places great emphasis on research and innovation. The university has introduced seven fully funded doctoral scholarship opportunities, which together are worth more than £300,000 over three years. In addition, the university has invested a total of £42m in the opening of EDEN (Education and Enterprise) building at Hope Park and the Capstone Theatre. Liverpool Hope University is the only university in Merseyside with a performing arts theatre open to world-class artists and the public. Liverpool’s newest music event, the Liverpool International Jazz Festival is set to become an annual event with the Capstone Theatre at its very heart.

The university’s Library Service provides access to a wide range of physical and online resources to support learning and research. The Library’s collections contain a core print collection of over 309,000 items in a range of formats such as books, newspapers, journals, DVDs and teaching resources. Students can request books to be sent from one location to another.

Over the past five years, on average, 92% of graduates were either in employment or further study six months after graduation. The university provides its students with plenty of opportunities to engage in enterprise activities, from learning more about the world of work to setting up a business through Business Gateway.

Rank No.1 in Asia for Third Straight Year*



- Excelling in science, technology, and business, complemented by humanities and social science
- Incubating entrepreneurs, inventors and innovators
- Contributing to global connectivity and building Mainland China partnerships

8 Vietnamese universities adopt profession-oriented training system

In response to companies' constant demand for "employable" graduates, a number of universities in Vietnam have recently piloted a new model of training called Profession Oriented Higher Education (POHE), which has been successfully applied in many European countries. The new model is expected to familiarize the students with the specific skills they will need in the business world.

An inseparable element of POHE is the strong connection between the colleges and companies, as the latter are directly involved in the training process and are required to provide students with internship opportunities.

According to the Ministry of Education and Training, there are currently eight public universities in Vietnam that apply the POHE model. These include Ha Noi University of Agriculture, the National Economics University and the Universities of Agriculture and Forestry in central Hue City, northern Thai Nguyen province and Ho Chi Minh City. Recently, the model

has been adopted by Ha Noi-based National Economics University at its Tourism and Hospitality Faculty.

The model has been introduced into the universities in order to eliminate the need for basic training for fresh employees, which is both costly and time-consuming for employers. As an example of collaboration with employers, the colleges have increased the number of credits for foreign languages, having learned that companies are not satisfied with the fresh graduates' language skills. In addition, students have to take a career orientation course in order to gain awareness of the profession they will be following.

Furthermore, students are also expected to do a six-month internship with a company that has signed a co-operation agreement with their university.

The Ministry of Education and Training hopes to extend the POHE model to other universities in the future.

Ghana's All Nations University launches 1st satellite

Scientists at the Intelligence Space Systems Laboratory of the All Nations University in Koforidua, launched a miniature satellite called the Cansat into space. Cansat is the precursor to a bigger satellite that the country will launch in 2016.

During its brief stay in space, the satellite will gather information mainly on floods and oil spillages.

"We hope that this practical demonstration of what can be done by students like them will generate more enthusiasm, fire up their imagination to come up with more creative things, and show that it's possible that they'll one day be able to launch their own real satellite into orbit," said Prosper Kofi Ashilevi, director of the Ghana Space Science and Technology Center.

Experts say Ghana will probably develop its own operational satellites in nearly five years' time, which could be used to confront everything from natural disasters to the smuggling of natural resources.

Kasetsart, Chulalongkorn and 5 other Thai universities in QS subject rankings



Seven Thai institutions made it into this year's QS World University Rankings by Subject, for a total of 13 subject areas; QS annually lists the top 200 universities for 30 disciplines, including mathematics, economics, civil engineering, psychology and law.

Kasetsart—Thailand's top rank—is placed 33rd for agriculture. In terms of total number of subjects, Chulalongkorn University is the best performer—ranked in 12 subjects.

"With the Thai government working towards the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, having seven universities in the top 200 was a positive step towards the country's goals," said Ben Sowter, head of research at UK-based QS intelligence unit.

As the "student pays" model for higher education funding is gaining popularity among governments around the world, more and more graduates realize the significance of

employability. QS is the only global rankings system that takes the employers' opinion into account and gives students an up-to-date reflection of what employers are seeking.

On a related note, three Thai universities have maintained their last year's position, with a slight decline in their rankings, in the top 100 list of the latest QS Asian University Rankings—Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University and Chiang Mai University. Furthermore, Thammasat University improved its ranking from 110th to 107th this year.

"The top three institutions are all scoring well in the citation per paper indicator, showing that even though research productivity could be greatly improved, its impact is actually quite encouraging," added Ben Sowter.

"Chulalongkorn University stands out for its scores in the reputational indicators, being considered highly by both academics and employers.

Mahidol University is the next best Thai performer in those indicators," he continued. "However, Thai universities have to keep pace with their rivals in one of the most competitive and dynamic regions in the world."

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology retains the top spot it gained in 2011, a remarkable achievement for an institution that is only 22 years old.

The survey also shows an increase in the number of international students studying at ranked institutions in the region, from 175,286 in 2009 to 255,212 in 2013; total number of international faculty has grown from 21,223 to 35,677.

Asian universities are snapping at the heels of their Western counterparts and it is possible they could overtake them within two decades.

Come to HUFS Meet the World!

A World-Class University Leading Korea's Globalization

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<HUFS Profile - Creating a Global Future, Global Talents>

Campuses	Seoul Campus Global Campus (Yongin) Songdo Campus (Planned)
Colleges	Seoul Campus 10 Colleges, 34 Departments Global Campus (Yongin) 7 Colleges, 42 Departments
Graduate School	8 Graduate Schools
Research Institutes	3 Centers, 27 Institutes
Total No. of Faculty Members	620
No. of International Professors	200
No. of Students	27,708 undergraduate students 3,503 graduate students
No. of International Students	1,431
Total Alumni	110,000

• 30-30-30-30 Strategy

HUFS implements "30-30-30-30 strategy" to cultivate future leaders of the global era. Specifically, HUFS is increasing the proportion of international faculty, international students, lectures in foreign languages, and HUFS students studying abroad to over 30 percent. In this way, HUFS is nurturing talented students with international acumen and practical capabilities.

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The International Summer Session (ISS) at HUFS, offered continuously since 2003, provides a unique opportunity to undergraduates, graduate students, and independent scholars, who want to deepen their understanding of Korea and East Asia. ISS provides students with a carefully planned, intensive 5-week curriculum. International diversity among the student body, as well as among the faculty, is one of the hallmarks of our program.

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HUFS also runs HUFS-KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) Master's Degree. This program is especially designed to offer curricula for public officials in developing countries who seek high-quality education in international development

• University for Peace

The United Nations-mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) was established in Costa Rica in Central America in 1980 through resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly. Students in the HUFS-UPEACE dual master's degree program can take courses in Korea and Costa Rica for one year each and earn two master's degrees from the HUFS Graduate School of International Area Studies and UPEACE concurrently.

"This School has produced leaders -- public servants, diplomats, businesspeople -- who've helped propel the modern miracle that is Korea."
from President Obama's HUFS Speech on March 26, 2012



View of Hankuk University of Foreign Studies Campuses



Sharif University launches a home-made satellite into space

Chancellor Reza Roosta Azad of Iran's Sharif University of Technology (SUT) announced that the university is preparing to orbit a new home-made satellite, called 'Sharif Sat', by the end of summer.

"We are through with building Sharif Sat and the satellite is waiting for launch," said Dr Roosta Azad. Several other satellites waiting in line to be launched, he expressed the hope that Sharif Sat can be sent into orbit by September 2013.

Dr Roosta Azad mentioned that Sharif Sat will orbit at a 500 kilometer distance from the Earth, adding that the satellite will be launched on the back of the previously home-made satellite—"Safir B1" (Ambassador B1).

Earlier this year, head of Iran's Space Agency, Dr Hamid Fazeli, announced that the country will send 6 new satellites—mostly made by Iranian universities—into space in the current

Persian calendar year. "Based on the foreseen timeline, Fajr, Sharif Sat, Tolou, Zafar, and A-Test will be sent to the space by the end of the current year," said Dr Fazeli.

Sharif University of Technology is one of the largest engineering schools in Iran. It was established in 1966 under the name of Aryamehr University of Technology with 54 faculty members and a total of 412 students; in 1980, the university was renamed as Sharif University of Technology. SUT now has a total of 300 full-time faculty members, 430 part-time faculty members and a student body of about 8,000. Originally, the 20 hectare university campus housed four departments: Electrical, Metallurgical, and Mechanical Engineering and Chemistry. Today, the university comprises ten different departments in science and engineering. All departments offer bachelor's, master's and PhD programs.

Rwanda—public universities tuition fees reduced



Students planning to enroll in public universities in the 2013/14 academic year will enjoy lower tuition fees as the Rwandan government has reduced tuition fees in all tertiary institutions—from RF 850,000 (approx US\$1,310) to RF 600,000 (approx US\$925) per year.

"The new policy is aimed at enabling more students in public tertiary education to pay affordable tuition fees and minimize the possibility of losing students who may drop out of public higher learning institutions due to cost," explained Dr Mathias Harebamu, the state minister for Primary and Secondary Education.

At the same time, the government has modified the selection criteria of bursary loans; students in Ubudehe

category 1 and 2 (the most vulnerable students) shall receive 100% government support in the form of loans for tuition fees and living allowances, and those in categories 3 and 4 will receive loans worth 50% of the tuition fees. Students in categories 5 and 6—considered to be from well-off families—will not receive the government loans.

On a separate note, earlier in June, Rwandan MPs endorsed a bill to merge ten universities in the country to form one university—the University of Rwanda. The university is expected to be fully operational from the next academic year, with the six colleges of Education, Science and Technology, Arts and Social Sciences, Business and Economics, Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences, and Health Sciences. The university's main responsibilities will be offering undergraduate, graduate and post-graduate degrees in various fields of science and technology; and stimulating the intellectual and cultural development of Rwanda by through the discovery, transmission and preservation of knowledge.

Sri Lanka setting milestones towards the big goal



Sri Lankan Higher Education Ministry has formulated a mid-term plan (2012–2015), National Higher Education Strategic Management Plan, to take firmer steps towards the country's long-term ambition of becoming a higher education hub by 2020—similar to what Singapore, Malaysia and Australia have done.

"This is why the Ministry invites foreign students to Sri Lanka for their higher studies and world-class universities to set up their branches here," said Higher Education Ministry secretary, Dr Sunil Jayantha Nawaratne.

According to Dr Nawaratne, the ministry hopes to broaden the access to higher education and boost the national enrollment ratio to 20% by 2015. Also, the Ministry plans to transform the local universities into institutions of world-class status.

The new management plan also intends to improve the employability of graduates, partly through a survey conducted by the ministry to ascertain the feasibility of improving the quality of the stakeholders such as students and academic/non-academic staff. In addition, the higher education sector will attract investment and foreign exchange in order to actualize this ambition.

Dr Nawaratne believes that Sri Lanka has a good higher education system, enriched with competent lecturers and professors, with most university courses being conducted in English.

"We wish to transform Sri Lanka into the most cost-effective and quality education hub in the region. We offer quality higher education degrees, diplomas, masters and PhDs at an affordable price. In addition, the expenses for foreign students in Sri Lanka are much lower compared to other foreign countries," said Dr Nawaratne.

PolyU announces final results of Global Student Challenge 2013



Participants of Global Student Challenge 2013
(Photo credit: Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

The Innovation and Entrepreneurship Global Student Challenge (GSC) 2013 organized by Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) concluded on June 27 with University of Dhaka as the Gold Award winner. After rounds of keen competition, the Gold Award of the University Division went to University of Dhaka, Bangladesh and the Secondary School Division Gold Award was snatched by Hankuk Academy of Foreign Studies, South Korea.

Six finalist teams were competing in the University Division and another six teams in the Secondary School Division. These aspiring young people presented their innovative business ideas to a panel of judges comprising of renowned entrepreneurs, business executives, school principals, university professors and venture capitalists from Hong Kong and overseas.

The winning entry presented by the University of Dhaka in Bangladesh was Shurokkha, an affordable, eco-friendly and disposable sanitary pad made from local bamboo fibers for female factory workers. With this home-grown innovation, the team hopes that they could promote good menstrual care and practices in their country, which in turn will nurture a more productive female workforce.

In the Secondary School Division, the Hankuk Academy of Foreign Studies has impressed the judges with their inexpensive and physiologically friendly mosquito eliminator V-Trap. This innovation is conceived in response to the severity of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases. By luring mosquitoes to its built-in glue trap made up of octenol, lactic acid and carbon dioxide—all of which are mosquito attractants but are proven harmless to the human body—V-Trap can eliminate mosquitoes easily, safely and effectively.

This large-scale international event was launched by PolyU in 2010 as a major initiative to embrace internationalization, innovation and entrepreneurship. This year's GSC has attracted 228 teams from secondary schools and universities from 34 countries and territories.

"It is truly impressive to see the widespread support from the community for this event and keen participation of students from different parts of the world. GSC not only helps to unleash students' business sense and creativity, but also helps to heighten PolyU's effort in promoting internationalization, innovation and entrepreneurship," said PolyU president, Professor Timothy W. Tong.

"We take pride in hosting this competition which provides a unique opportunity for students all around

the world to develop innovative and entrepreneurial potential and broaden their global perspective and networks," said Professor Judy Tsui, vice president (International and Executive Education) and chair of GSC organizing committee.

The business proposals were grouped by the sub-themes of Health and Wellness, Lifestyle, Environment and Sustainability, and Corporate Social Responsibility/Social Enterprise.

Winners of Gold, Silver, Bronze, Commendation Awards as well as the Theme Award and Best of the Best Elevator Pitch Award for each division were selected and announced at a gala ceremony at the Mira Hotel. All winning teams were presented with a trophies and cash prizes, and each individual team member received a certificate.



Winning teams receiving their trophies and cash prizes from PolyU President Professor Timothy W. Tong
(Photo credit: Hong Kong Polytechnic University)

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan and World Maritime University build maritime capacity for South Africa

Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) and World Maritime University (WMU) officially launched the National Maritime Year and announced a cooperation agreement that will facilitate building maritime capacity in South Africa through capacitating local tertiary institutions to provide maritime education at postgraduate level.

In addition to this achievement, NMMU was recently awarded the national research chairs in Earth Systems Science, the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa, and Shallow Water Ecosystems.

Based on a study by the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) in 2011, there is urgent need for capacity building regarding maritime skills and research in South Africa. "It is in that

context that high level discussions will also take place around the role that NMMU as a comprehensive institution can play in addressing the wide range of training and research required for South Africa and the rest of SADC to take their rightful place in the maritime domain," said marine law expert and NMMU law professor, Prof Patrick Vrancken.

"As one of the leading South African universities, NMMU is committed to continue engaging in innovative ways with the maritime sector to address the developmental needs of Nelson Mandela Bay, the Eastern Cape Province and the rest of the region," said Prof Vrancken who will be leading the new research chair in the Law of the Sea and Development in Africa.



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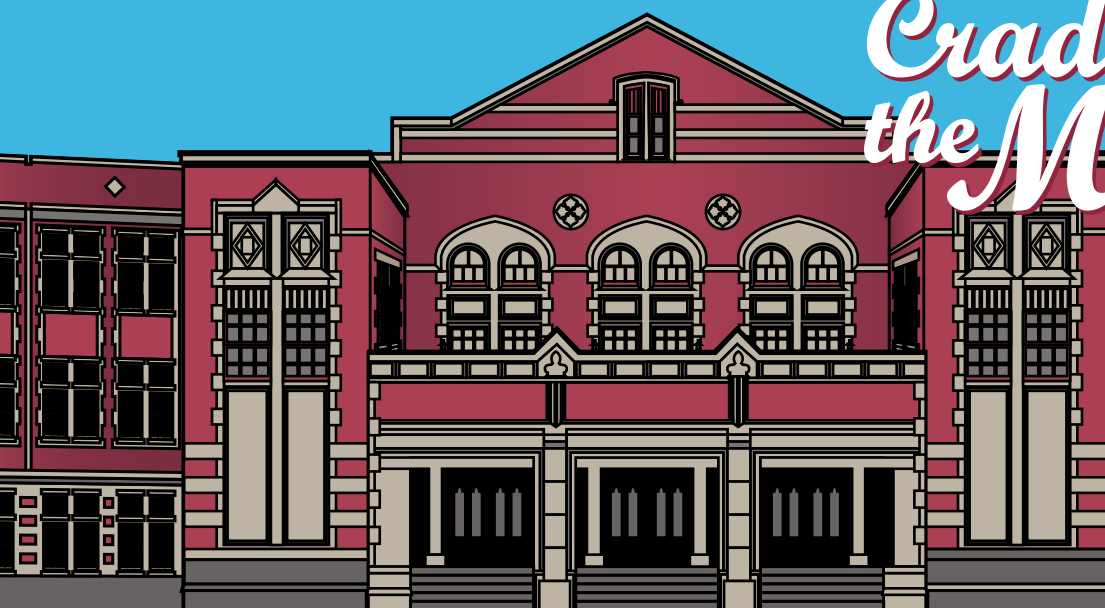
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Tunisia revamps education ties with European Union

In continuation of the European Union's (EU) efforts in modernizing Tunisia's higher education, the union will provide the country with additional funding in order to improve the international cooperation capacity of Tunisian institutions under the Erasmus Mundus and Tempus programs.

EU's additional funding, which is worth €10 million, will allow Tunisian students to attend master's, doctoral or post-doctoral programs that are taught by European universities. In addition, the project is expected to enhance the internationalization of higher education institutions in this Southern Mediterranean country.

Tunisia's participation in Erasmus Mundus and Tempus will include three main activities: Forging Erasmus Mundus and Tempus partnerships between Tunisia and European higher education institutions; awarding scholarships to Tunisian students (at all study levels), researchers (doctoral and post-doctoral candidates) and university staff (academic and administrative) to study in EU universities; and implementing joint projects based on multilateral partnerships between higher education institutions in the EU and in Tunisia.

Abu Dhabi University expands to Dubai



Main building of Abu Dhabi University

Abu Dhabi University, a private institution accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education, is in the early stages of its expansion plans that had been in the pipeline for some time. Chancellor Nabil Ibrahim envisaged the move to be beneficial for students and industry in Dubai—a city with 48,058 university students at more than 50 institutions.

"It's a very important region, mainly because of the fact that it's a trade hub. It's a very dynamic region and also highly competitive in terms of the education market; it's vital that we exist in international regions like Dubai," said Dr Nabil Ibrahim.

The university has a campus in Al Ain, largely serving the military, and is

looking to branch out to Al Gharbia in order to serve the region's emerging industries. Currently, Al Gharbia offers residents degree programs only at the Higher Colleges of Technology and Fatima College of Health Sciences.

Dr Ayoub Kazim, head of Dubai's education clusters (Knowledge Village and Dubai International Academic City) welcomed the university's plans to expand to Dubai. "Abu Dhabi University has played an important role in the development of the region's higher education sector," said Dr Kazim. "The quality of the faculty and the courses on offer are truly world-class and tailored to the demands of local industries; we would welcome any plans for the university to expand in Dubai, as would our students from the UAE and neighbouring countries," he continued.

According to Dr Ibrahim, the Dubai campus would differ from its original campus, catering to the specific needs of the emirate. "We will partner with existing businesses on programs that will be beneficial to them, like we do in Abu Dhabi, and we'll do it in a way that shows a major contribution to their business," he concluded.

Zayed University accredited by AACSB International



Photo credit: Zayed University (ZU)

AACSB International (The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) announced that Zayed University (ZU) has earned accreditation for its College of Business—the stamp of excellence that has been earned by less than 5% of the world's business programs.

Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest serving global accrediting body for business schools.

The association currently accredits 681 business schools in 45 countries. AACSB accreditation can only be achieved after a rigorous procedure of internal review, evaluation, and adjustment and can take several years to complete. During these years, the school develops and implements a plan to meet the AACSB Accreditation Standards—high quality teaching environment, a commitment to continuous improvement, and curricula responsive to the needs of businesses. Additionally, all accredited schools must go through a peer review process every five years in order to maintain their accreditation.

"It takes a great deal of self-evaluation and determination to earn AACSB Accreditation, and I commend Zayed University for its dedication to management education, as well as its leadership in the community," said Robert D. Reid, executive vice president and chief accreditation

officer of AACSB International. "Through accreditation, Zayed has not only met specific standards of excellence, but has also made a commitment to ongoing improvement to ensure that the institution will continue to deliver high quality education to its students," he continued.

Zayed University is an educational center of excellence in an emerging and evolving nation. Proudly bearing the name of the founder of the nation, the late Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, the university stands for innovation, inspiration, and education.

ZU was founded for UAE National women in 1998, with campuses in Dubai and Abu Dhabi. Today, the University is educating more than 7,121 male and female students from 19 countries to compete and thrive in a global environment.

Bahrain undergoes strategic higher education reforms

Accelerated reform of higher education continues under the leadership of Prof Riyad Hamzah, general secretary of the Higher Education Council (HEC), with the launch of several key strategic projects that will transform the landscape of higher education in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Already delivered this year has been the first online data collection portal that allows the higher education council to gain access to the most recent student data from all universities. Reports generated from the new system will allow analysis of trends in order to formulate policies based on accurate data. In addition, student information has been improved considerably by the launch of a complete guide to higher education courses for students, which provides details on all available programs together with key information about each course. This is a big step in providing students and parents with up-to-date and relevant information to help them make informed choices about their futures—next in the pipeline is the development of a student app.

HEC has begun work with PwC middle east education practice to develop a 10 year higher education strategy which will provide a clear direction and way forward for the sector, with a particular focus on closing the gap between higher education and the labor market as well as science and technology. In addition, HEC will work with Stanford University to develop the first national strategy for scientific research which should act as the catalyst for universities to focus their attention on result-oriented research.

Among other significant projects that are underway is the introduction of accreditation for higher education institutions, which is being delivered in partnership with the British Accreditation Council (BAC). This will introduce international standards that must be met in order for an institution to be accredited, the benefit of which will be significant to students, parents and employers in Bahrain and in the region.



Cameron Mirza (right), Head of Projects, Higher Education Council (HEC) of Bahrain with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Middle East education team

Finally, improving teaching standards is a key area of focus for the country; Cameron Mirza says “All our strategic projects will add significant value to the sector, however, to really reform the sector we must focus on improving teaching standards and ensuring that students are getting the best possible education from quality teaching professionals.”

HEC will be working with the Higher Education Academy UK this year to develop and, in 2014, implement a higher education teaching certificate. The expectations are that by 2017 all faculty staff in higher education will have successfully obtained the teaching certificate.

University of Kufa invites QS Asia to campus

Last June, QS Asia visited the University of Kufa (UoK) to meet with the university's president, Prof Akeel A.Yasseen, as well as heads of various departments. The four-day visit also included a UoK campus tour and presentations on QS rankings system, which were delivered by the QS team in the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science. The team consisted of Ms Mandy Mok, managing Director, Samuel Wong, senior researcher, and Ashwin Fernandes, international business development manager. Among the participants were Dr Hassan Hadi Ali Al-ALLAK, head of Postgraduate Office, Dr Abbas A.Y. Taher Alaboudy, scientific advisor in the International Office, and Dr Mansoor Abdul-Zahra Habeeb, chair of Quality Assurance.

On a separate note, one month prior this constructive visit, on May 12, the University of Kufa officially announced the production of a Nano-satellite destined for spatial high-definition photography—the first of its kind in Iraq. The artificial satellite is equipped with a Nano-camera for colored

photography and it will be launched to a sun-synchronous orbit at a 600 km distance from the Earth.

The device was named ‘Kufasat’ as a tribute to the efforts that UoK's students and professors made.

Iraq is certainly back on the track towards its glorious days of the 1970s. Just recently, Iraq's Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research approved a national plan to build 13 new universities in several provinces.

The project is part of a plan prepared by the ministry in co-operation with UNESCO, the World Bank and UNICEF to develop education in Iraq.

Ali al-Adib, minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, said the project will include establishing 28 faculties that are specialized in making use of the natural resources in those provinces—an initiative that is absolutely critical in ensuring sustainable human development.

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National University of Singapore and Hebrew University of Jerusalem set up joint PhD



Prof Tan Eng Chye, deputy president (Academic Affairs) and provost at NUS, and Prof Menahem Ben-Sasson, president of the Hebrew University, signed the agreement at NUS, in the presence of ambassador of Israel to Singapore, Her Excellency Amira Arnon. (Photo credit: National University of Singapore)

The National University of Singapore (NUS) and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (HUJ) will jointly launch a PhD program in biomedical science to begin in August 2013—a collaboration between the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine and the Faculty of Science at NUS and the Hebrew University Faculties of Medicine and Science.

Prof Tan Eng Chye, deputy president (Academic Affairs) and provost at NUS, and Prof Menahem Ben-Sasson, president of the Hebrew University, signed the agreement at NUS, in the presence of the Israeli ambassador to Singapore, Her Excellency Amira Arnon.

Students enrolled in this program will study in both campuses, spending a minimum of nine months at each institution. Furthermore, students will pay the tuition fees set by their home institution for the entire duration of the program. Two NUS students will inaugurate the project, beginning their programs in the new academic year in August 2013.

"We are excited to further deepen our ties with HUJ through this new joint PhD program. HUJ is highly respected internationally for its outstanding scientific research and its application," said NUS president, Prof Tan Chorh Chuan.

"As the program leverages on the complementary academic strengths of our two institutions, I am confident that it will offer a unique and world-class learning experience for our students and an excellent platform for our

faculty to drive for even higher levels of excellence. This partnership also opens up more opportunities for researchers and students from both our universities to break new ground in biomedical science," added the president of NUS.

"We are proud of our relationship with the National University of Singapore, which is one of the leading academic research institutions in Asia, and a model for its huge investment in research, teaching and globalization. Through Singapore's CREATE program, we already have two student exchange programs with NUS and a joint research venture. This new joint PhD program is yet another step in strengthening our ties at all academic levels. The joint program will enable students from each university to spend at least nine months in the other university, and to be exposed to their host country's scientific advances and cultural experiences—a major asset in today's inter-connected global scientific community," said Prof Menahem Ben-Sasson, HUJ president.

For the next four years, the two institutions will select two to three students each year from each institution, in accordance with either institution's standard requirements for acceptance in the PhD program.

Previously, in 2010, the two universities collaborated in establishing the NUS-HUJ Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Inflammation Research Program—part of the Campus for Research Excellence And Technological Enterprise (CREATE) program of Singapore's National Research Foundation.

Sultan Qaboos University team's submarine design wins fourth place award

The submarine Sultana II designed by the Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) students won the fourth place in the 12th Human-Powered International Submarine Race (ISR), which was recently held in eastern Maryland in the United States.

The race competition which was held by the Research and Modeling unit of the US Navy hosted 24 teams from countries across the globe, including the United States, Germany, Canada, Mexico, and the Netherlands.

Dr Jamil Abdoum, associate professor at the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering at the SQU College of Engineering, and Dr Nasser bin Ahmad Al Azri, assistant professor in the same department, led the group of science students.

According to Dr Nabil bin Zahran Al Rawahi, head of the Department of Mechanical and Industrial Engineering, this was the second time SQU participated in this race, and this year the university achieved a better ranking compared to last year.

"Some additions have been introduced to the submarine, including the use of carbon fiber material instead of fiberglass, which resulted in a reduction in the submarine's weight, from 120 kilograms to 30 kilograms, improving the submarine's movement and giving it persistence and a steady pace," said Dr Jamil Abdoum.

The group's participation was aimed at developing the students' design skills through the practical application of the theoretical knowledge they have acquired during their studies.



Students from Sultan Qaboos University (SQU) with the submarine Sultana II at the 12th Human-Powered International Submarine Race (ISR) in eastern Maryland, United States.

Jordan inaugurates 1st Catholic university



King Abdullah II inaugurates the first Catholic university in Jordan.

The first Catholic university in Jordan was inaugurated by King Abdullah II on May 30, 2013—four years after Pope Benedict blessed its cornerstone during his apostolic journey to the Holy Land.

On May 10th, 2012, American University of Madaba (AUM) was granted the approval of the New Hampshire Higher Education Commission to operate in the state of New Hampshire and in its Madaba campus. The university will be offering 18 degree programs in seven Faculties: Engineering, Science, Health Sciences, Art and Design, Business and Finance, Information Technology, and Languages and Communications.

"Grow together in mutual respect for the religious sensibilities of each other, in reciprocity concerning practical matters, in courageous healing of historical wounds," said Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the Congregation for the Eastern Churches. "As the primary agents of interreligious dialog, you have the best chance to build a society truly worthy of man."

"This university is a sign of the interest of the local and universal Church not only in the individuals who are fortunate enough to attend, but in the greater Jordanian society," he added. "The Church is eager to contribute to the good of every nation in which she finds herself, without threatening the culture and heritage proper to each."

"I extend my gratitude to the Jordanian government and especially to the Ministry of Higher Education, which allowed our dream to become a reality," said Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem. "With your support and encouragement, we, as civil society and private university, are looking forward to working hand in hand with our government and other civil institutions to promote scientific knowledge, ethical wisdom, inter-cultural dialogue, human development, tolerance, peace and progress in the region."

Chinese university develops world's fastest supercomputer

National University of Defense Technology has built the world's fastest supercomputer, almost double in speed compared to its American predecessor.

The Tianhe-2 developed by the National University of Defense Technology is capable of sustained computing of 33.86 petaFLOPS—the equivalent of 33,860 trillion calculations per second—according to the semiannual TOP500 listing of the world's fastest supercomputers. The US Energy Department's Titan machine had achieved 17.59 petaFLOPS.

Supercomputers are used for complex tasks such as modeling weather systems, simulating nuclear explosions

and designing jetliners.

It's the second time a Chinese computer has been named the world's fastest. In November 2010, the Tianhe-2's predecessor, Tianhe-1A, had that honor before Japan's K computer overtook it a few months later on the TOP500 list, a ranking by three computer scientists at universities in the U.S. and Germany.

"Most of the features of the system were developed in China, and they are only using Intel for the main compute part; that is to say the inter-connect, operating system, front-end processors and software are mainly Chinese," said TOP500 editor, Jack Dongarra.

Governor Smt. Margaret Alva addresses JKLU 1st Convocation



Governor Smt. Margaret Alva delivered convocation address at JK Lakshmipat University, Jaipur. In her convocation address, Governor Smt. Alva emphasized the importance of modifying the educational system in order to have a society which is proud of its past, conscious of the present and full of hope for the future; a society in which every citizen would be equally conscious of his/her rights and responsibilities.

"JK group has been playing a very important role in the industrial development of the country over the last 100 years," said Chairman Sh. Bharat Hari Singhania, highlighting the national, social and educational activities of the JK Group.

"As India stands on the cusp of dramatic changes in its economic profile, with many seeing the country as a potential global economic power,

it needs hardly be emphasized, that such changes have to be rooted firmly in an educational system that creates men and women of character, courage and compassion. It is, therefore, no surprise that the surge in economic growth is being accompanied by a surge in educational institutions.

Skilled manpower—or rather human resource—is the sine qua non for a strong economy. Growth will reinforce education which, other factors being favorable, will reinforce growth in what, one hopes, becomes a positive cycle," said Governor Smt. Margaret Alva.

"You are ready to venture out into the world of real business and entrepreneurship. What would be your tribute, your Gurudakshina, to your "Alma Mater"? The expression "Alma Mater", in Latin, means "nourishing mother". In ancient Rome, Alma Mater was used as title for various mother goddesses. Over time, Alma Mater came to refer to school/college. Thus, humanity across millennia, countries and languages has seen knowledge, wisdom and the feminine in a continuum. Your Alma Mater values civilizational continuity and humility. I trust that as a tribute to your Alma Mater, you will nurture the facets of our civilizational history that accords primacy to these values," concluded Governor Smt. Margaret Alva.



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Qatar University and Qatar Shell sign an MOU of further collaboration



Prof. Sheikhha al-Misnad (right), Qatar University president, with Mr. Wael Sawan (left), the chairman of Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre. (Photo credit: Qatar University)

Qatar University (QU) president, Prof. Sheikhha al-Misnad, and the chairman of Qatar Shell Research and Technology Centre (QSRTC), Mr. Wael Sawan, signed a memorandum of understanding to enhance their long-standing partnership for greater collaboration in technology, innovation and research and development.

Under this agreement, Qatar Shell will sponsor and support the educational programs offered by QU, share industrial and technical knowledge with QU faculty and students, facilitate greater collaboration between the two organizations through expert lectures, introduce more research and development initiatives to expand student engagement through internships and competitions, and recruit QU students.

The collaboration will be managed and facilitated by a joint steering committee, co-chaired by Prof. al-Misnad and Mr. Sawan.

"Strong partnerships between academia and industry offer great mutual benefits in terms of sharing skills and expertise and enabling students to receive a world-class education from those who are the best in their field," said Prof. al-Misnad. "This overarching MOU allows QU and Qatar Shell to further develop our already excellent relationship." "This MoU will further strengthen our co-operation with QU to further develop local human capacities and talents that will help lead to a knowledge-based economy in line with Qatar National Vision 2030," said Mr. Sawan.

One example of the QU/Qatar Shell partnerships is the research project initiated by QU on the learning and development benefits of participating in the Shell Eco-marathon. Students form a team to design and build ultra-fuel-efficient cars and race them against other teams from around the world. This research project is to be the first in the world to assess the competition's academic impact. QU has been participating in the Shell Eco-marathon since 2011.

In recent years, QU and Qatar Shell have worked together on several other initiatives, including "Al Baira World", which opens up science to young people, "Engineering Week", which encourages students to choose engineering careers, and "Life is Engineering", which promotes engineering among high-school students and simplifies science for them.

Beirut's Lebanese University strengthens ties with Iranian universities

A group of Lebanese academics recently paid a visit to Iran to meet with several officials of the Ministry of Higher Education and presidents of many important universities of Iran.

Dr. Adnan Sayyed Hussein, president of the Lebanese University, appreciated Iran's initiative in expanding academic exchanges and scientific and technical cooperation with Lebanon.

In November 2012, The Lebanese University established "Department of Persian Language and Literature"; Persian language had been an optional course in the Faculty of Literature and

Human Sciences since the 1970s. The university has also signed memoranda of understanding with many Iranian universities and research centers, which is definitive proof of the two countries' determination in developing bilateral scientific cooperation. The university has expressed readiness to accept Iranian students at doctorate level.

The Lebanese University is the only public institution for higher learning in Lebanon. The university has 16 faculties and 3 doctoral schools, serving various cultural, religious, and social groups of students and teachers.

Philippines organizes rankings workshop with QS



Three organizations in Philippines—the Commission on Higher Education, the Development Academy of the Philippines, and the University of the Philippines held a "Conference on International Rankings and Its Implications for Philippines Higher Education Institutions" from July 3–4, 2013, at Crown Plaza Hotel.

The conference aimed to serve as a venue for dialog between QS, as an international ranking organization, and Philippine universities in order to help the latter strengthen their structures towards a sustainable strategy for meaningful involvement in the international rankings of universities.

The three institutions organized the ranking workshop in order to widen their understanding of the university rankings and its relation to higher education in the Philippines, and learn the various criteria of key university rankings, particularly those of QS rankings.

During the two-day workshop, the participants assessed the relevance and applicability of rankings to higher education institutions in the Philippines and identified specific steps that Philippines universities should take in order to enter the rankings.

The QS team consisted of Ms. Mandy Mok, the managing director of QS Asia, and Mr. Michael Fung, director of planning and institutional research in the Office of the President at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

During her speech, Ms. Mok shared her experiences with the audience and gave insights—gleaned from visiting more than 200 universities in the region—into how higher education institutions in the Philippines can achieve global success.