



News 2 WOW U

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Singapore Prime Minister boosts recognition for SIM University



SIM University (UniSIM) achieved a boost in recognition when Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong announced during his National Day Rally speech that it would be one of the institutions supplying more university places to students. UniSIM and Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) were the two institutions out of the many reviewed by the government, that were chosen to enrol tertiary students in their programmes.

On August 7, UniSIM hosted PM Lee on a visit, which showed him more about how UniSIM worked and the role it has been playing in Singapore's university sector to date.

According to a press release issued by Singapore's Ministry of Education, "UniSIM has a good track record and its students studying in part-time degree programs have benefited from government subsidies since 2008." UniSIM was delighted with the government's recognition and hopes this will enable to increase its standing among universities in Singapore.



The Engine of Korea
HANYANG UNIVERSITY

QS in conversation with the Middle East seminar delights delegates



The inaugural QS *in conversation* with the Middle East seminar was a great success, leaving the audience hungry for more! Over 90 people attended the seminar and the event showed its impressive global reach as participants came from all over the world to attend this informative seminar.

Countries that participants came from include Bahrain, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jordan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, UAE and Vietnam.

QS *in conversation* with the Middle East seminar was held on Tuesday, 18th September 2012 at the prestigious Jumeirah Towers Hotel in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The seminar was organised by QS Asia and co-hosted by Dubai International Academic City (DIAC).

Attendees of the seminar enjoyed the seminar presentations which covered topics like rankings, internationalisation and had several case studies on branch campuses. The audience found the content of the presentations to be insightful, challenging and revelatory, helping them better understand the highs and lows faced by universities in the Middle East and around the world.

Prof. Abdulla Al-Hawaj, President, Ahlia University, Kingdom of Bahrain said, "I enjoyed the networking and benefited from listening to others' experiences."

Prof. Chris Haslam, Pro-Vice Chancellor, University of Chester, UK, also had a positive experience at the conference. He said that the event was "an excellent seminar, worth the stopover on the way to South East Asia."

Next year, the seminar will be co-hosted by the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on 1st July 2013 at Irbid, Jordan. Participants can look forward to a programme that will cover the hot topics concerning universities in the Middle East and how they fit into the global arena. Thought-provoking subjects like rankings, branch campuses, globalisation and marketing will be discussed and debated, leaving you with an experience that is both stimulating and enriching.

Asian universities shine as they rise in QS World University Rankings

Asian universities impressed with their superb performance in the World University Rankings as a total number of 10 Asian universities in the top 100 have improved their rankings this year.

The University of Hong Kong continues to be the leading Asian university at 23rd place. There was more joy for Hong Kong as the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology made a leap of seven spots to 33rd place to its highest position ever and City University of Hong Kong made its first entry into the top 100 universities with a position of 95th place in the rankings.

Meanwhile, South Koreans can be proud of their achievements as Seoul National University climbed up from 42nd to 37th place while Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) made a big leap from 90th place last year to 63rd place this year.

Overall, Asia has a total number of 19 universities in the top 100 this year compared to 18 last year.

SCElse launches S\$6.5m facility at Nanyang Technological University with Carl Zeiss



Key representatives at the official launch of the new centre. From left to right are: Mark Mooi, Regional Division Manager, BioSciences, Carl Zeiss; Ven Raman, Managing Director of Southeast Asia, Carl Zeiss; Professor Yehuda Cohen, SCElse Deputy Director; Professor Staffan Kjelleberg, SCElse Director.

The Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCElse) plans to make big waves in the scientific field with the launch of the Advanced Biofilm Imaging Facility at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in partnership with optical and opto-electronic leader Carl Zeiss. The facility will cost an attention-grabbing S\$6.5 million to build and is part of a long-term collaboration between SCElse and Carl Zeiss..

SCElse is a first-of-its-kind research institution that aims to harness the powers of micro-organisms for environmental and water sustainability. The centre was built to an impressive sum of S\$120 million and was funded by the Singapore government. With the new facility and state-of-the-art imaging equipment from Carl Zeiss, SCElse, aims to become the first research centre in the world to achieve real-time observation of how bacteria interact with each other in real-time. It also aims to conduct unique DNA testing so as to develop new research techniques not possible before in this field.

Prof Staffan Kjelleberg, SCElse Director, said: "Through its partnership with Carl Zeiss, SCElse has become the first institution in the world to use such advanced imaging equipment in pushing the frontiers of environmental life sciences, enabling us to achieve a deeper understanding of bacterial interactions in numerous environments. Our students and researchers are already working on several environmental projects such as used water treatment and surface waterways. We are confident that this new collaboration with Carl Zeiss will help deliver ground-breaking

findings and intellectual property to help strengthen Singapore's position as a global leader in environmental life sciences engineering R&D."

This is the first time that Carl Zeiss is working with a partner in the field of environmental life sciences engineering. As part of their MOU agreement, the optical and opto-electronic leader and SCElse will explore ways to make optimal use of the systems for research in this emerging field of study.

Ven Raman, Managing Director of Southeast Asia, Carl Zeiss, added: "Carl Zeiss is very excited to partner SCElse, a world-class research group helmed by pioneers in environmental life sciences engineering. We are looking forward to working closely with SCElse to explore the unexplored area of bacterial interaction, and harness that knowledge for important projects such as water treatment and public health for the benefit of all Singaporeans."

First academic fuel research centre to be launched by University of Western Cape and PetroSA

The University of Western Cape is embarking on a ground-breaking partnership with PetroSA to launch the PetroSA Synthetic Fuels Innovation Centre, which will be a centre for gas-to-liquid research. The company hopes that the research will revolutionise its gas-to-liquid processes.

University of Western Cape (UWC) vice-chancellor Professor Brian O'Connell said that the R36 million facility will help boost South Africa's intellectual property. The centre will be part of University of Western Cape's South African Institute for Advanced Materials Chemistry.

"We are targeting diesel because there's a great demand for diesel; one gets a little bit more for his money," PetroSA technology research manager Masikane Mdeleleni said. "It's an important area of research because of the properties of the fuel we make, which make the fuel lucrative. The fuel is sulphur-free, making it more environmentally-friendly, which is welcomed by the countries the fuel is sold to."

Energy Minister Dipuo Peters, who addressed the launch, said: "Natural gas reserves represent a vital energy source for South Africa and the African continent as a whole, thus the identification and monetisation of those reserves by PetroSA and UWC is of major interest."

QS News2WOWU

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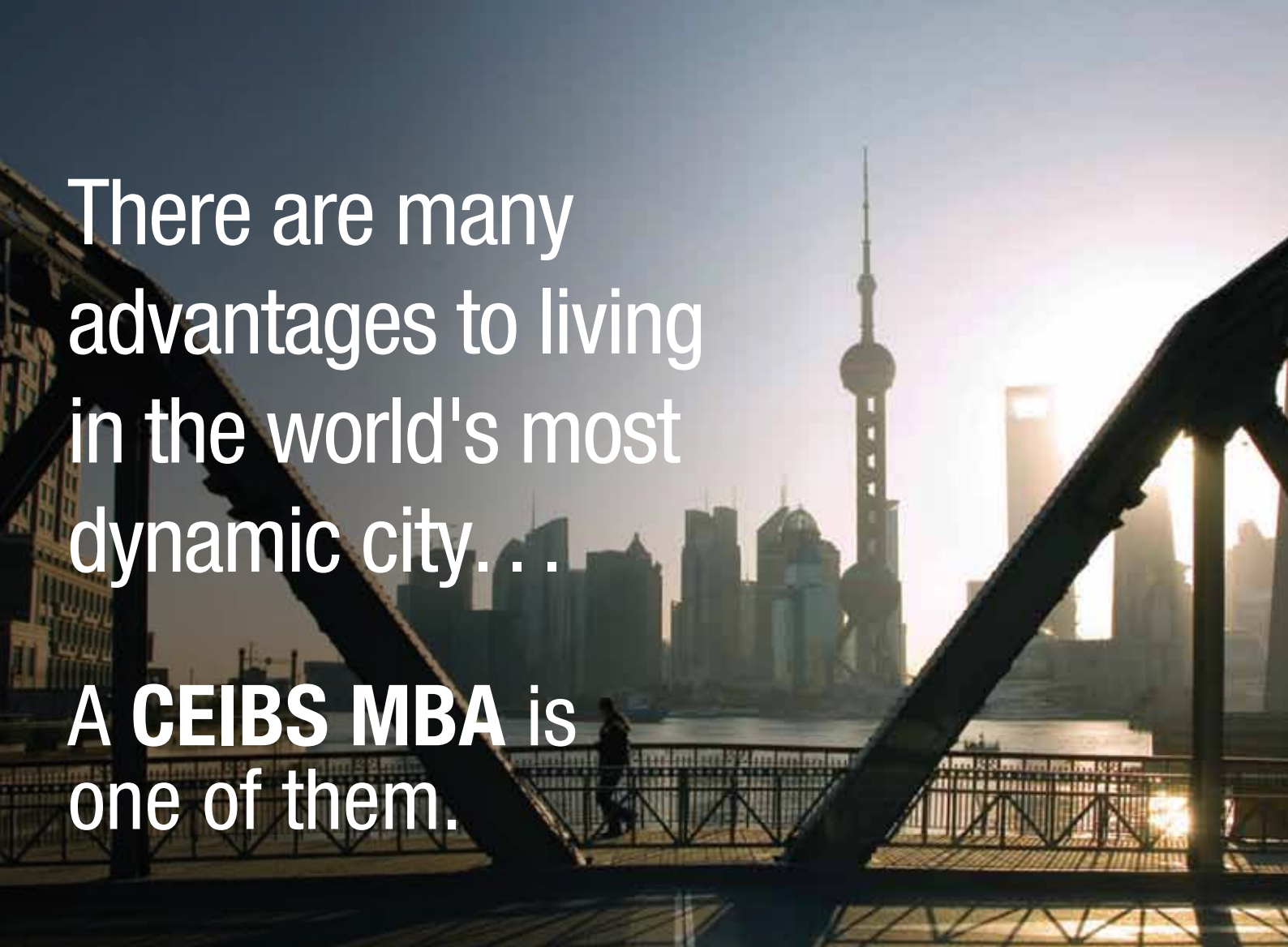
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Fastest-rising university in the world's Top 50

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) in Singapore is ranked 47th globally and is the fastest-rising university in the world's top 50. Young and research-intensive, NTU is also placed 4th in the global league of young elite universities under 50 years old. Helmed by Professor Bertil Andersson, winner of the Wilhelm Exner Medal, an honour bestowed on the world's best scientists, NTU is a melting pot of international award-winning scientists, young talents and eminent global partners. With its state-of-the-art facilities, NTU is building on its interdisciplinary strengths with cutting-edge research that improves lives and shapes the future. Come 2013, NTU will offer medicine in a new school jointly set up with Imperial College London.



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Hong Kong doner impresses with largest donation to British law school



Mr Dickson Poon (right) with Professor Sir Rick Trainor, Principal of King's College London

Dickson Poon, a Hong Kong tycoon, has dazzled the philanthropic world by donating an enormous amount of money to a British university. Poon is continuing a breath-taking trend of Hong Kong donors giving large sums of money to universities in the United Kingdom.

Poon donated £20 million (US\$32 million) to King's College London, making it the largest donation by an individual to the university and the biggest to a law school in Europe.

The donation will help fund a £40 million law school, to be called the Dickson Poon School of Law. The money will also be used to set up 15 scholarships for students from Hong Kong.

Poon is famous for grabbing the headlines for his big donations to British universities. He gave £10 million two years ago to the University of Oxford to create a new China

centre known as the Dickson Poon China Centre.

Another big donor to the University of Oxford is Hong Kong businessman Walter Kwok Ping-sheung, former chairman of Sun Hung Kai Properties.

Kwok joined the impressive league of big money donors by setting up the Walter Kwok Foundation at the University of Oxford, which enables students from Hong Kong who wish to study politics at Oxford to draw on the £100,000 fund. There are also plans to set up a joint undergraduate degree programme between Oxford and the University of Hong Kong.

"The reason why I chose to partner with UK universities is because Hong Kong inherited its entire legal system from Britain," Kwok said. Kwok has also given money to Cambridge and Imperial College, London.

Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-Shing, who is Asia's second richest man, gave £5 million to Oxford for research into infectious diseases in Asia. He has also provided money for the Cheung Kong Business School branch in London.

The coffers of the London School of Economics has also been given a boost from Hong Kong donors, receiving £700,000 in recent years from philanthropists from Hong Kong.

The Ross-CASE survey of donations to UK universities show that British universities have received more than £500 million in philanthropic cash income, 80% of it from alumni.

Amazing number of Saudi students heading to New Zealand



In 2002, there were only 67 students from Saudi Arabia studying in New Zealand. This year, that number has jumped to an astounding 7000.

This remarkable rise in number is credited to the ease of getting visas for students in New Zealand, combined with tightening visa restrictions in the West. According to the New Zealand immigration department, there were 2654 student visas given to Saudi citizens last year. However, there are more Saudi students than that studying in New Zealand because short study courses do not require a student visa.

Saudi students going to New Zealand increased by 19 percent from the previous year.

Zain Ali, University of Auckland's head of Islamic research, said that Saudi students were coming to New Zealand because "the environment in New Zealand is seen to be more accommodating to students from the Middle East, and there's a lot of halal food and there isn't an issue with finding halal homestays as there are many Muslim families here."

Great Lakes Institute of Management's Founder Dean Dr. Bala V Balachandran in India Inc's Top 10 Global Indian thought leaders list



Dr. Bala V Balachandran chatting with students at Great Lakes Institute of Management

Dr. Bala V Balachandran, founder Dean of Great Lakes Institute of Management, Chennai, has achieved an impressive feat by being named in India Inc's most powerful global Indian thought leaders list, published by the Economic Times.

An academic entrepreneur par excellence, Professor Bala V Balachandran has been a force in reshaping the Management education landscape in India for the last two decades. He has been instrumental in

fostering a model that fuses the best of both worlds - the academic culture and pedagogy of the West with the ethos and value systems of India.

Great Lakes Institute of Management, founded by him in 2004, is one of the top 20 Business Schools of India. He is also the recipient of the coveted Padmashri award (the fourth highest civilian award accorded by the Government of India) for his outstanding contribution to education.

Hanyang University, the Architect of the Future

Explore the truth and engineer a new world with Hanyang



Since its foundation in 1939 as the nation's first engineering college, Hanyang University has continued to be one of the top five universities in Korea. With *Love in Truth and Deed* as its founding principle and educational philosophy, Hanyang University is where students and professors from all over the world are working together for a brighter future.



HANYANG UNIVERSITY
SEOUL, KOREA

Carnegie Mellon University launches branch campus in Rwanda

Top American university Carnegie Mellon University hopes to create a stir in Africa by officially launching a new campus in Rwanda. The launch is significant as Carnegie Mellon University is the first top ranked U.S. research institution to offer graduate degrees in Africa with a campus and faculty who are resident at the university.

Carnegie Mellon University in Rwanda (CMU-R) is created in partnership with the government of Rwanda and offers an exciting opportunity to transform graduate education in East Africa. Carnegie Mellon brings to Africa a history of excellence in higher education and is a global thought leader in technology innovation.

CMU-R is offering a Master of Science in Information Technology (MSIT) programme. The MSIT will be a multidisciplinary curriculum that will encompass technology, business and innovation, designed to prepare the next generation of IT leaders in Africa.

"We got interested in Africa and especially in Rwanda because it is a place where things have begun to happen in a big way. There is potential in Africa," said Carnegie Mellon University – Rwanda Director Bruce H Krogh.

The Minister of Education, Dr. Vincent Biruta said the government of Rwanda was partnering with Carnegie Mellon University in the hope of fulfilling Rwanda's vision of becoming a centre for technology excellence.

Rwandan students have reasons to rejoice as the Rwandan government has created scholarships that will cover 50% of the US\$38,900 tuition fees at Carnegie Mellon University-Rwanda for all East African students.



Photo credit: Carnegie Mellon University – Rwanda website

RISE, an African science programme, gets US\$5 million in funding

The Regional Initiative in Science and Education (RISE) is thrilled by news that the Carnegie Corporation of New York, United States will be providing US\$5 million to its fund.

RISE is a programme that trains African science lecturers and encourages partnerships among professors at African universities. Lori Mulcare, an administrator at RISE, reveals that RISE has exciting plans to expand into Francophone Africa and North Africa.

"The original competition for RISE grants in 2007 was open to universities in research institutions in Sub-Saharan Africa but, because of the linguistic limitations of our small secretariat, only English-language proposals were accepted and, as a result, very few proposals came from non-Anglophone countries," Mulcare said.

RISE is active in Sub-Saharan Africa, where it works with PhD and MSc

scientists in subjects like biochemistry, environmental science and pharmacology, training them to teach in African universities.

"RISE's primary goal is to use the network structure to provide comprehensive research and training for master's and PhD students in science and engineering disciplines. RISE graduates are well prepared to contribute to and strengthen universities in their home countries or regions, as teachers, mentors and researchers," Mulcare said.

Patrick Okori, dean of the school of agricultural sciences at Makerere University in Kampala, Uganda, said "Most of our scientists have gone to work outside the continent so we need a replacement for them. We will need students with analytical capacities and high level skills to drive new innovations and research, which can lead to the development of our continent."

Western universities rushing to Asia to open branch campuses



Artists Impression of the campus of the University of Reading in Malaysia (Photo credit: University of Reading)

Branch campuses are becoming the Next Big Thing in higher education.

There are now 200 overseas branch campuses, with another 37 in the pipeline, according to a recent report by the Observatory on Borderless Higher Education (OBHE).

British universities are fuelling the growth, doubling the number of branch campuses to 25 in just the past two years. Asia is becoming a hot destination for British branch campuses, with upcoming ones that include the University of Central Lancashire in Thailand, the University

of Reading in Malaysia and the University of Lancaster in China.

For universities, the benefits of branch campuses include "greater access to an expanding student market, especially in Asia where demand is expected to continue to outstrip supply for another 20 years," the report says.

The greatest number of branch campuses come from America, with the number of American branch campuses standing at 78. While the United Arab Emirates has the largest number of branch campuses in a single country, it is notable that there are no new branches planned there. "The center of gravity is clearly shifting eastwards from the Gulf," the report says.

According to the OBHE report, China is the country to watch, becoming one of the most popular locations for branch campuses.

China presently has 17 branch campuses, compared to 10 two years ago. Singapore is the next most popular destination for branch campuses, with 18, up from 12 in 2009.

Record number of admissions for UAE universities

Universities in the UAE are facing an astounding statistic - 14,570 Emirati high school graduates are poised to enter universities in 2012. This is the largest ever student body enrolled in the history of the UAE. 60 percent of the new students are female.

The students who have been granted admission will enroll in UAE's three federal universities - the Higher Colleges of Technology, Zayed University and UAE University.

Shaikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, praised the students who will soon enter the universities.

"Higher education in the country has made a quantum leap with the help of national cadres specialised in all fields of science and technology. I am confident that this year's students will meet our expectations and will exert maximum effort to benefit from the services and opportunities available to them at the universities and colleges," Shaikh Nahyan said.

Online universities rise in popularity in Asia

Online learning is moving to the mainstream, with some of the world's biggest names in education getting involved. Recently, top universities like Harvard, Stanford and Massachusetts Institute of Technology have announced that they will offer online courses.

"With the improvement in technology, the number of institutions offering online education has increased, both in terms of numbers and the kind of classes offered," said Lee Hock Guan, senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore. The statistics are impressive. Last year, 85,000 people took online courses in Malaysia. In South Korea, more than 112,000 students at 19 institutions are taking online classes, which have been available since 2002. China jumped on the online learning bandwagon in the late 1990s to widen the opportunity for its population to benefit from higher education, especially in its isolated rural areas. In 2010, there were 1.64 million people enrolled in online courses in China.

At Malaysia's Asia e University,

Two Chemistry Nobel Laureates amaze students at Taipei Tech

A huge crowd of over 1,700 high school and college students packed into an auditorium at Taipei Tech to listen to two Nobel Laureates of Chemistry – Professor Dan Shechtman and Professor Yuan-Tseh, Lee, excite them about their learning discoveries in science.

Professor Dan Shechtman impressed the students with his wide experience in science and he encouraged the audience to "think outside the box, be curious and stay in faith". Shechtman's speech inspired the students. He talked about how he had encountered many difficulties during his research, but he overcame them by staying in faith and being open-minded during his journey of learning. Through his steady perseverance and bravery in challenging existing theories, Shechtman produced ground-breaking work that eventually led the committee of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry to recognise his striking accomplishments. Shechtman warmly encouraged the students - "in order to be outstanding, one must become an



The two Nobel Laureates of Chemistry, Professor Dan Shechtman and Professor Yuan-Tseh, Lee

expert in a certain field. Confidence comes from expertise, and one must believe in himself".

The students also listened with rapt attention when Professor Lee talked passionately about the many hardships and obstacles he faced as a researcher. He said that he managed to overcome the difficulties because he loved his job and urged the students to find work they are so passionate about that it will enable them to conquer mountains.

students get their course material by downloading the content from an online forum and virtual library. Lessons are conducted between teachers and students via email, online chats, phone and text messages.

The students also use videos that they make with smartphones and iPads and post them on YouTube.

Learning in online universities is active and the students participate more in the learning process, as opposed to just sitting passively in a lecture hall. The students also enjoy learning more because they are using devices – the latest gadgets – that they like using and are familiar with.

"Everyone is a front-row student," said Ishan Abeywardena, a lecturer at Malaysia's Wawasan Open University. Ishan also observes that shy students who don't usually ask questions are more courageous online and tend to participate more.

"Can you imagine the iPad, iPod and iPhone generation today, who are going to enter the university say, in 15

years' time, going for a chalk-and-talk kind of model of learning? You learn by doing," said Ansary Ahmed, Asia e University's president.

One thing which is slowing down the growth of online courses is the lack of Internet connectivity in Asia. While more than 80 percent of South Koreans and 60 percent of Malaysians have online access, in China only 40 percent of people have online access and in India, the number is 10 percent.

Doctoral student Michael Nkwenti Ndongfack is a typical student enrolled in an online course. The Cameroon citizen is a student of Open University Malaysia and takes his classes online and plans to present his thesis by Skype.

Ndongfack decided to enroll in the online course because he could not find the instructional design and technology course he wanted in Cameroon, so he paid Open University Malaysia \$10,000 for the course.

"I chose e-learning because it is so flexible," Ndongfack said.

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China is the world's second largest economy and this economy is becoming the driving force for global economic development. Keeping the Chinese economy healthy while sustaining its rapid growth depends on many factors, the most important of which is the cultivation of talent, especially people with outstanding management skills.

In 1991, the first nine MBA programmes were officially launched in China. Today, MBA education has become an important means to develop high-quality talent with advanced management and leadership skills in China. For example, most of the winners of the annual "China Economic Figures of the Year" awards organised by China Central Television (CCTV) had graduated with a MBA or EMBA in China. At present, 233 business schools in China are authorised to offer MBA programmes. Since 1991, they have recruited more than 370,000 students (including 58,000 attending EMBA classes), and about 200,000 and 30,000 of them have received their MBA and EMBA degrees, respectively.

Global MBA education

Through innovation and best practice, Chinese business schools have developed some high-quality MBA programmes that are ranked highly in Asia. To some extent, these schools are internationally competitive and have communicated and collaborated with some of the most famous business schools in the world. For example, Tsinghua University's School of Economics and Management has partnered with 90 world-class business schools around the world for MBA student exchanges. Each year, more than 100 MBA students participate in such exchanges.

Similarly, many business schools in China have signed agreements or MOU with their overseas partner schools for incoming and outgoing student exchanges, overseas and/or China study tours, and faculty and staff exchanges. With their global vision and cross-cultural learning environment, these programmes have attracted many international students from around the world.



School of Management, Fudan University

Fudan School of Management established Fudan IMBA in collaboration with the MIT Sloan School of Management. Today, Fudan IMBA attracts young talents from all over the globe with its cutting-edge curriculum, highly competent faculty, lifetime alumni connections and unique philosophy on Business Education that cultivates real sustainable businesses and social leaders.

<http://www.fdsfm.fudan.edu.cn/fdimba>



Lanzhou University

The Lanzhou University - School of Management IMBA Program (LZU-IMBA) was ranked No. 1 by World Manager in 2011. The program offers an international system, adopting European business school courses and is taught in English. LZU-MBA also boasts of an international faculty of top business school teachers.

<http://ms.lzu.edu.cn>



Guanghua School of Management, Peking University

The Guanghua School of Management (GSM) is one of the top MBA programmes in China. GSM offers double MBA degrees with some of the most prestigious business schools around the world, as well as having over 90 exchange partner schools.

http://www.gsm.pku.edu.cn/mba/en/index_en.html



School of Business, Renmin University

RBS International MBA (IMBA) programme is a two years full time programme. Courses are based on management realities in China and are taught in English by professors with rich practical experiences.

<http://www.rbs.org.cn/mba/en/>



Shanghai University

Shanghai University's MBA Education (SHU MBA) Mission is to "Develop Outstanding Whole-Person and Global Local Talents People can Trust and Work with". Now, SHU MBA aims to implement a new ECO strategy by integrating the commitments from Education, Community and Organisations to develop new generations of global local talents.

www.shumba.shu.edu.cn



Shanghai International Studies University

Drawing on the strength of over 60 years' foreign languages and cross-cultural instruction, as well as a solid and creative platform for global talent education, SISU MBA aims at cultivating a new generation of global elites on the basis of Oriental philosophy.

<http://mba.shisu.edu.cn>



Antai College of Economics and Management, Shanghai Jiaotong University

Shanghai Jiao Tong University Antai MBA is the first MBA programme in China to be triply accredited by AACSB, EQUIS, and AMBA. The IMBA program is unique in that it offers students a global perspective with a Chinese focus, taught in English, utilising foreign professors.

<http://mba.acemsjtu.com/en>



Lingnan College, Sun Yat-Sen University

Lingnan International MBA program was launched in 1999 with MIT Sloan School of Management. Lingnan's MBA is defined as a career development degree for those with significant work experience and maturity. The IMBA program is designed with the key principles of internationalisation, leadership, project-based learning, corporate linkage and career development.

www.lingnan.sysu.edu.cn/mba



School of Economics and Management, Tongji University

In 2004, Tongji University School of Economics and Management (Tongji SEM) established the International MBA (IMBA) programme, which is a leading IMBA programme recruiting students from every corner of the world, aiming at cultivating business elites with a global vision

<http://mba.tongji.edu.cn/index.php/en/>



School of Economics and Management, Tsinghua University

Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management (Tsinghua SEM) established the International MBA Program (IMBA) in close collaboration with MIT Sloan School of Management in 1997. Tsinghua-MIT IMBA Programme is a leading trailblazer for business education in China to cultivate future leaders with global perspectives and China expertise.

<http://mba.sem.tsinghua.edu.cn/mbaen>

Uganda's Makerere University professors invent smart mobile toilet

Researchers at Makerere University's College of Engineering Design, Art and Technology (CEDAT) are developing a smart mobile toilet that will help alleviate the problem of getting rid of human waste in city areas.

The design of the toilet's exterior is simple but effective. The toilet is shaped like a box and is made up of three toilets, in dimensions of 1.2 metres by 1.8 metres. One of the three toilets will be designed for disabled users. Materials used to make the toilet include aluminum, plastic and steel. The flush of the toilet will be achieved using a solar panel at the top of the toilet.

There are mobile toilets designed by other companies in Uganda, but those toilets are not environmentally friendly and are immobile in that they cannot be moved from one place to another. CEDAT's toilet can be attached to a vehicle and be moved from place to place. The toilet is environmentally friendly as it uses a solar-powered flushing system that recycles the toilet water.

"The supply of decent public toilet facilities in Kampala has been affected by the lack of proper planning as well as inadequate and inappropriate technological innovation," says Dr Amin Tamale, one of the toilet's designers.

Though Kampala has a population of three million, there are only 105 public toilets available. That means there are 28,500 potential users per public toilet, which the researchers feel is an unacceptable statistic.

The researchers were inspired to invent the smart mobile toilet in January 2011, when they saw a similar model in Stockholm, Sweden. The researchers photographed the Swedish toilets and returned to Uganda, determined to make a suitable model for their country.

Members of the team that worked on designing the smart mobile toilet include Dr Amin Tamale, Dr Stephen Mukiibi, Dr Henry Arinaitwe, Dr Assumpta Nagenda, Dr Allan Birabi, Wilfred Wadada, Patrick Komakech and Dr Barnabas Nawangwe, the principal at CEDAT.

Stellenbosch University researchers invent high-tech burn dressing



Researchers from Stellenbosch University are excited about a revolutionary new burn dressing that they have developed.

Releasing antibacterial proteins, the dressing merges with new skin to cover the wound. The research was based on investigating the properties of antimicrobial peptides produced by lactic acid bacteria.

The dressing is made from nanofibres, which are like tiny spider-web fibrous cloth and include the presence of antibacterial protein in the nanofibres. This helps the wound to stay sterile and reduces the chance of it

developing infection.

Nanofibre dressing does not require the patient to change dressings often, thus reducing the pain caused by frequent changes of the dressing.

Stellenbosch researchers are thrilled by their invention as the dressing has already been patented by pharmaceutical company Cipla Medpro for use globally.

The dressing has been so successful that the scientists responsible for its invention has been nominated for the NSTF-BHP Billion Award for outstanding contributions to science, engineering, technology and innovation.

The awards will be held at Johannesburg and celebrate excellent achievements in scientific research, capacity building and technological innovation.

The research project is expected to last another 14 more months. The next stage of the research project is to merge anti-inflammatory and tissue-repairing drugs into the dressing.

Indian scientist wins lucrative US\$3 million physics prize

Ashoke Sen, 56, a physicist at India's Harish-Chandra Research Institute, has become one of the nine winners of the Yuri Milner Fundamental Physics Prize. The prize, worth US\$3 million, is the most valuable prize in the world of academia.

The prize is named after Yuri Milner, a billionaire who made his fortune in Internet companies who used to be a physics postgraduate student.

Sen is a specialist in fundamental physics and string theory, which tries to unify the theories of gravity and quantum mechanics. In the past few decades, scientists have come up with several string theory versions. Sen's work was important in that it showed that the multiple string theories are merely different versions of one underlying theory.

The Yuri Milner Fundamental Physics Prize is the largest award that Sen has

ever received. "I hope that this will be an encouragement for young students who are interested in basic research to take it up as a career option," Sen said. "I would like youngsters to take up science not for the glamour of an award, but for the joy and knowledge that it brings."

Sen has won many awards, including India's highest science award, the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize (1994) and the Infosys Prize (2009) which is meant to boost the status of science in India.

Sen hopes the prestigious prize will encourage universities to allow their professors to spend more time on research. "If we hire excellent people at universities and then load them with so much teaching and administrative responsibilities that they have little time left for research, then it will be completely counterproductive," Sen said.



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| Graduate School | 8 Graduate Schools |
| Research Institutes | 3 Centers, 27 Institutes |
| Total No. of Faculty Members | 620 |
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Sub-Saharan Africa gets its first high-speed internet link

Zambian researchers are excited about the first high-speed internet link in Sub-Saharan Africa, as it will boost Zambian research networks by joining them to South African networks via a cable passing through Zimbabwe.

The Zambian scientists are thrilled to be given the opportunity to be part of Géant, a European high-speed internet network, which will allow them to collaborate with colleagues in Africa and around the world.

The internet link will join the Zambia Research and Education Network to South Africa's Tertiary Education Network (TENET). UbuntuNet Alliance, a Malawi-based research network, will provide the infrastructure for the link.

The link will enable Zambia's researchers to share huge amounts of data with other scientists from around the world.

"Medical researchers will be early beneficiaries, as high-definition images can now be shared and investigated collaboratively," said Margaret Ngwira, UbuntuNet Alliance's special projects coordinator. "Research and education data can now be shared nationally, regionally and globally on a high-quality secure network. This brings the Zambian research and education community into the global community, permitting their participation in

cutting edge research".

Moffat Nyirenda, a professor at the University of Malawi's College of Medicine, says the internet link will be a more reliable link, compared to the current satellite-based connections, which have long delays.

"As researchers, we produce large amounts of data, and to be able to communicate within groups you need a secure and reliable means of communication," Nyirenda said. "This new link will help to develop regional teams of researchers."

Duncan Martin, TENET's chief executive officer, predicts that the bandwidth costs will experience a great drop, decreasing the costs for institutions that want to be connected to the link.

"Unit costs will continue to drop, except in those countries where the traditional telecommunications operator continues to have a monopoly," Martin said.

Funding for the link came from the Netherlands Initiative for Capacity Development in Higher Education, which gave €2.25 million (US\$2.8 million) and also from the Zambia Information and Communications Technology Authority, which gave €350,000 (US\$432,294) to the project.

Surge in foreign applications for Hong Kong universities

Foreign students are flocking to Hong Kong universities, as seen in the huge increase in the number of foreign applications for the 2012-13 academic year.

The University of Hong Kong experienced a 42 percent increase in foreign applicants compared to the previous year, while foreign applications for the Chinese University of Hong Kong increased by nearly 50 percent. The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology saw a 55 percent increase in foreign applications.

"We have a number of excellent universities in Hong Kong, so international students and parents

are now beginning to realise the opportunities for higher education here," said John A. Spinks, senior adviser to the vice chancellor of the University of Hong Kong, "Many students, particularly those from Asian countries, are choosing to stay in Asia because of the enhanced job opportunities after graduation predicted from the economic growth forecasts."

Kar-Yan Tam, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology's said that the school promoted itself through Facebook and roadshows. It also engages student ambassadors to encourage prospective students to apply to the university.

Qatar Foundation to set up law school with Harvard in Qatar



Harvard Law School's prestigious Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) will work with the Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development to start a graduate law school in Qatar. The Hamad Bin Khalifa University (HBKU) is highly pleased to be able to collaborate with a world-class university like Harvard to start a law school with a PhD programme, a research institute, and a lecturer cultivation programme.

There are plans to run workshops bringing together scholars of the Middle East. Foundation officials hope the workshops will connect scholars of Islamic and Arabic law with their international counterparts.

"It is an honor to have been asked to help advise the Qatar Foundation as it develops its plans to build a world class law school in Qatar. Our own faculty development initiative to be launched this year will become a strong component in that broader effort and strengthen education in law and policy both in Qatar and the Arab region and beyond. Indeed, we see strong prospects for helping Qatar become a hub for convening young scholars and supporting faculty development and research," said Harvard Law School Professor and IGLP Director David Kennedy.

"The law school is proud of the research collaboration and training undertaken at IGLP and we appreciate the Qatar Foundation's confidence in our work. We hope this will be the start of a rich and broad-ranging collaboration with The Foundation as they strengthen their own contribution to legal education," said Harvard Law School Dean Martha Minow.

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Higher Education Council of Bahrain organises groundbreaking seminar with MIT

The Bahrain Higher Education Forum 2012, led by MIT, was a milestone event for higher education in Bahrain.

Bahrain was honoured to partner with MIT, as the university is the world's number one university, according to the 2012 QS World University Rankings.



Daniel Hastings (left) from MIT receiving a memento from Dr Riyad Hamzah, General Secretary of the HEC in Bahrain.

Deans Daniel Hastings and Christine Ortiz from MIT held six seminars over three days to an audience from both public and private institutes. Topics ranged from what makes a good university, quality assurance and the role of technology in higher education. With over 400 delegates attending, the seminar was by far the most high profile and well-attended event run by the Higher Education Council since its inception in 2005.

Bringing MIT to the Kingdom of Bahrain is a major achievement for General Secretary of the HEC Dr Riyad Hamzah. Dr Riyad says "the purpose of bringing over MIT is both to inspire the higher education sector in Bahrain and for our HE sector to learn some of the key elements that makes them the number one institute in the world." Dr Riyad further adds "HEC is committed to improving academic standards and to produce students with skills that will contribute to the 2030 economic vision of Bahrain. Bringing MIT here will allow our institutes to reflect and improve on what they do in order to produce high calibre graduates".

Head of projects at the HEC Mr Cameron Mirza says, "HEC has a series of high quality workshops in place over the coming months to help the HE sector in Bahrain on the road of continuous improvement".

Groundbreaking first doctoral training centre to be set up in UAE



Prof Ghassan Aouad, the president of University of Wollongong in Dubai (left), and Dr Husam Sultan Al-Ulama, the director of the National Research Foundation, exchanging the signed Memorandum of Understanding.

The United Arab Emirates Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research's National Research Foundation (NRF) is partnering with the University of Wollongong in Dubai (UOWD) to run the first doctoral training centre (DTC) in the United Arab Emirates.

According to the University of Wollongong in Dubai, the United Arab Emirates Doctoral Training Centre will help PhD students from different universities in the United Arab Emirates to improve their research skills and help them develop topics that will benefit the country.

Prof Ghassan Aouad, the president of University of Wollongong in Dubai, and Dr Husam Sultan Al-Ulama, the director of the National Research Foundation, signed the Memorandum of Understanding.

"We believe this MoU marks a milestone

in the development of doctoral research in the UAE," said Professor Aouad. "We are privileged and delighted to team up with the NRF to launch this venture that will create a network connecting this group of future leaders whose expertise will shape the future of the UAE in the coming decades."

"We are very pleased to enter into a partnership with the University of Wollongong in Dubai in an initiative that is sure to give a tremendous boost to the pursuit of doctoral studies in the UAE and we are committed to supporting this laudable venture," Dr Husam Sultan Al-Ulama said.

Dr Ahmed Alosi, the research program manager at NRF, said "Doctoral Training Center is a good initiative to help build the research capacity for postgraduate and undergraduate programs and it will open doors for research collaboration for the students within their research lifecycle."

NUS tops 2012 QS World University Rankings by Subject

The National University of Singapore (NUS) is delighted as it has come up tops this year in the 2012 QS World University Rankings by Subject. NUS showed substantial improvement in rankings for five subjects, including politics and international studies (jumping to 12 from 21), law (jumping to 10 from 24), modern languages (jumping to 10 from 18) and psychology (jumping to 15 from 22).

The rankings prove that Asian universities have shown that they are ones to watch and may well beat their Western counterparts in the near future. Apart from NUS, the other universities in Asia that made it to

the top 30 include Tokyo University, Hong Kong University (HKU), Peking University, Kyoto University, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and Tsinghua University.

Universities in the Middle East have also shown improvements in the subject rankings. One outstanding example is King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals, which (for civil engineering) was ranked from 101-150 last year and jumped to 34 in 2012. The jump was due to the university's massive improvement in the academic reputation index.