

World Education

NEWS & REVIEWS

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AUSTRIA

■ ■ The Ministry of Education has established reforms in upper secondary education which went into effect from autumn 1989.

Four types of general upper secondary school are now available: *Gymnasium*, (humanities); *Realgymnasium* (math and science); *Wirtschaftskundliches gymnasium*, (economics and bookkeeping) and *Oberstufenrealgymnasium* (covering only upper secondary education as opposed to both lower and upper secondary levels).

Other changes will include more practical applications of study, a greater choice among compulsory subjects, more optional subjects and activities, and smaller classes.

By 1992/93 all graduating students will be required to take not only the usual written and oral *Matura* examination, but also to prepare a short dissertation demonstrating their independent research abilities. (*IBF-Spectrum*, Jan. and Feb. issues, 1989).

CANADA

■ ■ The government of British Columbia has loosened the purse strings for a major expansion of postsecondary education, with the province's universities receiving the largest increase in operating grants in almost a decade.

British Columbia's university system will be expanded to accommodate 15,000 more students over the next six years at a projected cost of Can\$690 million.

Particular aim is being taken at young people from the vast rural areas of the province outside the Lower Mainland

and Victoria, where participation in higher education is low.

Full university degree programs will be established in Kelowna, Kamloops and Nanaimo in partnership with the three publicly funded BC universities in Vancouver and Victoria. Plans also are being prepared for a new degree-granting university for northern BC in Prince George, details of which will be available by the end of 1990. (*The Times Higher Education Supplement*, July 7, 1989)

CHINA

■ ■ President Chen Minheng of Shanghai's East China Institute of Chemical Technology said the college would add four political courses next semester: "Chinese Contemporary History", "Western Social Analysis", "Socialism and Reform" and "Marxism and Philosophical Methodology."

The course in Chinese Contemporary History will be mandatory for all students following the recent uprising. President Chen said the rebellious students were "ignorant of the current national situation." Because China is still backward economically and culturally, he said, it would be improper for China to imitate the democratic systems of Western countries...the students' demands for democracy would require changes which are "a long way off." (*China Daily*, August 4, 1989)

**NEW! A "STUDY ABROAD"
COLUMN ON PAGE 18**

COUNTRY UPDATE

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

■ ■ The most recent knowledge in the field of ecology and environmental protection is being systematically included in the curricula of all types of schools, from pre-school to higher education institutions, as well as in adult education.

At secondary school level, education in environmental matters is centered on the subject of biology. At higher education levels, such courses as "Environment", "Theory of Environment", "Basis of Ecology and Toxicology" and "Environment and Civil Engineering" have been introduced.

At the beginning of Sept. 1989, a 30-hour compulsory course "Basis of Ecology" was introduced in the first grade of secondary vocational schools and secondary apprentice-training centers. The course is offered in programs which do not include the study of biology, and replaces study in other subjects--a choice to be decided by each school principal--so that the overall number of teaching hours is not increased. (Slovak Education Library and Institute of Educational Information, March 10, 1989)

WEST GERMANY

■ ■ In an effort to alleviate problems of severe overcrowding in all university departments, the Federal Chancellor and the Prime Ministers of the 11 Länder (states) have initiated a seven year program with an annual allocation of ap-

Continued page 4

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This Fall issue of *World Education News & Reviews* introduces a new regular feature on "study abroad." In her thoughtful introductory column, Joan Solaun reminds us that the information and knowledge required to advise incoming foreign students or Americans who are going to study abroad are often the same. We look forward to adding study abroad advisors to our readership and to making *World Education News & Reviews* relevant and useful to this important category of professionals in international educational exchange.

Major newspapers, both here and abroad, have recently published articles on the shortage of trained engineers and scientists and the ensuing competition for talent. The term "brain drain", the flow from less developed countries to the West, has taken on new meaning and direction as developing countries aggressively enter the recruiting arena. Graduates in engineering and science have become such a valuable commodity that companies are recruiting them world wide. Large companies in the United States, for example, are striving to retain their Asian engineers and scientists in the face of competition from their employees' home governments, who are trying to woo them back. An Italian company is venturing as far as India to find electrical engineers for one of its plants. This quest for talent has become another feature of the intense economic competition between countries. The impact of these developments on higher education will continue to grow. One positive result has been the increasing recognition of foreign degrees, which will no doubt encourage more students to seek educational opportunities in countries other than their own. The United States will continue to be a favorite destination, as it has been for a long time, among Israeli practical engineers, the *Handassaim*, whose training is the subject of the centerpiece article written by Lynne Franks in association with Nancy Katz. Graduates of these two-year technical programs seek admission to U.S. universities because they receive credit for their previous studies and can earn degrees in two or three years.

Continuing our series on education reform in the United Kingdom, we bring to our readers a piece contributed by Peter Hodson of the University of Birmingham on the changes that have taken place in engineering programs with the introduction of the new four-year MEng. degree.

C O R N E R



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REPRINTS AVAILABLE!

Profile of the U.S.S.R. Education System: A four-page synopsis, including a glossary of educational terminology and degrees in Russian, with translations.

Evaluating International Credentials: Problems of Transfer Credit: An eight-page definitive article on this subject.

Profile of the Educational System of the People's Republic of China: A four-page synopsis from primary to tertiary education.

Education in the Philippines: An eight-page profile written with a historic perspective, and detailing current accreditation systems.

Detecting Forged Credentials: A five-page primer for credentials evaluators, including samples of actual forged documents.

A Profile of the Educational System of the Republic of Ireland: An eight-page synopsis, including history, structure, Irish grading scales and the U.S. equivalents, useful addresses, etc.

All About BTEC: Unravelling the complicated structure of Great Britain's largest validation body for business and technical programs of study.

World Education News & Reviews is making available handy reprints of these feature articles from our back issues for a \$5 shipping and handling fee per article. Please make checks payable to: World Education News & Reviews, and send to P.O. Box 745, Old Chelsea Station, New York, N.Y. 10113-0745.

CORRECTION: In our Spring issue in the article "Detecting Forged Credentials," we listed several sources for verification. The correct address for AMIDEAST is 1100 17th St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Tel: 202-785-0022.

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