

World Education NEWS & REVIEWS



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Finland's educational system as "flourishing and poised for the 1990s."



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International Trends

Education Policy Changes in East Asia: 1990 in Review

by Glenn Shive, Ph.D.

East Asia in this review consists of the broader Sinic world of China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan and South Korea. It is the land of Confucius' legacy, and the scene of the most dynamic economies in the world. This cursory scan of education policy change in East Asia's year of the horse highlights events that suggest broader policy trends in the years to come.

China: Sullen Stability after Tiananmen

Tiananmen was the great divide for China's education policy. The momentum for the reforms of the 1980s stalled as education leaders waited cautiously for new directions from the top. The waiting game will likely continue until the succession of senior Party leaders has taken its course.

Two basic goals remain in place: expanding free and compulsory education through the 9th grade and linking curriculum more closely to regional economic needs. But market-oriented approaches to higher education reform, including making the job assignment system more flexible, have been overwhelmed by the now dominant theme of stabilizing the present situation. Morale in Chinese universities suffers from political reprimand, economic stagnation and the non-return of many colleagues now studying overseas.

With a general policy turn to the

left, one sees more emphasis on military education, patriotism, political study, and the role of labor in the curriculum. The surge of political study during academic year 1989-90 has subsided, but efforts to link student learning to labor in grassroots China continue. Even if political study has not changed many minds, everybody knows where the line between academic life and political participation has been drawn.

Education's open door to the West has been rehinged since Tiananmen. In response to the U.S. and other nations who granted Chinese students visa amnesty, and to rising "study abroad fever" within, China set new national rules on students and scholars going abroad. Self-sponsored students must have worked for five years after graduation before they can leave, unless relatives overseas pay their way out. Officially sponsored scholars will not study for degrees, but spend shorter periods in non-degree programs in applied fields. These older, more established faculty are lower risk for non-return. China declares it now has the capability to train people in their own MA and Phd programs, and will use overseas study for mid-career upgrading.

The visa numbers since this February 1990 ruling show a clear decline in officially sponsored scholars coming to the U.S., but an equally clear increase in the self-sponsored people leaving China

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From the Publisher's Desk

Celebrating a Special Event...

World Education News & Reviews enters its fourth year of publication with this issue. By any gauge, *WENR* is still young and maturing. But it has already become a valued source of practical information for professionals in international education. It has, as they say, found its "niche," appealing to subscribers across the U.S. and abroad.

This rapid acceptance has been accomplished through considerable fine-tuning of our original product. In doubling *WENR* to 24 pages and establishing a worldwide network of foreign contributors, we have been able to bring you a significantly greater quantity of material from original sources. A "study abroad" column, "international trends" analysis and--with this issue--expanded "country updates" are now staples.

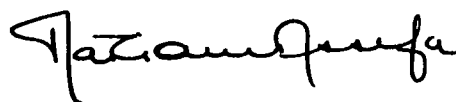
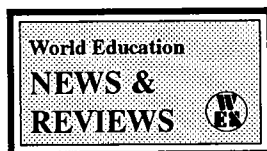
In 1991, we look forward to an even better year. Future issues will look at recent developments in education in the USSR, educational reform in Spain and overcrowding in European universities. Articles on education in Indonesia, East Africa and Latin America are in the works.

Our editorial board also has been expanded with the addition of Jerry Wilcox, Director of International Students and Scholars at Cornell University. His extensive experience strengthens an already superb board and will help us make *WENR* more sensitive to the needs of foreign student advisors.

In this era of very rapid changes in the world, international educators must keep abreast of developments in all the elements of educational exchange. *WENR* remains dedicated to disseminating this information.

We extend good wishes to all of our readers for the coming year, and thank you for your continuing support.

Regards,

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COUNTRY UPDATES

Australia

Police and consumer affairs officials throughout Australia are investigating complaints about fees, the quality of courses offered and the disappearance of funds paid in advance to Australian-based educational institutions by students who were often subsequently denied a visa to study in Australia. The government estimates that these students are owed \$30 million.

Police investigations are likely to lead to several educational entrepreneurs being charged with fraud and other offences which occurred in their push to expand export income earned from the provision of education services.

Criticism, particularly widespread among Chinese students, has blackened the reputation of Australia's foreign student teaching colleges, which boomed throughout the late 1980s. This was felt at an Austrade exhibition for educational services held in Hong Kong last August, where inquiries about Australian courses were not as high as expected.

Officials fear that the Hong Kong experience could signal a possible slowing in the growth of Australia's education services export industry, which last year grossed \$174 million in tuition fees, compared with less than \$10 million in 1986. Earlier this year, before the scandal hit, Austrade had anticipated that foreign student fees would earn Australia \$270 million in 1990.

Education Minister John Dawkins has promised to introduce legislation in Parliament which will prevent future abuses by institutions. (*The Australian*, Aug. 29, 1990)

Geelong's Deakin University and Victoria College, with its three large Melbourne campuses, have decided to

"move towards a merger" to be effective from mid-1991. Deakin, recognized as a university in 1977, and Victoria, created in 1981 through the merging of the Prahan CAE and the State Teaching Colleges of Toorak, Burwood and Rusden, are to join as equal partners.

The new university will have a student enrollment of 15,000, with a staff of 2,200. It will have eight faculties with schools within each. The faculties are: arts, architecture, art and design, education, engineering, management and business, nursing, law, and science. (*The Australian*, Oct. 17, 1990)

Brazil

A federal official's discovery that some 400 Brazilian students have fraudulently transferred from one private college to another in the last year has prompted a broad investigation by the country's Education Ministry.

The government has found that efforts by institutions to verify the credentials of transferees has been "almost non-existent over the past few years."

Students were found to have forged transfer documents and academic records to gain admission to private universities without taking entrance examinations. In many cases, the students had no previous higher education.

The scandal has brought to the fore some frequently debated questions about the academic quality at Brazil's private institutions of higher education, and about medical education in particular. Most of Brazil's private medical schools have no teaching hospitals, so their students can graduate without having been residents or having had any practical experience. Many private medical schools also have no laboratories or permanent staff members. Students are taught by teachers

employed on an hourly basis, who often hold jobs at three or four institutions at once.

Brazilian academics say a rapid expansion of the country's private-university system in the late 1960s caused the deterioration of the overall system of higher education.

Nearly two-thirds of Brazil's 1.5 million college and university students attend private institutions, most of which are profit making and heavily dependent on student fees.

An Education Ministry spokesman said constant supervision and rigorous checks would be instituted to bring an end to corrupt practices, but many Brazilian academics are skeptical about the prospects for reform.

With the government making drastic cuts in funding for public universities, there will be increased dependency on private institutions, making stringent controls unlikely. (*The Chronicle of Higher Education*, Sept. 5, 1990)

Cameroon

The Catholic Institute of Yaounde is scheduled to open October 1, 1991 with faculties of theology and social sciences, as well as a special training program for managers. The initial intake is planned to be about 500 students.

The Institute is being financed by Catholic churches in Germany, France and Austria, and by the dioceses of the founding countries of Cameroon, Central Africa, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea and Chad.

In future, it is planned that the Institute will become the Catholic University of Central Africa. (*Federation Internationale des Universites Catholiques Nouvelles Breves*, Oct. 1990)

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Germany Absorbing Former GDR Education System

China

During the past decade the numbers of medical colleges and research institutes specializing in Chinese traditional medicine and drugs have increased from 22 to 30 and from 56 to 170, respectively. The Deputy Director for the State Administration of Chinese Medicine and Drugs recently said that nearly one million people are working in the Chinese traditional medicine field in China.

Tibet, Qinghai, Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang also have set up medical colleges teaching traditional Tibetan, Mongolian and Uygur medicine.

The number of foreigners coming to China to study Chinese traditional medicine is increasing dramatically, with the subject becoming the most studied by foreign students studying natural sciences in China. Further, hundreds of Chinese traditional medicine experts have been invited abroad for academic lectures and to conduct medical treatment.

In 1987 the World Union of Acupuncture Societies was founded in Beijing, and last year, the World Society of *Qigong* (deep-breathing exercises) also was founded there. (*China Daily*, Sept. 20, 1990)

Northwest Telecommunications Engineering Institute, founded in 1947 in southwest Xian, underwent a change of name in 1989 and is now known as Xidian University. It has 12 major academic departments: Information Engineering, Electronic Engineering, Computers, Electronic Mechanisms, Technical Physics, Electromagnetic Field Engineering, Management and Scientific Information Engineering, Applied Mathematics, Foreign Languages, Social Sciences, Physics, and Detecting Techniques and Instruments. In addition, the University, which is governed by the Industry of Mechanics and Electronics Ministry, has

a postgraduate department, a college of education, programs for continuing education and a Department of Correspondence. In recent years the University has set up exchange programs with 10 foreign countries, including the United States, France, Great Britain, Japan, Germany and the Soviet Union. (Correspondence from Xidian University, Aug. 1990)

France

L'Ecole Nationale du Patrimoine will open in January 1991, serving specifically as an institution of applied training for museum curators. Preparatory courses for this 18-month program will be created in universities in the provinces, and at the *Ecole du Louvre* in Paris. Thirty to 40 students will be accepted each year by means of an entrance examination at the 2nd Cycle or DEA level. Students will be salaried during their studies. Five areas of specialization will be offered: museums, historical monuments, inventories, archaeology and archives. (*Commission Franco-Americaine Newsgam*, Summer, 1990)

French High School students are continuing their campaign of protests against overcrowded classrooms, inadequate security and too few teachers.

The French government faces growing criticism not only for failing to respond to the students' demands, but also for not controlling vandals who burned about 100 cars and looted over 120 stores during student demonstrations in November.

Aware of considerable public sympathy for the students and mindful of the widespread demonstrations by university students that rocked France in 1968, the Government has been anxious not to be seen as repressing the current student movement. Education Minister Lionel Jospin hopes to convince students that his emergency plan will bring rapid improvements to high schools. (*The New York Times*, Nov. 14, 1990)

Germany

The education systems of the former German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany are to be quickly dovetailed in the train of the unification process. The Länder (constituent states) will be reintroduced into the former GDR, which will affect funding. Current discussions are focused on the future structure of the higher education system. To this end, the Science Council—an independent body of experts in the Federal Republic of Germany which has been advising the Federal Government and the Länder on higher education and research matters for the last 30 years—is to be enlarged to include experts from east Germany. GDR Education Minister Hans-Joachim Meyer said reform needed time. What had developed slowly over decades could not be “changed overnight, but in a determined manner.”

Despite the poor condition of buildings and technical equipment, some west German students have decided to study in east Germany because academic standards in many disciplines are outstanding. Education experts are urging a rapid expansion of the former GDR higher education system in order to prevent a surge of GDR students from entering already overcrowded universities in the west. An increase in student financing also is being urged for the east. Students in west Germany, in case of indigence, receive a monthly allowance of about \$US550, including supplementary payments for health insurance and housing. East German students receive only one-fourth that amount of financial assistance. Advocates are urging that their financing be increased to about \$US277 per month.

The Federal Government has already appropriated about \$US12.5 million this year for cooperation and exchange in the field of higher education teaching and research. About \$US5.4 million is being

Military Service Obligations For Iraqi Male Students

paid directly for cooperative projects between higher education institutions and scientific facilities.

In addition, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) has allocated about \$US4 million to send guest lecturers to east Germany to promote an exchange of researchers and students. (*Inter Nationes Bonn Press BW 1990*)

Holy See

The Roman University of the Holy Cross, established as a college in 1985 by Opus Dei at 64 Visa S. Girolamo della Carita in Rome, was upgraded in January 1990 to a university by a decree of the Congregation for Catholic Education. (Opus Dei is a Roman Catholic lay organization that has founded a number of universities in Europe and the U.S.) Until this year, the College was affiliated with the University of Navarra in Pamplona, Spain, which is also sponsored by Opus Dei. Roman University of the Holy Cross has 250 students from 31 countries, and faculties of theology and philosophy. (*Federation Internationale des Universites Catholiques Nouvelles Breves, Oct., 1990*)

India

Seethalakshmi Ramaswami College of Tiruchirapalli, since being granted autonomous status by the University Grants Commission in June 1987, has diversified its academic program with the introduction of four new degrees:

- B.S. Industrial Electronics
- M.S. Industrial Electronics
- B.S. Health Care and Hospital Management
- B.S. Applied Commerce

The new programs all incorporate a period of in-service training. The three-

year B.S. program in Industrial Electronics is closely allied with the technical needs of electronics-based industries and offers such courses as applied mathematics, physics, basic electronics, instrumentation, electrical technology, digital techniques, computer science and industrial electronics. Undergraduates take training at various industries during summer vacation of their second and third years of study. The two-year M.S. in Industrial Electronics was begun in 1989 and gives students a foundation in hardware technology. A minor project has been made a compulsory unit in each semester at postgraduate level, in addition to which students must undertake a major project related to the industry where they intern for five months of their final semester. This has been patterned on the Practice School System of the Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani.

Students taking the B.S. program in Health Care and Hospital Management study basic biological sciences, medicine, surgery, hospital organization, hospital services, health education, computer applications in hospital organizations, financial management, etc. In the last two years of the three-year program, students are given intensive in-service training for a total of five months at various hospitals. A recent change in the program will require students to train in hospitals for 2-3 days a week throughout the year as part of their academic training.

The B.S. program in Applied Commerce was introduced three years ago to replace a two-year Associate degree in Accounting Technology. This three-year program requires five months of compulsory training in a business concern or financial institution as well as a project report. (*University News, Oct. 1, 1990*)

A new three-year MS degree in computer applications to be offered by the Cochin University of Science and Tech-

nology has been approved by the government. Cochin University also will shortly offer a M.Tech degree in Marine Geophysics, jointly sponsored by the government's Department of Ocean Development and the University Grants Commission. This will be a six-semester course run by the Marine Geology Division of the University's School of Marine Sciences. (*University News, Aug. 27, 1990*)

Iraq

Iraqi male students may obtain official transcripts for their university study at home if they follow certain restrictions. (Female students have no such restrictions.) Male Iraqi students must complete military service before leaving the country for study abroad. It is possible to obtain a waiver from the Ministry of Higher Education entitling them to postpone their military service until after they complete their higher education, but cases are decided on an individual basis and there is no guarantee that a waiver application will be granted.

After completing military service, or obtaining a waiver, students may obtain official transcripts from Iraqi universities and secondary schools. Transcripts for use in Iraq are issued in Arabic; those issued for application to institutions abroad are issued in English. The institution to which the student is applying will be indicated on the transcript itself. If a student is applying to more than one institution, multiple copies of the transcript will be issued, each one labeled for the specific institution. The documents are given directly to the student, who is responsible for sending them to the institutions abroad. In the past, Ministry of Higher Education authentication was required, but this practice seems to have ceased.

Once a student has obtained official transcripts, applied to a U.S. institution

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