

Dear Readers,

Find the news on ASEM education initiatives and activities held during March - April 2016.

This edition contains brief reports of Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM), ASEM Education activities under the four priorities, upcoming activities, and also press review from ASEM member countries.

We would like to thank and appreciate the Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation for the successful organization of ISOM of ASEMME6 and all ASEM members for the support and contribution during the meeting. We believe your constructive ideas/suggestions/comments during the meeting will strengthen education cooperation in both regions.

In order to improve and enrich the various information of ASEM education activities from member countries and stakeholders, we invite your contributions in ASEM Education Newsletter.

Happy reading!

ASEM Education Secretariat

INTERMEDIATE SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING (ISOM) OF THE 6th ASEM EDUCATION MINISTERS' MEETING (ASEMME6)

The ASEM Education Intermediate Senior Officials' Meeting (ISOM) of ASEMME6 was conducted on 13-14 April 2016 in Moscow, Russian Federation. The meeting played an important role for the ASEM Education Process as it was a platform for the officials from ASEM member countries to share results, updates and progress of the implementation of ongoing and new initiatives.

The meeting was attended by 32 member countries and ASEM Education stakeholders.

The meeting was opened by Mr. Alexander Klimov, Vice-Minister Education and Science Russian Federation and followed by the report of Summary of ASEM Education Activities of ASEMME5 and brief reports of the Results of ASEMME5 Working Breakfast by ASEM Education Secretariat.



© Ministry of Education and Science, Russia Federation

There were four sessions according to four priorities of ASEM Education Process. Each session consists of presentations from ASEM member countries reporting the ongoing ASEM education initiatives and implemented activities. It was captured that some initiatives have already in a ready phase to be implemented and members are invited to join in those further initiatives.

An initiative to restructure the elements in ASEM Education Process, aiming to strengthen the visibility of initiatives taken at national levels and its whole process, was proposed by Germany representatives. The proposal will be further introduced to SOM1 and SOM2 prior to the ASEMME6 in Korea 2017.

The meeting was ended by the presentation of ASEMME6 preparation by the Republic of Korea. It was provisionally scheduled that the ASEMME6 will be conducted in May 2017 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The meeting will be preceded by two Senior Officials' Meetings in November 2016 (SOM1) and May 2017 (SOM2).

QUALITY ASSURANCE AND RECOGNITION

THE 1st ASEM EXPERT GROUP MEETING ON INTERREGIONAL CREDIT TRANSFER MECHANISM AND LEARNING OUTCOME SYSTEM

Under the coordination and cooperation of the Ministry of Education of the Peoples Republic of China and China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Center (CDGDC), the 1st ASEM Expert Group Meeting on Interregional Credit Transfer Mechanism and Learning Outcome System was held on 24-25 March 2016 in Beijing, China.

The meeting was chaired by China and attended by representatives from ASEM member countries (Brunei Darussalam, China, Estonia, Indonesia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Thailand, United Kingdom, as well as ASEAN University Network).

The meeting discussed: 1) Interregional credit transfer mechanisms and learning outcome systems among ASEM member countries; and 2) Common understanding of strengthening forward dialogues, cooperation on credit transfer and learning outcomes; and 3) Possibility of wider participation from ASEM member countries and related international organizations (UNESCO, INQAAHE, APQN and ENQA).

It was also emphasized the need to work collaboratively between the Expert Group and the Working Group for Implementing the ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration.

The 2-day meeting discussion has yielded some following results:

1. Officially established the Expert Group and approved the Terms of Reference of the Expert Group.

2. Established the Secretariat of the Expert Group in CDGDC.
3. Agreed to undertake collaborative research led by China and supported by experts from program member countries and also welcomes contributions from other ASEM member countries.
4. Agreed to organize an international seminar at the end of 2016 in collaboration with regional and international organizations to be held in China on the platform of Cross-Border Quality Assurance Network (CBQAN).
5. Agreed to explore the feasibility of an “ASEM Study/Courses Portal” on Credit Transfer and Learning Outcomes to promote student mobility.
6. Belgium will organize the 2nd Expert Meeting in 2017

THE 4th WORKING GROUP MEETING ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ASEM (ASIA-EUROPE MEETING) RECOGNITION BRIDGING DECLARATION



© Estonian ENIC/NARIC

On 14-16 April 2016, the Academic Recognition Information Centre (Estonian ENIC/NARIC) in cooperation with the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research held the 4th Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the ASEM Recognition Bridging Declaration in Tallinn, Estonia. The meeting was attended by the

representatives of ASEM member countries from China, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Philippines, Romania, and United Kingdom.

The main objective of the meeting was to continue the works on developing the actions agreed at Ministerial Meetings and the Terms of Reference of the Working Group.

During the meeting, participants reviewed the implementation process of the Bridging Declaration and the recent developments of qualification recognition in both regions.

ENGAGING BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY IN EDUCATION

THE 5th ASEM RECTORS' CONFERENCE AND STUDENTS FORUM

The 5th ASEM Rectors' Conference and Students Forum with the theme of "*Employability: Asia and Europe Prepare the New Generation*" was held on 4-8 April 2016 in Prague, Czech Republic. It was organized by the Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in cooperation with Charles University in Prague and supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic.

ARC5 consisted of two core programme elements namely: 1) the ARC5 Students' Forum which held on 4-7 April 2016 and 2) ARC5 Rectors' Conference held on 6-8 April 2016. Both meetings focused on employability skills topic in which young people should be well prepared and well equipped with more flexible, innovative and specialist skillset to meet the demand of current labour market.



© ASEF Documentations

ARC5 Students' Forum was attended by short listed students from 51 ASEM member countries. As resulted in the discussion, the students are expected to be active in the workings towards delivering tangible outcomes.

Both tertiary education and lifelong learning should recognise formal, informal and non-formal learning and include transferable skills in higher education curricula. They also encouraged the cooperation and funding in field of employability between governments, universities, and business and third sector, particularly across three key areas namely: 1) Developing a continuous Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue; 2) Work Experience in the New Economy; and 3) Mobility, Accessibility and Financing.

ARC5 Rectors' Conference was participated by more than 150 Rectors of leading universities, business leaders, industry representatives and representatives from governments, international and non-governmental organizations from 51 ASEM member countries. During the discussion, participants of ARC5 Rectors' Conference expressed the need to strengthen the existing – or development – of new platforms for interaction between Asia and Europe on the concerns, barriers, opportunities, and best practices related to employability and sustainable development. Furthermore, ASEM partners should encourage interaction with relevant actors (HE Institutes, industry, students and public) and all

stakeholders to engage in the ASEM policy recommendation implementation process.

Please visit [ASEF website](#) to download the results of the meeting.

BALANCED MOBILITY

ASEM DUO-KOREA 2016 CALL FOR APPLICATION

The Secretariat for ASEM-DUO in Seoul, Republic of Korea has announced a call for DUO-Korea Fellowship Programme Applications.

The DUO-Korea Programme was established in 2001 and has supported 1,454 professors, students and teachers in over past 15 years. However, the current program will only concentrate on student body.

The application opens from 18 April 2016 to 16 May 2016 at Korean local time. For more detail, please visit ASEM-DUO Korea Fellowship Program website:

http://www.aseduo.org/sub_3/default.asp?program=duo_korea

ASEM DUO-SWEDEN 2016 CALL FOR APPLICATION

The Secretariat is pleased to announce a call for DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme Applications. The DUO-Sweden Fellowship Programme was established in 2010 aiming to promote exchanges of people between Sweden and Asian countries on a balanced basis.

The application opens from 25 April 2016 to 20 May 2016 at Swedish local time. For more detail,

please visit ASEM-DUO Sweden Fellowship Program website:

http://www.aseduo.org/sub_3/default.asp?program=duo_sweden

TVET INCLUDING LIFELONG LEARNING

2nd MEETING OF 2nd PHASE OF ASEM INNOVATIVE COMPETENCES AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION

In Jakarta, Indonesia on 21-23 March 2016, the Ministry of Education and Culture, Republic of Indonesia hosted the 2nd Meeting of the 2nd Phase of ASEM Working Group on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Education. The meeting was participated by representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, and Latvia.



© MoEC Indonesia

The meeting was preceded by the introduction of Indonesian vocational schools as the case study by the Director of Vocational Schools Development of the Ministry of Education and Culture and continued by discussion and best-practices sharing on innovative competences and entrepreneurship education from each member country. In the following day, the participants made visits to Indonesian Vocational Schools in the field of industry and engineering.

The third day, all participants developed survey plan and questionnaires of “International Survey on Innovative Competences and Entrepreneurship Education amongst ASEM Nations”. The survey

aimed to diagnose the entrepreneurship education status for each nation on the basis of each factors of successful entrepreneurship defined in the 1st phase of Working Group.

The preparation process of survey will begin in May 2016 after the survey questionnaire and related documents distributed by KRIVET to all participating countries. Each country is advised to translate the questionnaire to their national languages before it is carried out around upcoming June to September 2016. Further to that, the survey questionnaire shall be distributed to the respondents which are divided into 3 sectors: Policy, Education, and Organizations.

The upcoming meeting will be organized by the end of 2016.

Belgium (the Flemish Community), Germany, Indonesia, and Thailand.

In parallel, the working group of ASEM Joint Curriculum will discuss in detail on action plan of program implementation in 2016.

The 2nd ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE (AEI)-ASEM SUMMER SCHOOL (AEI-ASS)

Continuing the successful organization of the 1st Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) ASEM Summer School in 2015, the Ministry of Higher Education of Malaysia together with Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) of the University of Malaya will organize the 2nd AEI-ASEM Summer School from 7 - 21 August 2016 in Malaysia. The second edition of summer camp will be conducted with the theme of '*Multiculturalism and Multiethnicity in Asia and Europe*'.

ASEM ACTIVITIES TO COME - SAVE THE DATE

THE 3RD WORKING GROUP ON ASEM WORK PLACEMENT PROGRAMME AND THE 3RD WORKING GROUP ON ASEM JOINT CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT IN TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

Organized by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education of the Republic of Indonesia, the 3rd Working Group on ASEM Work Placement Programme and the 3rd Working Group on ASEM Joint Curriculum Development in Tourism and Hospitality will be held in parallel on 27-28 May 2016 in Bali, Indonesia.

The working group of ASEM Work Placement will develop the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the National University Business Network (UBN), Guidelines of the ASEM Work Placement Programme among partner-countries, and interns application. The working group will invite the participating countries of Brunei Darussalam,



© AEI

The summer school is a program that provides opportunities for its participants to learn the Asian cultures, especially for the students, academicians, and researchers from Europe and other parts of the world. The 2nd Summer School has been designed for two weeks which will facilitate the participants to experience the educationally oriented field trips.



There are 13 modules will be taught during the program and several visitations will allow the participants to experience the uniqueness of Malaysia. In relation to that, ASEM members are invited to join the programme.

Please visit AEI website for more details at <http://www.aei-asc.edu.my>. The online registration will be opened until 7 June 2016.

**20th ASEF SUMMER UNIVERSITY ON "GATEWAYS TO ASIA AND EUROPE: CONNECTIVITY BY LAND, SEA AND AIR"
#ASEFSU20**

Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF) in cooperation with partners from Asia and Europe will hold the 20th ASEF Summer University "Gateways to Asia and Europe: Connectivity by Land, Sea and Air" on 15 August - 5 September 2016.



The objective of the activities are: 1) to promote the historical ties of Asia-Europe relationships and current collaborations in the field of transportation and trade by organising a high-visibility and large-scale educational journey across 3 ASEM countries; and 2) to research and develop *out-of-the-box* solutions for the real scenario challenges will provide opportunities for the students to experience .

The 20th ASEFSU will be participated by selected students and young professionals from 51 ASEM member countries. Also, they will be invited to visit couples of cities in Asia and Europe countries during 2-week program such as Beijing and Harbin (China); Vladivostok, Irkutsk and Chita (Russia); and Ulaanbaatar (Mongolia)

For further details please visit:

<http://www.asef.org/projects/themes/education/3728-20th-asef-summer-university-asefsu->

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON 'PRACTICE OF RECOGNITION BRIDGING CONTINENTS'

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation and the Federal Service for Supervision in the Sphere of Education and Science (Rosobrnadzor) will organize the International Conference 'Practice of Recognition Bridging Continents' at Peoples' Friendship University of Russia (PFUR) in Moscow, Russia, on 14-15 October 2016.



© People's Friendship University of Russia (PFUR)

The annual conference aims to be a platform for national experience exchange and fruitful discussions which concerns for the international education development in terms of globalization processes, increasing academic mobility, and recognition practices worldwide.

ASEM members were invited to share visions and suggestions of discussion that will be discussed. Please submit the abstract with subject line "Thesis" to recognition@glavex.ru at your most convenience time not later than 25 September 2016.

For further information please contact Ustyan Anastasia at secretary.fgbu@glavex.ru or Tel.: +7 (495) 665 7880.

REGIONAL ACTIVITIES

THE 6th ANNUAL FORUM FOR HIGH OFFICIALS OF BASIC EDUCATION OF SEAMEO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Continuing the successful of the 5th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education in 2015, the Ministry of Education and Culture in cooperation with SEAMEO Secretariat organized the 6th Annual Forum for High Official of Basic Education with the theme of "Adopting 21st Century Curriculum" on 25-26 April 2016 in Bandung, Indonesia.

The forum was attended by 10 SEAMEO member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, and Timor Leste), SEAMEO Regional Centers, and SEAMEO Secretariat. The forum agenda consisted of plenary session and roundtable discussion.



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On the first day, Plenary Session was led by Indonesia and followed by the project presentations from SEAMEO Regional Centers and country presentations from SEAMEO member countries. Generally, the member countries presented the process of adopting the 21st Curriculum in their country, and the challenges appeared.

Roundtable Discussion on the second day was led by the SEAMEO Secretariat summarized the future initiatives/programs from SEAMEO member

countries and Regional Centers to support the adoption of 21st Century Curriculum.

THE 2nd STRATEGIC DIALOGUE FOR EDUCATION MINISTERS

The Ministry of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), and Asian Development Bank (ADB) hosted the 2nd Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) on 27-28 April 2016 in Bandung, Indonesia. The meeting was attended by Ministers of Education and delegates of SEAMEO member countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam and the SEAMEO Secretariat.



© MoEC Indonesia

Under the theme of discussion 'Strategy 2035: *Innovating, Leading Learning, and Moving Forward Together*', the meeting discussed on the dynamics and forward looking regional policy development and innovations which expected to address the education and human resource concerns the Southeast Asian region.

The aims of this biannual dialogue forum were to: 1) collectively reflect on current education, science and culture issues in Southeast Asia and beyond; 2) review current and emerging education concerns as well as options for collaborative undertakings; and 3) provide a starting point for regional and cross country collaborative interventions to address shared or unique education development concerns.

The meeting consisted of four roundtable discussions which allowed the Ministers to present initiatives and success stories on key education issues in their countr. Each Thematic Roundtable discusses: 1) SEAMEO Education Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals; 2) Innovations on Learning Delivery and Content; 3) Key Education Players and Engaging Education Stakeholders; and 4) the Seven Priority Areas of SEAMEO Agenda for the next 3 years (2016-2018) joint programmes.

As resulted in the meeting, the Ministers agreed to adopt the “Statement of the SEAMEO Council on the Active Agenda for SEAMEO (2016-2019)” and Bandung Statement to pursue the 7 priorities areas and the identified initiatives. The statement acknowledged the importance of talking actions in pursuing the 7 priority areas and mobility support for the new identified initiatives.

The Seven Priority Areas of SEAMEO are: 1) achieving universal Early childhood care and education; 2) Addressing barriers to Inclusion; 3) Resiliency in the face of emergencies; 4) Promoting technical and vocational education and training; 5) Revitalizing teacher education; 6) Harmonizing higher education and research; and 7) Adopting a 21st century curriculum.

Publisher: ASEM Education Secretariat
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Press Review

Global

High MOOC Completion Rates in Developing Countries: 15 April 2016

A new study by University of Washington researchers in the United States showed that developing world learners use massive open online courses (MOOCs) very differently than their developed world counterparts. Based on surveys of 1,400 MOOC users and 2,250 non-users aged 18 to 35 in Colombia, the Philippines and South Africa, the study describes itself as the first to include multiple MOOC providers in the developing world and the first to analyze individuals not using MOOCs. Among the key findings of the research are as follows:

- Low- and middle-income populations make up 80% of MOOC users in contrast to wealthier populations reported elsewhere;
- More than four out of five MOOC users only have basic or intermediate level ICT skills, challenging the belief that MOOCs are predominantly taken by people with higher level skills; and
- The main motivations of MOOC users were found to be in gaining specific job skills (61%), preparing for additional education (39%), and obtaining professional certification (37%).

The CEO of CourseTalk Don Loonam said that at CourseTalk they were heartened to learn that MOOCs are successfully reaching less educated students in developing countries and with remarkably high certification rates. The Director of the Advancing MOOCs for Development Initiative, Scott Andersen said that in each of the countries studied, awareness was the determining factor in whether people enrolled in MOOCs and Governments and businesses can capitalize on this new form of educational outreach by encouraging lifelong learning, supporting the development of contemporary skills, and recognizing certification.

Read more at :

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20160414211758202>

Brunei Darussalam

Future of Brunei Depends on Education System: 26 April 2016

The Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam said that the future of Brunei Darussalam depends on its education system, especially the ability of the school leadership in meeting current challenges. He said this at the 6th National Education Forum held at the International Convention Centre in Berakas on 25 April 2016. He emphasised the need to have a sense of urgency to enhance overall achievements of students in both academic and marketable skills to enable them to be competitive in the global scene.

During the Forum, Pehin Orang Kaya Indera Pahlawan Dato Seri Setia Awang Haji Suyoi bin Haji Osman, the Minister of Education said that education in Brunei Darussalam is going through a transformation with a slew of initiatives being implemented at the primary and secondary education. In addition to that the Minister also said that great and passionate school leaders are vital to our education system because they change the trajectory of children's lives for the better.

The Ministry also has embarked a training and professional development programme for school leaders in March last year with the establishment of the Brunei Programme for Senior School Leaders (BPSSL). The programme focuses on developing school leaders' teaching as well as overall leadership abilities to help school leaders efficiently lead a team and manage an organisation and its transformation.

Read more at:

<http://borneobulletin.com.bn/future-of-brunei-depends-on-education-system/>

Denmark

Denmark Looks to Attract Top Talent, Boost Industry: 24 April 2016

The Danish government with working closely with the private sector has released action plan to attract and retain talented international students. Minister for Higher Education and Science, Denmark, Sofie Carsten Nielsen said that ahead of launching the action plan and the recruitment reform, the Ministry had an intense dialogue with both Danish businesses and the Danish research and higher education institutions to put



together a plan that will make Denmark an even more attractive study and work destination for the best talents around the world

The government of Danish also is keen on increasing access for students by collaborating with industry stakeholders. The Ministry is engaging discussions with both businesses and industry foundations in order to explore possibilities of scaling the programme with industry co-funding as well as targeting the programme to areas where demand for specialists are highest.

In addition to above planning, an international graduates from countries outside the European Union (EU) who have completed a Master's or PhD programme in Denmark will have the opportunity to apply for a start-up permit giving them the right to work in Denmark for two years and also start their own company.

Read more at:

<http://thepienews.com/news/denmark-looks-to-attract-top-talent-boost-industry>

France

Prestigious French University Offers English Courses to Migrants: 8 March 2016

One of Paris' most renowned higher-education establishments is offering free language courses to refugees as part of an integration scheme thought up by the university's students. The students of the programme are originally from Syria, Afghanistan and Sudan aged between 20 and 40 years and already holding university qualifications from their own countries.

The aim of the programme is to help the migrants integrate in French society, but rather than just offering French classes, the university has decided to give the group of migrants the choice between French or English. Besides joining the language courses, the migrants can also benefit from access to the university's teaching resources, including the libraries and online materials, as well as extra-curricular activities such as sports clubs, societies and student events. The migrants which are granted refugee status or asylum in France can enter into an "integration" contract with the state under and can receive free language classes for one year.

Read more at:

<http://www.thelocal.fr/20160308/prestigious-french-university-offers-language-courses-to-migrants>

India

Union Cabinet Approves Signing of MoU with Bhutan: 25 April 2016

Chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, The Union Cabinet signed a MoU between India and Bhutan on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering. The signing of MoU based on diplomatic relation of both countries and commitment to continue close coordination and cooperation in areas relating to the national interest.

The MoU will provide an umbrella for educational, scientific & technical research and environment protection which are also stated aim of the India-Bhutan foundation established in August 2003.

Read more:

<http://www.indiaeducationreview.com/news/union-cabinet-approves-signing-mou-bhutan>

Indonesia

Quality Improvement on Higher Education for Health through Implementation of National Competency Test: 6 April 2016

The Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education organized a quality assurance system for higher education in health aspects in order to ensure the quality of health education through the national competency examination.

During the press conference on 6 April 2016 at Ministry office, the Minister, Mohamad Nasir, explained the benefits of national competency exam is to identify Indonesian health personnel's whom are competent to provide excellent health services driven by main principles such as patient's wellness, encourage curriculum improvement and learning process as well as quality assurance outline for higher education in health.

Around 62.891 participants coming of 257 program study for nurse profession, 554 program study Diploma III of Midwifery, and 416 program study Diploma III of Nursing, signed up for competency test conducted on 2-16 April 2016.

Read more at :

<http://international.ristekdikti.go.id/2016/quality-improvement-on-higher-education-for-health->



[through-implementation-of-national-competency-test/](#)

Kazakhstan

Broadband Internet to Reach 90% of Kazakh Students within Four Years, Education Minister Says: 26 April 2016

The access to reach broadband internet in Kazakhstan will reach 90% of students in next three to four years said Minister of Education and Science of Kazakhstan, Yerlan Sagadiyev. He said this at a Central Communications Service briefing on the State Programme for Development of Education and Science in 2016-2019 years. The minister stressed that this will ensure massive and widespread implementation of new knowledge and practices as well as alignment of all levels of students and teachers.

The Minister also highlighted that it is important to implement broadband internet massively throughout the country which will able to increase the rate of modernization of educational processes. The Ministry will provide possibilities to Kazakhstan students and universities to integrate quickly into the educational space and distance learning and development of e-content will solve basic issues of small schools.

Read more at:

<http://astanatimes.com/2016/04/broadband-internet-to-reach-90-of-kazakh-students-within-four-years-education-minister-says/>

Latvia

Latvian teachers on course for increase in 2016 salaries: 25 April 2016

In an interview with LNT commercial TV channel on 25 April 2016, Minister of Education and Sciences of Latvia, Karlis Sadurskis said that the launch of a new pay system in Latvia's education system will increase teachers' monthly wages by 200-300 Euros on average. The teachers of Latvia will start receiving higher wages from the new academic year, which will begin on 1 September 2016.

Under the current legislation, the minimum monthly wage of comprehensive school teachers is EUR 420. The new pay system provides for a "considerable increase" in the minimum pay. During the interview, the Minister said that the increase can be steeper for some and

slower for others, because it is not possible to create a system that would be equally great for everyone. The Minister also said that the Ministry has done a good job with the financial resources that the Ministry have at disposal.

Read more at:

http://www.baltictimes.com/latvian_teachers_on_course_for_increase_in_2016_salaries/

Malaysia

Action Plan to Create More Entrepreneurs Launched: 16 April 2016

Hon. Datuk Seri Idris bin Jusoh, Minister of Higher Education Malaysia launch the Entrepreneurial Action Plan for institutions of higher learning 2016-2020 On 15 April 2016 at the Ministry. During the launching ceremony he said that the Ministry wanted the graduates to be job creators rather than job seekers which is in line with the first thrust of the Malaysia Education Blueprint 2015-2025 (Higher Education) to create holistic, enterprising and balanced graduates; and the fifth thrust – to create financial sustainability through an enhanced entrepreneurial environment.

The action plan is aims to have all undergraduates enrolling in entrepreneurship-related programmes and activities, 15% of the student population conducts their own businesses while studying and ultimately the plan aims to have 5% of those graduating becoming entrepreneurs by 2020. Current trends showed that Malaysians were keener to join the business world because they were more "opportunity-driven" rather than "necessity-driven". The Minister also said that Individuals are less fearful of failures, while their perceived capabilities and perception of opportunities have increased.

Read more at:

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/04/16/action-plan-to-create-more-entrepreneurs-launched/>



New Zealand

Fewer school leavers qualified to enroll at university: 4 March 2016

Changes to New Zealand's University Entrance (UE) standard have cut the number of school-leavers qualified to enroll in the universities by several thousand. The changes were made to ensure teens have the right knowledge and skills for tertiary study.

The President of the Secondary School Teachers' Union, the Post Primary Teachers' Association, Angela Roberts, said that there had been a suspicion that the fall in the UE pass rate in 2014 was because schools and students had misunderstood the new UE standard. She also said that it is possible that some students failed to get UE simply because of the courses they had chosen at school. However, the President of the Tertiary Education Union, Sandra Grey, said universities will accept many of the students who failed to get UE because they will not want their first-year enrolments to fall.

<http://www.universityworldnews.com/article.php?story=20160303160625178>