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### Diary dates

Tying it all together:  
internationalisation, excellence,  
funding and the social dimension  
in higher education.

[ACA Annual Conference](#)

10-12 June 2012, Helsinki

To register, please click [here](#).

International Student Recruitment:  
Understanding and Working with the  
Points Based Immigration System.

[Public Policy Exchange](#), London

Thursday 10 May 2012

To register, please click [here](#).

The Future of University Rankings:  
Europe in a Global Context

Wednesday 27 June 2012

The Stanhope Hotel, Brussels

To register click [here](#).

HE International Network

Wednesday 13 June 2012

9.30-16.30, London

Gulf Education Conference  
and Exhibition

28 June-29 May

Hilton London Metropole Hotel

### Towards active engagement in Sub-Saharan Africa

*Christian Yeomans asks if the 21st Century belongs to China and the East, will Africa be next?*

This question has been doing the rounds for some time in higher education and internationalisation circles, and not without good reason. But signs are emerging that higher education institutions in the United Kingdom are moving beyond horizon scanning and are starting to engage with the question of Africa in a more practical way.

#### Massive potential

Few would disagree that there has been an explosion in higher education in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA). From an initial group of just six universities and slightly over 20,000 students in the 1960s, a substantial higher education system of around 650 tertiary level institutions and 4.5 million students has emerged in the region.

Many SSA countries are fast developing knowledge economies with young and growing populations. With countries like Nigeria possessing a zeal for education at all levels, a population of 160 million, soaring levels of foreign direct investment, and an annual growth in GDP of 9-10% per year, it is not surprising that HEIs have been keeping a close watch on developments in the region.

#### Increasing interest in the practicalities

It is, of course, true that developments in higher education in Africa continue to be challenging for the continent and for parties wishing to engage with African institutions. Speaking in [New York](#) last month, Olugbemiro Jegede, Secretary General of the Association of African Universities, highlighted the ongoing 'double edged effect' of brain drain, variance in levels of quality between institutions, the inability of African governments to properly fund the expansion of HE, and major disparities in levels of HE development between African countries.

But rather than being put off by such obstacles, there is some evidence that more institutions in the UK are engaging positively with challenges of this nature, with a view to taking real steps to increasing their activity in Africa. The UK agency charged with providing comparative information and advice on international education and training systems, skills and qualifications, UK NARIC, has recently reported a noticeable increase in interest in Africa. Between 2010 and 2011 there was a 1.5% increase in proportion of views of the NARIC online database for Africa - a significant figure when compared with decreases for the European Union, Russia, the Far East and Southern Asia, and less than 0.5% increases for North and South America and South East Asia. The number of enquiries from NARIC's members follow a similar pattern, with enquiries about African countries increasing by 1.6% relative to overall decreases for the EU, Southern and South East Asia, and South America.

#### An enhanced level of discussion and enquiry

The recent growth in the number of publications, workshops and conferences on engagement with Africa and the developing world also reflects a shift towards addressing, rather than describing, practical challenges.

# Africa Forum

How can universities respond to the new Africa?

Tuesday 10 January 2012 at the University of Reading



The Africa Forum at the University of Reading

The University of Reading's high profile 'Africa Forum' attracted a wide range of academics and HE professionals to discuss how universities should engage with the "new Africa", with participation by a broad range of UK institutions keen to showcase successful initiatives and share ideas on how to overcome shared obstacles in practice.

Similar themes are addressed in the recent [Foundations for the Future](#) report published jointly by the British Academy and the Association of Commonwealth Universities, which explores the opportunities, benefits and practical implications of collaboration between African and UK higher education institutions, specifically with a view to supporting the early careers of African researchers.

Across the Atlantic it has also been deemed that the time is right to promote practical engagement in Africa. In January this year the Institute for International Education, one of the world's largest international education and training organisations, launched [Weaving Success](#), a major publication aimed at getting beyond the 'accumulation of woes' through which African higher education has for decades been framed, to look at the detailed mechanics of how the continent's many and increasing HE and research successes have come about.

## In-country engagement

As well as engaging in this enhanced level of discussion and enquiry, institutions are also voting with their feet. On 17 April the University of Nottingham became the latest institution to establish an office in Africa. The new facility was opened in the Ghanaian capital Accra, and adds Nottingham to a growing list of institutions to expand their physical presence in SSA, including the universities of Swansea, Leeds, Bristol, Sheffield and Coventry to name but a few.

Some commentators in the UK are starting to voice their feelings that it is time to take collaboration with Africa a step further. One senior African academic working at a UK institution has recently called for a permanent presence for UK institutions in Africa. At the Reading forum the keynote speaker Dr Chuckwumerije Okereke, Reader in Environment and Development at the University of Reading and consultant to a range of African governments, the World Bank and the United Nations, said the time is right for UK universities to set up campuses in Africa, providing Africans with access to a Western education and helping stem brain drain in the process.

Such calls come at a time when new opportunities for the delivery of transnational education are beginning to appear in SSA countries. British universities are to be allowed to build campuses and offer degrees in Nigeria for the first time, with Nigeria's National Universities Commission (NUC) running a pilot scheme that will allow a limited number of foreign universities to build branch campuses, twin with Nigerian institutions and offer distance-learning degrees. The British Council, which negotiated with the NUC for a number of years over the deal, said that UK institutions were better placed to move into Nigeria than their international rivals. Nigeria's private universities will be the focus for links with British institutions.

While SSA presently has very few international branch-campuses, the first initiatives in this area are already well underway. Carnegie Mellon University plans to open a branch campus in Rwanda next year, making it the first American university to operate a full-fledged campus in Africa. The institution will receive \$95-million over 10 years from the Rwandan government for the venture, which will initially offer master's degrees in information technology and electrical and computer engineering. The university will seek to attract students from East Africa, with a preference given to Rwandans, and expects to enrol 150 students by 2017. The Rwandan government has agreed to provide scholarships for its citizens to cover tuition and other costs.

#### Remaining engaged and proactive

While the increasing interest in Higher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa is clear, the higher education landscape in Africa is fast changing, and it is crucial that UK institutions remain alert to developments. Delegates at the launch of Weaving Success, for example, raised the probability that the number of private universities in Africa is likely to outstrip public institutions within five years. The growing trend towards 'South-to-South' collaborations in the development of international branch campuses is increasingly manifest in SSA, with new campuses in Tanzania and Kenya both originating with Uganda's Kampala International University. And in Reading John Kirkland, Deputy Secretary General of Association of Commonwealth Universities, warned of the dangers of UK losing its advantageous position by being insufficiently proactive, and possibly even complacent in the face of China's growing influence in Africa.



## The China connection

*Andy Heath, Policy Officer reports that higher education is at the centre of China's shift to 'soft' relations with Africa*

China's economic involvement in Africa has been well documented. Now there are signs that the world's second biggest economy is looking to its rapidly developing university sector to develop its 'soft' relations with the continent.

China is making a major financial investment in attracting more African students to its own universities. It currently gives out over 4000 scholarships each year to students from Africa, and having decided to double the number of foreign students it funds to study in China, the China Scholarship Council is now concentrating its new bilateral scholarship schemes on African countries.

It may be one of the fastest growing destinations for branch campuses, but China is also looking to export its higher education overseas. The China Europe International Business School, Shanghai, was the first Chinese overseas teaching centre. It opened in Accra, Ghana in 2009 and delivers its Executive MBA to students from Ghana and across the continent. The Observatory on Borderless Higher Education predicts Chinese institutions could set up campuses in Sudan, Angola, Zambia and Nigeria over the next few years. Beijing State University has already announced plans to open a campus in Sri Lanka after taking up an offer of land and tax incentives from the Sri Lankan government.

Confucius centres in Africa are looking to offer degree programmes

To date the most successful vehicle for Chinese integration in African HE is through Confucius Institutes. Africa's first Confucius Institute (CI) opened in 2005 in Kenya, a collaboration between Tianjin Normal University and the University of Nairobi. Seven years later, thirty institutions are operating out of universities from Madagascar to South Africa. Embedded within existing universities, the Confucius Institute act as hubs for the study of China; each institute has both a Chinese director and an African one. They also play an ancillary role as a bridge to China, facilitating and enhancing collaboration, exchange and knowledge transfer between the host university in Africa and institutions in China.

For now, Africa's Confucius Institutes have concentrated their resources on Mandarin-language training and cultural exchange, the Institute model has the potential for expansion. In October 2009, Africa's Confucius Institutes met in Nairobi to develop a 10-year plan for African CIs. The conference noted that Institutes in Africa are developing rapidly and are already preparing for the next stage: developing degree programmes. Seeing a role in educational provision, Africa's Confucius Institutes are preparing to follow a different path to those in Europe and the Americas.

Presidents and representatives from 44 universities across Africa and China met last November in Paris to discuss ways of deepening collaboration in higher education. Speaking at the the 2011 UNESCO-China-Africa University Leaders Meeting, Chinese Minister of Education Yuan Guiren said that China is seeking to "join hands with UNESCO and African countries to further develop and strengthen a long-term, stable, equal, mutually-beneficial, and cooperative partnership with Africa in the field of higher education". This, then, is a relationship to watch.

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## Higher education for development: Closer cooperation between Africa and the European Union

*Lucy Shackleton explores the developing relationship between the EU and Africa*

The European Union is becoming ever more global in its approach to higher education. The European Commission proposal Erasmus for All for the first time extends the Erasmus mobility programme beyond Europe's borders and the High Level People to People Dialogue due to take place between China and the European Union on 18 April will seek to promote a higher level of reciprocity in student, academic and teacher flows between the two countries.

However, one area which is often over-looked is the European Union's higher education activities in Africa. In the words of the EUA White Paper 'Africa-Europe: Higher Education Cooperation for Development', 'Europe needs Africa and Africa needs Europe'. In an increasingly interdependent world, Africa and Europe can usefully work together for long-term sustainable development through university partnerships, research collaboration and academic mobility.

African countries have looked to the Bologna Process and the European Higher Education Area to serve as models for closer harmonisation in the region. This, in turn, has allowed intra-African mobility initiatives such as the Mwalimu Nyerere African Union Scholarship Scheme to flourish.

However, the relationship between Europe and Africa in this field is one characterised by exchange. Projects like the EUA-managed and EU-funded CODOC (Cooperation on Doctoral Education between Africa, Asia, Latin America and Europe), the second conference for which was held in Johannesburg last month, allow stakeholders to investigate and exchange best practice on global trends from multiple perspectives.

The intensification of the relationship between European and African higher education also means more opportunities for UK HEIs. The European Commission has recently launched a call for proposals for projects under the EDULINK programme, designed to foster capacity-building in African, Caribbean and Pacific states and promote partnerships between institutions in these countries and Europe (more information on this call for can be obtained [here](#).)

Since 2007, the EU-African relationship has been structured by the Joint Africa-EU summit, which defines long-term policy orientations between the two continents. Until recently, this policy framework failed to recognise the fundamental importance of higher education. However, the Migration, Mobility and Exchange Partnership (under the Joint Africa EU strategy) now specifically stresses student mobility and regional harmonisation - just one of many indications that both Africa and Europe have recognised what can be achieved by working together in this field.

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## New Africa office extends The University of Nottingham's global reach

The University of Nottingham opened its first facility in the Ghanaian capital Accra on Tuesday April 17 2012. The West Africa Office will provide a regional base for the University's increasing collaborative work across Africa, encouraging greater staff and student exchange and widening access to the University's campuses through increased awareness of the University's extensive scholarships portfolio.

The University of Nottingham has a number of existing initiatives in place with universities in Ghana, including the University of Ghana and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) in Kumasi, to promote collaborative research, student and staff exchange/mobility and partner PhD study routes where students spend part of their studies at Nottingham in the UK and the other part of their study in Ghana.

Staff from the University's School of Nursing are currently working with KNUST on a Problem Based Learning (PBL) initiative comparing patient symptoms in the UK and Ghana to look at how they would be treated differently, leading to a sharing of knowledge and ideas and cultural exchange with specific medical practices.

One of Nottingham's flagship research projects Crops for the Future – which aims to identify alternative crops that have the potential to feed the world and improve the wealth of developing countries – is being conducted in partnership with a number of African collaborators. Professor Sayed Azam Ali, an academic based at the University's Malaysian campus in Seminyh near Kuala Lumpur, who is leading the research has forged links with the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in Nigeria, the Crops Research Institute in Kumasi and the Forum for Agricultural Research, Accra.

The University's Developing Solutions scholarship programme, celebrating its 10th anniversary this year, will have a key role to play in West Africa. One of the UK's largest scholarship programmes for the developing world, it offers full or partial tuition fees to support students on one-year Master of Science (MSc) programmes that have development and sustainability at their core. Developing Solutions is an investment in the development and growth of nations through individuals.

The new presence in Ghana will join the University's existing global network of in-country offices which include China, Malaysia, Brazil and Mexico.



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## Students and immigration – the true picture

*Jo Atwooll clarifies the latest visa regulations*



The tightening up of the UK's immigration system has been widely publicised over the past year, with regular reports abroad that the UK no longer welcomes international students. As the final set of changes to the student visa route are implemented, what is the true picture for those individuals wishing to study at a UK university and is it really as bad as media reports might lead us to believe?

Contrary to many accounts there is no cap on international student numbers in the UK. Steps have been taken to reduce the numbers of migrants entering the country but universities remain able to recruit genuine students from outside of Europe without being subjected to any numerical limit.

Many international students at UK universities can now only study at degree level and above for a maximum of five years. However, PhD students can study for longer as can those students on longer undergraduate courses who wish to progress to postgraduate study.

Students on postgraduate courses of one year or longer remain able to bring their family members to the UK with them and these dependants have the right to work. In addition, international students sponsored by universities have retained the right to work during their studies (up to 20 hours per week in term time).

The closure of the highly regarded Tier 1 Post Study Work route has been the most negatively received change to the immigration system. Despite its closure and contrary to the perceptions of many, international students will still have an option to stay in the UK to work under the Tier 2 visa route. To do so they must secure a graduate level job before their student visa expires. The job will not need to satisfy the resident labour market test but will need to meet a salary threshold.

Whilst the past year has represented a period of significant change in the UK's immigration system, the April changes represent the last of the planned amendments. A period of stability in the student visa system now beckons which will allow UK universities the time to focus on promoting the world-leading opportunities that continue to exist for international students.

Full article available here: <http://www.educationuk.org/UK/Article/GB1262438427923>

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## University of Westminster increases its activity in India

The University of Westminster held a two day event at the beginning of April in New Delhi to highlight their increased levels of activity in India. The event was led by Pro Vice Chancellor of External Affairs, Dr Myszka Guzkowska, and included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to mark the new partnership with Jamia Millia Islamia University. Westminster also announced a further investment of some £120k for scholarships for Indian students and launched their new alumni chapter for India. The Maharani of Gwaliha, who has recently become Scholarships Patron, also attended the event.

The Monday evening Showcase, encompassing the MOU signing with Jamia Millia Islamia, was an opportunity to highlight postgraduate courses. Alumni from Westminster from these courses were present to describe how their experience at Westminster had helped them with their prospects and careers.

Over 90 people attended making this event very successful. Attendees included delegates from the British High Commission, British Council, partner and potential partners, corporates and institutions, plus alumni and friends, old and new.

On Tuesday morning the University of Westminster opened its Education Showcase - encompassing an interactive session with guest speaker, Dr VS Ravindran, Director General of the ICTRC and a panel discussion. An education fair followed where students and their families were able to talk to senior academics about the courses on offer.

Over 200 school counsellors and students attended with many other potential students and applicants coming along specifically to talk to staff on the day. This has confirmed the University's engagement with leading schools in the Delhi region and potential academic partners and feeder routes, which they will continue to develop.

On Tuesday evening the University of Westminster held a private dinner for Senior Alumni and Captains of Industry, kick-starting their commitment to engage senior alumni and industry in supporting graduates with career opportunities in India once they have completed their studies.

*Sarah Carthew, University of Westminster*

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## The number of children at international schools reaches three million

*Anne Keeling of ISC Research reports on the rapid expansion of international schools as local families want to increase the opportunities for their children to study abroad.*

The latest figures published by ISC Research show that the number of children attending the world's international schools has passed three million, with the numbers trebling since 2002.

This increasing demand for places is driving the rapid expansion of international schools worldwide and it is predicted that the number of students will reach six million in another ten years and that the number of international schools will increase from 6,000 today to 10,000.

Ten years ago, the typical international school student was from an expatriate family. Today 80% of students at international schools are local children as it is viewed as a route to securing university places worldwide. In a number of cities, this demand from both expat and local families, is outstripping supply. Hong Kong, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Doha all have significant problems. In certain locations, it is the availability of good school places that is driving job decisions by expats rather than salaries and destinations. As a result of this demand, a number of countries are actively encouraging the growth of international schools including China, India, Malaysia, Korea, and the UAE.

Managing Director of ISC Research, Nicholas Brummitt, says "There are now a number of highly respected, multinational groups of schools driving growth forward. Most of these groups are expanding aggressively, either by buying existing schools, expanding current operations, or building new schools. There are also schools with campuses in several countries. These include a number of UK private schools with international operations such as Harrow (in Beijing, Bangkok with a third school in Hong Kong opening in September this year) and Dulwich which has schools in China and is opening several more in Asia over the next few years."

For more information about the international schools market visit [www.iscresearch.com](http://www.iscresearch.com) or contact: Anne Keeling [anne@annekeeling.co.uk](mailto:anne@annekeeling.co.uk)

# RESEARCH AND COLLABORATION



## INVITATION – UK-Wuxi Collaboration on Technology Transfer

In collaboration with Asia Business Centre of University of Nottingham and China Centre of Swansea University, the British Council China is organising two workshops to introduce its UK-Wuxi Collaboration on Technology Transfer.

This initiative aims to link UK researchers with Chinese businesses interested in research and technology transfer.

### Workshop One

**Date** Wednesday 23rd May, 2012

**Time** 10:00 - 13:00

**Venue** East Midland Conference Centre, University of Nottingham

Buffet lunch available

### Workshop Two

**Date** Thursday 24th May, 2012

**Time** 10:00 - 13:00

**Venue** Swansea University

Buffet lunch available

### Key Speakers

Ms. Qiu Weiyu, Vice Chairman, Wuxi Association for Science & Technology

Mr. Zhu Zhongyi, Chairman, Huishan District Association for Science & Technology

Mr. Xu Hongquan, General Manager, Wuxi Ruipu Chemical Equipment Co. Ltd

### Key Topics

- Introduction of government policy and financial support on technology transfer;
- Introduction of eight priority sectors in Wuxi;
- How Wuxi protects International IP;
- How Wuxi based enterprises work on technology transfer;

### R.S.V.P

To register please email [ihe@britishcouncil.org.cn](mailto:ihe@britishcouncil.org.cn) by 5pm on 30th April 2012 with the following:

- Name of your university and participant/s and which workshop you'd like to attend

### UK-Wuxi Collaboration on Technology Transfer

If you are interested in participating in the scheme, the closing date for submissions is 31st July 2012. For more information about the project see:

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/zh/china-education-higher-wuxi.htm>

## Events

### HE International Network: 13 June 2012, 9.30 - 16.30, London

Following the successful launch of the HE International Network last autumn, we are pleased to announce that the second event will take place on Wednesday 13 June, and will be on the subject of Developing and Implementing Internationalisation Strategies. The day will be organised to allow ample time to hear from experts as well as discuss the issues with colleagues from across the UK. Contributors include Dr Judith Lamie, International director, University of Leeds, James Richardson, Director of International Development, Sheffield Hallam University and John Fielden of CHEMS Consulting and the author of the Leadership Foundation publications: A Guide to Offshore Staffing Strategies for UK Universities; Leadership and Management of International Partnerships and Mapping Leadership Development in Higher Education: A Global Study. This is a jointly organised event between the Leadership Foundation and the UK HE International Unit. The network event will take place at Woburn House, more information including a booking form can be found here: [HE International Network](#)

### Gulf Education Conference & Exhibition

28th-29th May 2012, Hilton London Metropole Hotel

Cultural Attachés, Ministers and Educational Officials from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region will be present at the 2nd annual Gulf Education Conference & Exhibition, London, 28th & 29th May 2012.

The conference offers substantial opportunities for the sector to create partnerships and strike up meaningful business agreements with GCC member states through one to one meetings. There is a full agenda of presentations, workshops, case studies, networking sessions and expert insight into engaging with higher education institutions in the MENA region. Discover the opportunities available to establish academic exchanges, research and funding partnerships, increase student recruitment and establish campuses.

At the event you can set up face to face meetings and make tactical introductions with influential decision makers.

#### Attendees

Dr. Nibal Bourisly & Dr. Mohammad Hamad Al Hamad AlHajeri, Cultural Attaché, Kuwait

Dr. Mohammed A.S.M. Alkaabi, Cultural Attaché, Qatar

Abdel Razak El-Essa, Cultural Attaché, Iraq

Lubna Selaibeekh, Cultural Attaché, Bahrain

HE Prof. Rowaida Al Maaitah, Minister of Higher Education & Scientific Research, Jordan

Dr Ali Saeed, Minister of Higher Education, Kurdistan Regional Government

HE Dr. Saleh Al Nabit, Director of the Department of Institutional Development, GSDP Qatar

Talal Abu-Ghazaleh, President, Arab Organisation for Quality Assurance in Education (AROQA)

Dr. Ali A. Al-Karni, Director General, Arab Bureau of Education for the Gulf States (ABEGS)

Dr. Hamda Al Sulaiti, Director, Evaluation Institute, Supreme Council of Education Qatar

Dr. Jo Beall, Director Education and Society, British Council, UK

Dr. Nabil A Ibrahim, Chancellor, Abu Dhabi University

Dr. Hossein Godazgar, Acting Principal, Al Maktoum College of Higher Education, Dundee

David Lock, Director of International Projects, The Leadership Foundation, UK

Dr. Joanna Newman, Director, UK Higher Education International Unit

Delegation from Libya, attendees tbc

To register visit: [www.gulfeducation.co.uk](http://www.gulfeducation.co.uk) or call: 020 7036 3750 or email: [nb@gulfexhibitions.co.uk](mailto:nb@gulfexhibitions.co.uk)

## 3RD ASEM Rectors' Conference (ARC3) – call for participation

Universities, Businesses and You: For a Sustainable Future  
Groningen, The Netherlands | 25th-26th September 2012

The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), University of Groningen (RUG) and ASEAN University Network (AUN) are pleased to invite university leaders from Asia and Europe to participate in the 3rd ASEM Rectors' Conference to be held from 25-26 September 2012 in Groningen, The Netherlands.

The ASEM Rectors' Conference is a biennial leadership dialogue established in 2008 aimed at enhancing education co-operation among ASEM countries by providing a platform for higher education policy discussions between the two regions.

Building on the results of the 2nd ASEM Rectors' Conference and the 3rd Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education, the Conference will convene rectors and heads of universities and higher education institutions from ASEM member states to:

- Strengthen the stakeholder process and enhance its articulation within the ASEM Education Process
- Integrate student participation into the stakeholder process
- Contribute actively to enhancing working relations, institutional exchange and cooperation of universities within and between the regions
- Develop recommendations for the upcoming 4th Asia-Europe Meeting of Ministers for Education (Malaysia, 2013)

The organisers will provide travel subsidies (EUR 900 for participants travelling from Asia to The Netherlands and EUR 450 for participants travelling within Europe) as well as accommodation for a 3-night stay in Groningen during the Conference.

Interested parties are invited to complete the online Registration Form no later than Monday, 30 April 2012. Prospective participants are requested NOT to make any travel arrangements until they receive an official confirmation from the organisers. Please visit [www.asef.org](http://www.asef.org) for the online Registration Forms and guidelines.

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