



CACCI

Health & Education Newsletter

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Message from the Chairman

Dear CACCI members and friends,

I am happy to bring you the 3rd volume of our Health and Education Newsletter that includes updates and information on the health and education sectors in the Asia and Pacific region. These two sectors are witnessing continuous growth in the market value and the diversity of products and services as well. For instance, Health Tourism is a fast-growing industry due to the affordability of medical treatments coupled with the large number of world-leading medical facilities established in the region. So, health and education sectors may serve our economies by both generating wealth and securing human resources for the future developments.

I believe our Asian Council on Health and Education (ACHE) can play an important role, as a networking platform between the providers of health and education products and services, in the sustainable development of our countries. However, to achieve this goal, we request more active participation of manufacturers, service providers and the professional associations from the region.

This Newsletter can serve as a window to the exciting and innovative developments and as a podium for sharing the expertise and ideas. Therefore, all CACCI members are encouraged to take advantage of the Council and the Newsletter as a channel to voice their opinions and viewpoints.

I would like to thank our friends at CACCI secretariat for their appreciable efforts to make this Issue available and the contributors who have supplied us with outstanding content.

Sincerely,

Dr. Seyed Hassan Tabatabaieinejad

Chairman

Asian Council on Health and Education (ACHE)



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Countries in East Asia and Pacific Region Show Mixed Progress in Combatting Health Challenges

Despite improvements, diseases affecting young children persist in low- and lower-middle-income countries in the region, while ischemic heart disease and lung cancer are rising in many countries.



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In the East Asia and Pacific region, most diseases that affect children rapidly declined over the past two decades, but chronic diseases are killing more people prematurely and causing increasing disability.

Demographic changes, such as population growth and increasing average age, have likely contributed to the substantial rise of non-communicable diseases and injuries. Health loss from ischemic heart disease, or coronary artery disease, increased by 76%, lung cancer by 86%, and diabetes by 76% between 1990 and 2010. As countries in East Asia and Pacific have become more developed, road injuries have taken a growing toll on human health. For example, in Indonesia, Thailand, and Vietnam, road injuries were among the five leading causes of health loss. Early death and disability from road injuries was up 51% in the region.

These are some of the findings published September 4 by the World Bank and the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) in a report titled *The Global Burden of Disease: Generating Evidence, Guiding Policy: East Asia and Pacific Regional Edition*. The report is based on the *Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries, and Risk Factors Study 2010 (GBD 2010)*, a collaborative effort of researchers from 50 countries around the world led by IHME at the University of Washington.

“The rapid shifts in disease burden place poor people in low- and middle-income countries at high risk of not having access to appropriate services and incurring payments for health care that push them deeper into poverty,” said Timothy Evans, Director of Health,

Nutrition and Population at the World Bank Group. “The data in these new reports are critical inputs to the efforts of policymakers in countries towards universal health coverage that aim to improve the health of their people, communities, and economies.”

The report examines changes in the leading causes of premature mortality and disability in East Asia and Pacific, compares the performance of countries in the region, and also compares regional and global trends.

“The tectonic disease burden shifts in Asia are more prominent than anywhere else,” said Toomas Palu, World Bank Sector Manager for Health, Nutrition and Population in East Asia and the Pacific. “The speed of demographic and epidemiologic transition is occurring much faster than it did in the developed world, and countries need to adjust their public health policies, health financing, and service delivery systems.”

The World Bank commissioned the first GBD analysis as part of its *World Development Report 1993*. Earlier this year, IHME presented GBD 2010 findings in meetings hosted by the World Bank. Bank officials saw how the GBD analysis could be applied to the Bank’s work in specific countries and began working with IHME on six regional reports.

“In East Asia and Pacific, the decline in premature death and disability from most communicable diseases and newborn conditions is encouraging,” said Dr. Christopher Murray, IHME Director and one of the lead authors of the GBD study. “But East Asia faces challenges posed by a

variety of other health issues ranging from maternal health to road injuries.”

The report also examines the increase in health loss due to risk factors such as dietary risks, high blood pressure, smoking, and high body mass index (BMI), which are all on the rise.

“Many of the risk factors that are causing an increasing amount of health loss in East Asian countries are preventable,” said Professor Alan Lopez, an Affiliate Professor of Global Health at IHME and one of the lead authors of the GBD study. “Policymakers can and should use country-specific GBD data to identify the most important local health challenges in order to prioritize interventions to improve health in East Asia.”

Among countries in the region, the leading causes of disease burden in 2010 were as diverse as lower respiratory infections in Myanmar and the Philippines, diabetes in Tonga and Samoa, and stroke in China, Indonesia, and North Korea. When comparing rates of premature mortality from diseases and injuries across countries in East Asia and Pacific and taking into account differences in population growth and ages, China, Vietnam, and Malaysia were among the best performers. The Solomon Islands, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea were among the worst.

In East Asia and Pacific, the top 10 causes of premature death and disability and percent change between 1990 and 2010 were: Stroke: 37% increase; Ischemic heart disease: 76% increase; Road injury: 51% increase; Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD): 27% decrease; Low back pain: 46% increase; Major depressive disorder: 29% increase; Lung cancer: 86% increase; Lower respiratory infections: 72% decrease; Diabetes: 76% increase; and Liver cancer: 42% increase.

In South Asia and Pacific, the top 10 risk factors for premature death and disability and percent change between 1990 and 2010 were: Dietary risks: 47% increase; High blood pressure: 56% increase; Smoking:

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India Widens Curbs On Medicine Prices

India has significantly broadened its control over drug prices, a move that will make medicines more affordable for people but hurt the profit margins of pharmaceutical companies.

As many as 348 medicines, including lamivudine-zidovudine, used in the treatment of HIV, will come under a new price-control rule that took effect Wednesday. Previously, India controlled the prices of 74 drugs.

The rule doesn't cover patented drugs. A government-appointed panel in February published a set of proposals for bringing many of those drugs, too, under price controls, but the government has yet to make a decision.

Drug-price control has been a topic of debate in India. The authorities argue that price controls are necessary to ensure that costly drugs are available at affordable rates to the poor, especially since most people in the country have no medical insurance. But according to drug companies, intense competition in India already keeps prices low.

The World Health Organization estimates two-thirds of India's 1.2

billion people have no medical insurance. According to industry estimates, about 70% of health-care spending in India comes from an individual's own resources, and more than half of this is spent on drugs.

Under the new rule, the maximum price of each of the 348 drugs will be limited to the weighted average price of all its variants having a volume-based market share of more than 1%. The previous rule, in effect for 18 years, set the prices of the drugs it covered based on the cost structures announced by their manufacturers.

India's drug market is about 720 billion rupees (\$13.11 billion) annually, and the new rule covers about 30% of that total, compared with 18% previously, said Ranjit Kapadia, senior vice president at Centrum Broking Ltd. He said the prices of the drugs covered by the new rule will fall by between 5% and 30%.

Mr. Kapadia said the rule will reduce the profit margins of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceuticals Ltd. 500660.BY +0.74% and Novartis India

Ltd., 500672.BY -1.25% the respective Indian units of GlaxoSmithKline PLC and Novartis AG, NVS -1.17% by 2% to 7%. Some of their products, such as allergy drug Cetzine, antibiotic Augmentine and painkiller Voveron, will come under price control.

Ranjit Shahani, managing director of Novartis's Indian unit, said the immediate impact on sales and margin "will be quite significant."

"However, a change from cost-based to market-based pricing methodology is expected to have some transparency and be directionally more prudent for the pharmaceutical industry on a longer-term perspective," said Mr. Shahani, who is also president of the Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India.

A GlaxoSmithKline spokeswoman said her company "has always undertaken a low-price, high-volume strategy in India and our flexible pricing approach means that our products are carefully priced in order to make them more affordable and accessible to people in India."

Source: *The Wall Street Journal*, May 19, 2013 ■



Countries in East Asia

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13% increase; Household air pollution: 46% decrease; Ambient particulate matter air pollution: 5% increase; High fasting plasma glucose: 64% increase; Alcohol use: 22% increase; High BMI: 198% increase; Occupational Risks: 1% increase; and Physical inactivity: percentage change unavailable due to lack of data.

Detailed findings for East Asia and Pacific and each country in the region are available online in a series of country profiles and data visualization tools. Anyone can search by condition or country on the IHME website at <http://www.healthmetricsandevaluation.org/search-gbd-data>.

Building on the success of GBD 2010, IHME is expanding its

network of researchers from around the world with expertise in specific diseases, injuries, and risk factors. Through this broader network, IHME hopes to strengthen the country-level assessments that are produced and make GBD updates more frequent.

The World Bank Group and Health, Nutrition, and Population

The World Bank Group is a vital source of financial and technical assistance to developing countries around the world, with the goals of ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. Improving health is integral to achieving these goals. The Bank Group provides financing, state-of-the-art analysis, and policy advice to help countries expand access to quality, affordable health care; protect people

from falling into poverty or worsening poverty due to illness; and promote investments in all sectors that form the foundation of healthy societies.

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation

The Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) is a global health research organization at the University of Washington that provides rigorous and comparable measurement of the world's most important health problems and evaluates the strategies used to address them. IHME makes this information widely available so that policymakers have the evidence they need to make informed decisions about how to allocate resources to best improve population health.

Source: *World Bank*, September 4, 2013 ■

New Law Aims to Indonesia's Place More Doctors in Rural Areas

By Carlos Paath

The government has hailed the passage of new legislation that it says will tackle the chronic shortage of doctors serving Indonesia's rural and underdeveloped areas.

Education Minister Mohammad Nuh said in Jakarta on Thursday that the passage of the bill on medical education by the House of Representatives earlier in the day marked a key step toward boosting the ranks of the country's health workers.

"We're at a point now where most doctors are concentrated in urban areas, while rural and remote areas have a severe shortage of health workers," he said. "That's why it's so important to have this new legislation in place."

Key among the provisions in the new law is greater access for low-income students and those living in underdeveloped areas for a place in medical school.

Rohmani, a member of House Commission X, which oversees education matters and deliberated the new legislation, said this measure was aimed at "evening out the distribution" of medical workers.

"Article 27 of the law is meant to guarantee a place in medical or dental school for applicants based on the needs of their home region, the local



poverty rate and gender equality," he said. "The law is also designed to give students who meet the criteria greater access to scholarships and other financial aid."

Rohmani, from the Prosperous Justice Party (PKS), added that some of the scholarships would be contingent on the candidate doctors serving for a specified period in an underdeveloped region.

Nuh said this program was one of many meant to induce doctors to work in under-served areas, and attributed the concentration of doctors in cities to the need to recoup the high cost of a medical education.

"This new law addresses the need for affordable medical education. It also details several intensive programs to place doctors in underdeveloped areas as part of their required training period," he said.

Rohmani said the law would also prohibit medical schools from hiking their fees without prior approval from the Education Ministry, thereby



"preventing the commercialization of medical education."

Nuh said the law would also put in place a set of standards for medical education and for graduate doctors' professional competency, as well as integrate dental schools into medical schools.

Although the bill was pre-approved earlier this week by House Commission X to be brought to Thursday's plenary session, the passage was still marked by last-minute arguments and objections to articles pertaining to government-paid internships for trainee doctors, tie-ups between medical schools and private hospitals, and standards for dental schools.

That prompted House Deputy Speaker Priyo Budi Santoso to order a short recess to allow legislators from the various parties to discuss compromises on those points, after which the plenary session resumed and the bill was passed.

The new law is the latest in a string of new legislation that the House has passed this week before it breaks for its month-long mid-year recess. Among the more contentious laws that have come out include one regulating mass organizations and one to tackle forestry crimes, both of which are expected to be the subjects of judicial reviews by civil society groups.

Source: *Jakarta Globe*, July 11, 2013 ■

Punjab to Improve Reproductive Health and Nutrition

The World Bank approved on May 31, 2013 a package of assistance worth \$100 million to support the implementation of the Punjab Health Sector Reform Project, which will focus on enhancing the number of people who access quality essential health services, particularly in the low performing districts of Punjab, Pakistan.

“Punjab holds the key to Pakistan’s progress towards attaining the MDGs as it constitutes 60% of Pakistan’s population”, said Rachid Benmessaoud, World Bank Country Director for Pakistan. “This program will help the government of Punjab implement its Health Sector Strategy for the province by building the capacity and systems to strengthen accountability and stewardship in the Department of Health.”

Despite recent gains, the health sector performance in Punjab remains inadequate due to multiple external and internal health system factors. Punjab’s overall health outcomes are comparable to the national average or slightly better than other provinces, but the pace of change remains slow and uneven with significant disparities among regions, rural and urban areas, and by economic status. The average duration of exclusive breastfeeding is only 0.9 months in Punjab, as compared to the national average of 3.2 months. Immunization coverage also remains low: only one in three children aged 12-23 months are fully immunized (34.6%).

The government of Punjab is keen to make progress on human development to build a productive workforce with its large and increasing share of youth. In health it has developed a holistic, results-focused Punjab Health Sector Strategy 2012-2020, involving governance and accountability reforms and strengthening health systems



to improve sector management performance and health outcomes in the province.

“Punjab has gradually improved maternal and child outcomes and the key to further improvement is addressing the huge burden of malnutrition among women and children which have not improved in the past two decades. Stunting occurs among 39% children under five,” said Dr. Inaam ul Haq, task team leader of the project. “The project will aim to improve the capacity of health service providers to deliver nutrition interventions at the facility and community level.”

The project comprises of four components: 1) Improving Health Service Delivery; 2) Enhancing Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Health System; 3) Strengthening Provincial Department of Health Management Capacity; and 4) Improving the Capacities in Technical Areas for Equitable Health Services. The first three components take a results-based approach using Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs), while the fourth component will finance inputs for piloting and Technical Assistance (TA).

The project results would specifically measure improvements in three health service indicators: fully immunized children 12-23 months of age; use of skilled birth attendants; and use of modern birth-spacing methods, in low performing districts of Punjab. In addition to these indicators, a full set of intermediate outcome indicators

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Hospitals must treat all patients: Thailand PM

By Jeerapong Prasertphonkrang

The Nation/Asia News Network- Thailand’s Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra Saturday insisted that private hospitals must provide emergency medical treatment to save the lives of all critically ill patients.

Yingluck said some private hospitals may not know that people who are registered under the three national health care schemes are eligible to receive emergency medical treatment at private hospitals taking part in any of the schemes, without having to foot any medical bills.

The three national health care schemes are the National Health Security Fund, the Social Security Fund and the Civil Servants Medical Benefit Fund.

“Private hospitals must provide emergency medical treatment to save the patient’s life, based on humanitarian principles,” the prime minister said.

Yingluck said patients asked to pay medical bills in advance after being sent to receive emergency medical treatment at a private hospital would be repaid by their health fund.

The Thai government started merging the emergency medical services under the three main national health care funds last year. Under the scheme, patients in a critical condition are allowed to receive life-saving treatment at private hospitals that joined state programs. People do not have to be worried about the financial burden under the scheme, as the National Health Security Office (NHSO) will pay in advance for them.

Source: The Nation/Asia News Network, April 29, 2013



GSK Pharmaceutical Partnership to Help Patients ‘Do More, Feel Better, Live Longer’

The National Research Program of Biopharmaceuticals (NRPB) and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) signed a memorandum of understanding on May 7, 2013, marking the beginning of a five-year partnership to promote and develop Taiwan as the premier biotech and pharmaceutical hub in Asia Pacific.

Funded by the National Science Council (NSC), the Ministry of Economic Affairs (MOEA), the Department of Health (DOH) and the Atomic Energy Council (AEC), the NRPB is a national-level initiative focused on the research and development of new drugs, reagents, therapeutic strategies and medical devices. The body takes a product-oriented approach, aimed at developing a fully integrated biopharmaceutical pipeline, and streamlining the operating system of pre-clinical testing and early clinical trials.

The partnership highlights GSK and the NRPB's commitment to developing new therapeutics for disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment to help patients “do more, feel better and live longer.”

Punjab to Improve

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will be used to track improvements in service delivery, performance, governance and accountability. Funding for the three DLI-based components will be disbursed upon achievement of key intermediate results related to implementation performance targets or milestones for institutional change under these components.

The credit is financed from the International Development Association (IDA), and will be on standard IDA blend terms, with a maturity of 25 years, including a grace period of 5 years.

Source: World Bank, June 3, 2013 ■



The collaboration includes over 20 intra-hospital early-phase clinical research projects, ranging from vaccines for tuberculosis and NSCLC therapeutic to quadrivalent influenza, and is the largest-scale clinical research collaboration of its kind in Taiwan.

NRPB Director Dr. Pan-Chyr Yang stated: “The goal of the NRPB is to integrate and consolidate the existing domestic biomedical infrastructures, accelerate the commercialization of innovative technologies, and strengthen the domestic biomedical industry. By bringing ‘value identification’ to ‘value creation,’ the NRPB hopes to fulfill the vision of turning scientific concepts into products.

“Our ultimate goal is to develop new therapeutics for disease prevention, diagnosis and treatment for the benefit of patients not only in Taiwan but around the world,” said Yang.

“As a bridging platform between leading universities, research institutions, medical centers and industries in Taiwan, the NRPB provides a platform for vigorous communication and boosts the interaction and collaborations between government, academia and industry, increasing the willingness of enterprises to invest in the field of biomedicine, therefore lifting the development of

domestic biomedical industries, and doubling the value of its output.

“Collaboration with global pharmaceutical companies like GSK will enable talent and knowledge transfer to accelerate the achievement of this goal,” added Yang. “The partnership with GSK will also promote Taiwan’s medical development internationally, elevating Taiwan’s clinical research capability in the Asia-Pacific region.”

GSK is Top Pharmaceutical Firm in Developing New Drugs

Dr. Emilio Ledesma, vice president and head of Vaccine Value Health Science in GSK Vaccines Asia Pacific, stated that “R&D is the key for any research-based pharmaceuticals company.”

“The objective of our R&D is to consistently deliver significant indications for medicines and vaccines that are of medical value to patients. GSK prides itself on its commitment to R&D and innovation. We invested NT\$175 billion in R&D, and currently have 30 assets in our late-stage development pipeline. The NRPB is one of our most valuable research partners in Asia, and there is no doubt this MOU will further strengthen the partnership between us.”

Thomas Willemsen, general

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GSK Pharmaceutical

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manager of GSK Taiwan, said: “We at GSK have a challenging and inspiring mission: to improve the quality of human life by enabling people to do more, feel better and live longer. To achieve this we need to do two things: develop new medicines to meet the unmet needs of today and tomorrow’s patients, and to give as many patients as possible access to these innovative treatments.”

He added: “For the development of drugs, we need strong partners like the NRPB, which is one of GSK’s most important development partners in Asia due to its size and excellent human capital. In the last five years we have invested over NT\$1 billion in R&D in Taiwan and with today’s MOU we commit to further investment in over 20 specific research projects with the NRPB covering rare diseases, vaccines, respiratory and oncology for the next five years.”

Dr. Diana Cheng, medical director of GSK Taiwan, explained that “aside from cancer, which is the priority issue of medicine internationally, there are four predicaments that the pharmaceutical industry sees today, including geriatric chronic diseases that are gradually becoming a global economic burden; Asian intrafamilial transmission due to urbanization; treatments for orphan diseases; and tailored treatments to better health care.”

Value of Vaccines: Preventive Medicine is the Future

Dr. Li-Min Huang, who heads the Taiwan Pediatric Infectious Diseases Alliance (TPIDA) under Taiwan Clinical Trial Consortium (TCTC), one of NRPB’s most important initiatives, stated that preventive medicine has become a key trend in global clinical research, and that the R&D of vaccines has become a key focus of pharmaceutical companies such as GSK.

The TPIDA has been collaborating with GSK on a multitude of clinical vaccine studies in Taiwan, including

‘Intelligent’ Knife Sniffs Out Cancer Tissue, Cutting Back on Procedures

By Ben Hirschler

Scientists have created an “intelligent” surgical knife that can detect in seconds whether tissue being cut is cancerous, promising more effective and accurate surgery in future.

The device, built by researchers at London’s Imperial College, could allow doctors to cut back on additional operations to remove further pieces of cancerous tumors.

The technology, effectively merges an electrosurgical knife that cuts through tissue using heat with a mass spectrometer for chemical analysis, has also been shown to be able to distinguish beef from horsemeat.

Surgeons often find it impossible to tell by sight where tumors end and healthy tissue begins, so some cancer cells are often left behind. This leaves a fifth of breast cancer patients who have lumpectomy surgery need a second operation.

The new “iKnife” is designed to get round the problem by instantly sampling the smoke given off as tissue is cut through using an electric current to see if it is cancerous.

In the first study to test the device in patients, the iKnife diagnosed tissue samples from 91 patients with 100 percent accuracy, researchers at Imperial College London reported in *Science Translational Medicine* on Wednesday.

Currently, removed tissue can be



sent for laboratory analysis while the patient remains under general anesthetic — but each test takes around half an hour, while the iKnife provides feedback in less than three seconds.

It does this by analyzing biological information given off from burning tissue and comparing the findings to a database of biological fingerprints from tumors and healthy tissue.

“It’s a really exciting innovation and a very promising technique for all types of surgery,” said Emma King, a head and neck surgeon at Southampton Hospital, England, who was not involved in the research.

Still, she now wants to see how the iKnife performs in a randomized clinical trial. The current experimental version of the iKnife cost Takats and colleagues at Imperial around 200,000 pounds (US\$300,000) to build. Takats said the price would come down once it entered commercial production.

Source: Reuters, July 19, 2013 ■

quadrivalent influenza vaccine for seasonal flu, cervical cancer vaccine and rotavirus vaccine. “Every minute there is a child who dies somewhere in the world from rotavirus. By conducting local studies in Taiwan we can help increase vaccine efficacy against local virus strains,” explained Huang.

“The TPIDA is a collaborative consortium of pediatric institutes in nine major medical centers around the island. We together have already accomplished many joint research

projects in regard to pediatric lower respiratory tract diseases, and more studies about vaccine efficacy and effectiveness are on the way,” Huang continued.

Whether through research and development into new medications, improving current treatments, or even supplying more effective drugs, the NRPB and GSK both look forward to bringing a better quality of life and medical care to Taiwanese patients.

Source: The China Post, May 8, 2013 ■

A group of five Gadjah Mada University students have created an anti-mosquito robot, called Robotack-O-Mos, which is capable of resonating ultrasonic waves to get rid of mosquitoes.

“The device is environmentally friendly,” one of the inventors, Agus Wigardi of UGM’s School of Mechanical Engineering, said.

The other four members are Diah Budiasih and Dwi Puspitarini of the Medical School and Aditya Doni P and Sapirindo Prabantara of the School of

Indonesian Students Create Anti-Mosquito Robot — Robotack-O-Mos

By Slamet Susanto

Math and Natural Sciences.

The group won a gold medal during a national competition held earlier this month in Mataram, West Nusa Tenggara, for the creation.

Agus said the robot was created following the group’s concern over the danger of anti-mosquito coils and

spray commonly used.

“Both anti-mosquito coils and spray are posing bad side effects on peoples health,” said Agus, adding that the smoke from burning coils and moisture from anti-mosquito spray could cause dizziness and itchiness.

This, Agus said, had inspired him and his friends to create a safe and environmentally friendly way to get rid of mosquitoes. They looked for references, conducted research and sought solutions to get rid of mosquitoes effectively and with minimum side effects.

They finally found a way by using ultrasonic waves, which have a frequency of over 20 kilohertz (kHz).

This kind of wave can be heard by particular animals like bats and insects including mosquitoes but not by us, and thus is safe. We can only hear

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Far EasTone to Launch Health Service Platform

By Kathy Chu

Far EasTone Telecommunications Co. will work with Far Eastern Memorial Hospital to launch a platform specifically designed for two health information services, Far EasTone said on April 22, 2013.

The platform will be used to serve community and business health information networks, said the nation’s third largest telecom carrier.

The platform features multiple functions for the users, including monitoring of weight control efforts, finding health tips, accessing the latest medical breakthroughs, sharing health information and consulting medical professionals for advice.

This is the first cross-sector

cooperation with a medical institution in the telecommunications industry, said the company.

Far EasTone plans to kick off the pilot run in Banqiao District in New Taipei City by opening 40 service centers in local business venues, such as drug stores. It is estimated that the platform will accumulate 20,000 unique views and create a market value of NT\$60 million.

“Combining the medical expertise of the Far Eastern Memorial Hospital and our strength in cloud applications, the project marks the milestone of our business expansion,” said Mike Lee, executive vice president of the company.

In this project, Far Eastone will provide web interface and mobile applications for transmission, storage and access of local health care information, while Far Eastern will be responsible for operating the network and providing self-management health services to users by working with local health care providers.

Source: The China Post, April 23, 2013



Chinatrust to Build Education Zones in China

By Katherine Wei



The Chinatrust Charity Foundation announced on September 22 its collaboration with the China National Committee for the Wellbeing of the Youth and mainland China's Ministry of Civil Affairs' Foundation for the Next Generation in establishing education demonstration zones in mainland China. Known for its annual "Light Up a Light" fundraisers

and programs with an aim to fight poverty in disadvantaged Taiwanese families, Chinatrust will be expanding its charity programs to the other side of the Taiwan Strait, looking to improve the educational resources for children living in China's less-developed regions.

The three organizations aim to establish 30 demonstration zones in China over the next six years, not only to improve the environment of local schools in impoverished areas, but also to raise the standards of teachers employed at the targeted institutions.

Ku Hsiu-lien, head of the CNCWY, presented Chinatrust Chairman Jeffrey Koo Jr. with a "Special Contribution Award," acknowledging his past efforts in assisting disadvantaged children and families.

The two Chinese organizations held a charity fundraiser on September 18, 2013, with Chinatrust Vice Chairman Thomas KS Chen, Kuomintang Vice Chairman Chiang Pin-kung, soccer star Luis Figo and former Real Madrid team members attending.

Hmong children from Fenghuang County, Hunan Province performed traditional tribal dances at the fundraiser to express their gratitude to the CNCWY and the Foundation for the Next Generation.

Chen bid for Chinese artist Chen Guang-wen's painting on Koo's behalf in the hope of encouraging the guests to begin bidding in order to help Chinese students in need.

"I hope the Real Madrid team members will be able to travel to China in the future and give free soccer lessons for the disadvantaged students," said Chen.

Source: *The China Post*, September 23, 2013 ■

Indonesian students

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sounds within the frequencies of 20 Hertz and 20 kilohertz. "Once hearing the ultrasonic wave, the mosquito becomes disoriented" Agus said.

The wave is applied on Robotack-O-Mos, which actually looks like a decorative lamp. Only, this particular lamp has a number of components including a motor, buzzer, accumulator and a speaker.

The accumulator moves the motor that is connected to the buzzer to produce ultrasonic sounds.

Another member of the group, Saprido, said that the cap of the lamp could rotate 180 degrees to point the ultrasonic sound in all directions.

Saprido also said that the group created two different sizes of Robotack-O-Mos: one is 15 centimeters by 15 centimeters with a height of 40 centimeters and a weight

of 1 kilogram and the other is 30 centimeters by 30 centimeters with a height of 1.2 meters and weight of 10 kilogram.

An aluminum and brass carving is attached on the cap of the lamp to show the specific feature of the Yogyakarta province.

Diah Budiasih expressed hope that the device they created would be of some help to prevent the spread of diseases infected through mosquito bites such as dengue fever, malaria and chikungunya, some of which can lead to death.

"Actually there have been many ways of preventing the spread of such diseases but they still have side effects that endanger health," Diah said

Source: *The Jakarta Post/Asia News Network*, September 29, 2013 ■

Australian Invites International Students to Join the “Win Your Future Unlimited Competition”

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) would like to extend an invitation to ACCI members to nominate students from their respective countries to join the “Future Unlimited Global Education Competition” that will be held from 1 October to 18 November, 2013.

To be supported by five gold sponsors - Educational Testing Services (ETS), National Australia Bank, Qantas, Telstra, the University of New South Wales - as well as 21 of Australia’s

tertiary education and training providers, the global online competition is a unique opportunity for one fortunate person and seven finalists to study in Australia and experience how an Australian education can help them realise their dreams. The competition is open to international students aged between 18 and 30 who will be asked to design digital postcards about their future and how an Australian education could take them there.

The main prize winner will



receive one year of study in Australia in 2014, including flights, tuition, accommodation, a stipend and an opportunity for an internship.

For more information, interested parties may wish to visit the event website at: www.futureunlimited.com.au.

Vietnam School Readiness Promotion Project Launched to Help 5-year-old Children Better Perform at School

The Vietnam School Readiness Promotion Project (SRPP) is officially launched on September 19, 2013, with an aim to raise school readiness for 5 year old children, in particular for the disadvantaged group and children from ethnic minority groups.

Improving education outcomes for the population is an important part of Vietnam’s economic and social development agenda, and has been defined as one of the three breakthrough areas in its Socio-Economic Development Strategy for 2011-2020.

Investing in early childhood education is a key step towards building high quality human resources as Vietnam strives to become a modern, industrialized market economy.

“Overwhelming evidence from around the world shows that many of the thinking and language skills as well as social and behavioral skills are formed in the early years of a child’s life,” says Xiaoqing Yu, Human Development Sector Director for the

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WIN YOUR FUTURE UNLIMITED DIGITAL CAMPAIGN – FAST FACTS

Win your Future Unlimited Digital Campaign: The digital campaign seeks to build awareness of Australian education internationally and to engage prospective international students in Australia’s international education brand, Future Unlimited.

Competition Website: www.futureunlimited.com.au

How to enter? Take the four steps on the competition website to create a digital postcard:

1. Upload a photo
2. Add illustrations, using the 35 illustrations provided to personalise the image
3. Write 50 words or less in English, describing future aspirations and how an Australian education would help realise them
4. Answer some basic questions and then review and submit the postcard

Competition Dates: 1 October to 18 November 2013

Prizes:

- **Major prize winner:** one year of tertiary tuition in Australia, one year of student accommodation, a stipend or bursary of \$15 000, Overseas Student Health Cover, return economy flights to Australia, an internship, a package of telecommunications products and credit and more.
- **Weekly finalists:** Seven weekly finalists win a two week study tour to Australia in December 2013.

Who can enter? The competition is open to prospective international students aged between 18 and 30 years of age who meet the terms and conditions of the campaign.

Major prize winner: The major prize winner will be announced on 17 December 2013, for study in Australia commencing at the beginning of 2014.

Campaign Sponsors:

- **5 Gold Sponsors:** Educational Testing Services (ETS), National Australia Bank, Qantas, Telstra, The University of New South Wales.
- **21 Silver Sponsors:** Australian Catholic University, Australian Pacific College, Bond University, Charles Sturt University, Deakin University, Griffith University, The University of Melbourne, Macquarie University, Monash University, The University of Queensland, RMIT University, Swinburne University of Technology, University of South Australia, TAFE NSW, The University of Western Australia, THINK Education Group, University of Tasmania, University of Technology Sydney, University of Western Sydney, University of Wollongong, UTS: INSEARCH.

Vietnam school

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World Bank in East Asia and Pacific region. "If you want to make education more equitable, if you want to enhance everyone's chances to take advantage from Vietnam's growing economy, if you want to tackle poverty —early childhood development and education is one of your most promising tools."

According to a survey introduced at the launching, about half of Vietnam's 5 year old children are at risk of lacking at least one area of skill needed to start schooling. The Early Development Instrument survey, conducted by the Ministry of Education and Training, Russia Education Aid for Development, Canada's Offord Institute and the World Bank and the WB and the World Bank, also shows that the percentage of children not ready for school is highest in children of ethnic minority and of disadvantaged background.

The Vietnam School Readiness Promotion Project is designed to address this problem by raising school readiness for children entering primary education, through supporting selected elements of Vietnam's national program on "Universal Early Childhood Education for 5 year old Children 2010-2015 (Decision 239). The project supports efforts to expand full-day preschool enrollments, improve capacity for preschool quality assurance and strengthened professional expertise of teachers and principals.

The funding of 100 million USD for this project comes from the International Development Association — the World Bank's concessional lending arm for poor countries.

Source: World Bank, September 19, 2013



Yale's Controversial College in Singapore Formally Opens

Yale University formally opened a controversial liberal arts college in tightly governed Singapore on August 27, saying there was demand for "critical thinking" in the city-state and other Asian nations.

The Yale-NUS College, a joint project with the National University of Singapore, had been criticized by faculty members of the leading U.S. university due to Singapore's restrictions on protests and on student political activity.

"Singaporeans, and Asians more broadly, have a greater hunger for pedagogy that truly encourages critical thinking and a model of liberal arts and science education adapted for the 21st century," Pericles Lewis, president of the college, said in a speech.

He told AFP that "we're not setting out to change any political discourse, but we're giving students the tools to be active in citizenship, to think about the issues."

"We think that a well-educated citizenry is the most important thing for any country, especially in Singapore."

The pioneer batch of 157 students from 26 countries — 97 of them Singaporeans — was selected from a pool of over 10,000 applicants and began lessons this month in temporary facilities.

The college's own purpose-built campus with residential facilities will open in 2015 and is designed to have a full capacity of 1,000 students.

The college is the first established by Yale outside its campus in New Haven, Connecticut.

"We believe that the college has the potential to serve as a model for



Singapore President Tony Tan Keng Yam, right, officiates at the inauguration ceremony to mark the start of the Yale-NUS College while professor Pericles Lewis, center, president of Yale-NUS college, and other officials look on in Singapore, August 27, 2013.

others, particularly in Asia," said NUS President Tan Chorh Chuan.

In a resolution passed in April 2012, the Yale faculty expressed "concern regarding the history of lack of respect for civil and political rights in the state of Singapore."

It called on Yale-NUS to uphold civil liberties and political freedom on campus and in broader society.

Campaign group Human Rights Watch accused Yale of "betraying the spirit of the university as a center of open debate and protest by giving away the rights of its students" at the new campus.

"Instead of defending these rights, Yale buckled when faced with Singapore's draconian laws on demonstrations and policies restricting student groups."

Singapore's education ministry said at the height of the controversy that student demonstrations on campus would require approval from the Yale-NUS administration.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP), August 28, 2013



Japan's adults top-notch in reading, math skills: OECD

Japanese adults are way ahead in math and literacy skills than their peers in 23 other countries, according to a report by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) published on October 8, 2013.

The study, conducted in 22 OECD member states as well as Russia and Cyprus, involved tests on 166,000 people aged between 16 and 65.

Only 4.9 percent of Japanese adults had scores of 1 or less on a scale of 1 to 5, indicating difficulty in reading a simple text.

The highest level 5 denotes the ability to search and process information from dense texts and evaluate evidence-based arguments.

"Roughly every fifth Finn and Japanese reads at high levels (Level 4 or 5 on the Survey of Adult Skills),"

the OECD Skills Outlook 2013 report said.

"This means, for example, that they can perform multiple-step operations to integrate, interpret, or synthesize information," it said.

The corresponding figure was less than one per 20 for Spain and Italy. The OECD average was 15.5 percent.

The report said Japanese nationals aged between 25 and 34 who had only finished secondary education were far ahead in writing skills than university graduates in the same age bracket in Spain and in Italy.

The results were similar for mathematical ability, with the Japanese outstripping the others. Only 8.1 percent had problems in tackling a basic sum and were evaluated at level 1 or less.

The figure for France was 28 percent while it was more than 30 percent for Italy and Spain.

In digital technology, at least 10 percent in nearly all the countries lacked basic skills to use a computer.

Swedes topped the ranking in computer literacy and digital skills with 8.8 percent ranked at a very high level, followed by Finland and Japan.

The study also showed that those with strong literacy skills earned salaries about 60 percent higher than others less competent.

And those with literacy levels of 1 or less were at greater risk of being unemployed. The figure on an average was seven percent for them against four percent for those placed at the highest levels of 4 and 5.

The ones lagging behind in literacy levels also reported poorer health and were less committed citizens.

The study also said that "immigrants with a foreign language background have significantly lower proficiency in literacy, numeracy and problem solving in technology-rich environments than native-born adults."

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP), October 9, 2013 ■

Education Remains a Key Sector for the World Bank in Tajikistan

The Minister of Finance of the Republic of Tajikistan Safarali Najmiddinov and the World Bank Country Manager in Tajikistan Marsha Olive signed an agreement to finance the Fourth Global Partnership for Education Fund Grant on October 4, 2013. The overall goal of this US\$16.20 million grant is to support improvements in Tajikistan's pre-school and general education and to strengthen the capacity of the system in general to sustain reforms in education sector.

The project builds on the success of a series of projects financed since 2006 in Tajikistan from the Global

Partnership for Education (GPE) Fund, formerly known as Education For All Fast Track Initiative Catalytic Fund. The Fourth Global Partnership for Education Fund Grant will address improvements in education sector through four main components: 1) increasing access to affordable and quality early childhood education programs through enhancement of existing and establishment of new early learning institutions; 2) enhancing quality of general education through upgrading educational standards and programs, teacher training, methodological support and provision of teaching and learning materials;

3) improving child-friendly learning environment through financing the construction or rehabilitation of schools and provision of furniture; and 4) capacity strengthening at all levels of education sector to manage the education system through support to on-going reforms in education financing and data collection and analysis, as well as provision of training to pre-school and school directors in financial management and pedagogical leadership.

"This comprehensive project aims to ensure that the children of Tajikistan, especially the most marginalised including girls, ethnic minorities, rural children, and children with disabilities, are afforded the opportunity to achieve their education goals for future

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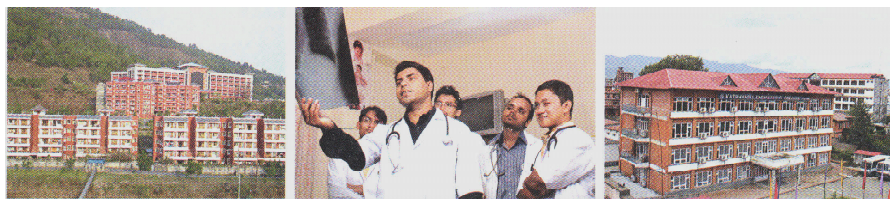
Education Remains

... Continued from page 12

development and success,” said Marsha Olive, World Bank Country Manager for Tajikistan. “The World Bank is committed to further supporting educational sector development in Tajikistan in cooperation with other development partners.”

Previous World Bank administered GPE grants have played an important role in the country’s education sector reform. These projects have supported improved physical learning environment for 37,000 students; alleviation of furniture shortages affecting around 100,000 students; publication of 1.7 million textbooks in 27 titles, thus eliminating the shortage of Tajik and ethnic minority language textbooks in major subjects; provision of qualifications training for 4,300 teachers; introduction of per capita financing reforms resulting in increased transparency in the local budgeting process; improved pupil to teacher ratios; and a reduction in the wage bill share at school level with an increase in funds for discretionary use by schools to improve the learning environment and education quality; establishment of an Education Management Information System (EMIS); and improved management and fiduciary capacities within the Ministry of Education.

The World Bank, as the GPE grants administrator in Tajikistan, takes lead in supporting the Ministry of Education to prepare and implement the GPE-funded projects in close partnership with development partners



Health and Education in Nepal

An emerging potential area for investment in Nepal is health and education services. Major health challenges remain, related to communicable diseases and malnutrition. The allocation of a substantial budget by the government and the private sector’s interest and investment in these sectors show the importance they hold for the future of Nepal. The government is now coming to the conclusion that the private sector should be allowed to

provide specialized health services, with the government focusing its resources on primary healthcare. As a result, a number of private hospitals and health centres have been set up and are operating in Nepal, some of them with substantial foreign participation.

Foreign participation is particularly significant in teaching hospitals. The government has already announced a policy to provide land on long-term leases in the hills to private sector investors to construct specialty hospitals, health centres and educational institutions. This can be combined with tourism sector as well. The pharmaceutical industry is another potential area for investment. At present, there are more than 40 units in this area, occupying 40% of the domestic market. Another prospective field for investment is in the production of Ayurvedic formulations and other herbal medicines, as Nepal’s biodiversity encompasses a wide range of medicinal and aromatic herbs.

As for education, there is significant potential for investment in this sector. The development of any country depends upon infrastructure like education. Although there have been impressive gains in this sector’s development in recent years, a lot still needs to be done as far as imparting consistent quality education is concerned. Every year, thousands of students go abroad for further studies spending large sums of money. With more and better educational institutions within the country itself, this could be avoided.

Source: Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI)

in Tajikistan, such as UNICEF (lead coordination agency in education sector), Aga Khan Foundation, European Commission, GIZ, USAID and Open Society Institute (OSI).

The active portfolio of the World Bank in Tajikistan currently consists of 12 projects with a net commitment of US\$205.9 million. The largest share of the portfolio is in agriculture and rural development (40 percent), followed by water and sanitation (15 percent), human development (14 percent), energy (13 percent), the public sector (12 percent), and the private sector (6 percent).

Source: World Bank, October 4, 2013





ABOUT CACCI

The Confederation of Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) is a regional grouping of apex national chambers of commerce and industry, business associations and business enterprises in Asia and the Western Pacific.

It is a non-governmental organization serving as a forum for promoting the vital role of businessmen in the region, increasing regional business interaction, and enhancing regional economic growth. Since its establishment in 1966, CACCI has grown into a network of national chambers of commerce with a total now of 29 Primary Members from 27 Asian countries. It cuts across national boundaries to link businessmen and promote economic growth throughout the Asia-Pacific region. CACCI is a non-governmental

organization (NGO) granted consultative status, Roster category, under the United Nations. It is a member of the Conference on NGOs (CoNGO), an association of NGOs with UN consultative status.

Among the benefits of membership in CACCI are the following:

1. Policy Advocacy - CACCI aims to play a strong policy advocacy role in order to establish a business environment conducive to creating better opportunities for CACCI members.

2. Wide scope for networking - Participation in the various projects of CACCI will provide members the opportunity to expand their reach in Asia-Pacific by establishing contacts with the business communities of the region.

3. Participation in CACCI Annual Conferences and Training Programs - Members are invited to participate in the annual Conferences and

various training programs which CACCI regularly conducts either on its own or in cooperation with other international organizations and member chambers.

4. Interaction in Product and Service Councils - Membership in CACCI allows participation in the activities of the various Product and Service Councils (PSCs) of the organization. PSCs are business groupings organized along product or service lines with a primary objective of promoting business cooperation, personal contacts, and technology transfer.

5. Access to CACCI publications – CACCI publishes the CACCI Profile, its monthly newsletter, and the CACCI Journal of Commerce and Industry, a bi-annual publication which features papers, speeches, and other articles pertaining to issues affecting the regional economy.

For more information, please visit www.cacci.org.tw



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