



CACCI

Health & Education Newsletter

Volume 6

June 2015

Message from the Chairman



Dear CACCI members and friends,

This is the 6th Volume of CACCI's newsletter on Health and Education and we are pleased to present you this issue to keep you informed of the latest developments, related to the health and education sectors.

Health care demand in the Asia-Pacific region is increasing rapidly, driven by population growth rates that are expected to outstrip those of other geographies, and an epidemiological shift from infectious diseases to a chronic disease pattern matching western markets. National insurance coverage is expanding very fast in most of the countries, improving affordability, and governments are spending massively to overhaul their healthcare delivery infrastructure. The region has also an active pharmaceutical, medical device and medical tourism industry, due to its balance of quality and advanced medical care/technology and relatively affordable cost compared to the rest of the developed nations.

The Asian education industry outlook is also truly promising by rising household wealth. Asia accounts for 40% of the \$ 1.3T global private education market and the last decade has witnessed an exponential increase in investor participation in Asian education.

These are just of some of the reasons why the Asian Health & Education Council (ACHE) has been organized to promote greater business interaction among CACCI members, in the related industries, and I believe it has the potentials to take this role.

In this spirit and besides publishing Health & Education Newsletters and organizing break-out sessions parallel to CACCI conferences, ACHE is planning to organize two biannual specialized gathering, namely, the Asian Health Industry Leaders Summit and the Asian Education Industry Leaders Summit. So, I would like to welcome your thoughts on any of the issues related to the concept and call for expression of interests in hosting, sponsoring, topic suggestions and other contributions to the events.

With best regards,

Dr. Seyed Hassan Tabatabaei Nejad
Chairman, Asian Council on Health and Education

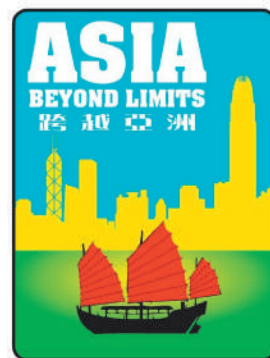
Asian Council on Health and Education to Meet in Hong Kong

In conjunction with the 29th CACCI Conference, Asian Council on Health and Education (ACHE) will organize its annual meeting under the chairmanship of Dr. Seyed Hassan Tabatabaei Nejad from Iran. The 29th CACCI Conference will be held on October 29-30, 2015 in Hong Kong.

As part of the program of the 29th CACCI Conference, the host - the Kowloon Chamber of Commerce - is requesting the various CACCI Product and Service Councils, including the ACHE, to organize break-out sessions that will feature panelists who will share their views on trends and developments, problems and issues, and prospects for growth in the sectors concerned.

In this regard, ACHE Chairman Dr. Nejad would like to invite representatives of the health and education sectors in the region to join the break-out session on health and education to share their best practices and valuable experience. An active participation in the session will certainly contribute to a meaningful and productive discussion of the issues at hand.

For more information on the ACHE, please visit the following link at http://cacci.biz/?page_id=175.



**29th CACCI
CONFERENCE
HONG KONG**
OCTOBER 29-30, 2015
REGAL AIRPORT HOTEL, HONG KONG



APEC members renew vow on 'Healthy Asia-Pacific 2020' vision

By: Franco G. Regala

Members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) have renewed their commitment in achieving a “Healthy Asia-Pacific” vision come 2020 through holistic approach and improved and sustainable health systems in Asia Pacific countries.

Speaking during the APEC Health Working Group (HWG) meeting held at Oxford Hotel, Health Secretary Janette Loreto-Garin said the 2020 initiative stresses “a holistic, health in all policies, whole of government, and whole of society approach to the development of high-performing and sustainable health systems.”

“The global community has long recognized the contribution of improved health, particularly through prevention and control of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), in ensuring progress across the three pillars of economic growth, social equity, and

environmental protection,” said Garin.

“We agree that mental disorders, another form of NCD, deserve the recognition in the APEC Ministerial and Economic Leaders’ Declaration. Noteworthy is the importance of integrating the efforts of the public and private sector for innovative and creative solutions to this growing global burden,” she emphasized.

Garin also cited emerging infectious diseases such as MERS

CoV and Ebola Virus as well as antimicrobial resistance as continued threats to Asia-Pacific health.

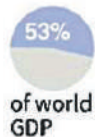
“With renewed interest on health, we hope that our collective efforts help put a strong foothold of health in economic and trade discussions which are usually prioritized in APEC,” the health secretary said.

Source: Manila Bulletin, January 28, 2015

Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

Annual leaders’ summit in Beijing, China on November 10-11

Account for:



Source: APEC/USTR



Half of world's rural population cannot access basic health care: UN

More than half the population of rural areas worldwide do not have access to basic health care, with four in five rural Africans lacking services, the United Nations said on April 27, 2015.

In the first report of its kind, the U.N.'s International Labour Organization found that the rural-urban divide was omnipresent from the richest countries down to the poorest.

Fifty-six percent of those living in rural areas worldwide were not covered by basic health care against 22 percent in cities and towns, according to the report, with data from 174 countries.

"The results that we found are really shocking. We find that the rural-urban divide is a consistent feature at global, regional and national levels," the report's author --elia Scheil-Adlung, told a news conference.

"The place of residence can be considered as the entry door to access to health care or as the key barrier to be excluded from health care," she said.

An overwhelming 83 percent of Africans in rural areas were left uncovered, the report said.

"The situation is worsened by the lack of health workers in the world's rural areas," the report said, adding that although half of the world's population lived in these areas, only 23 percent

of the global health workforce was deployed there.

An extra 7 million health workers were needed to make up for the shortfall in rural areas across the world, the report on iniquities in rural health protection said.

Scheil-Adlung, who is ILO's health policy coordinator, said the countries with the highest rural-urban divide in Europe were Italy, followed by Greece, Andorra and Cyprus.

The lowest gap was in Monaco, a tiny principality in southern France which is a tax haven for the world's rich and famous, followed by Switzerland, she said.

The biggest divide globally was found in East Timor.

In the impoverished half-island nation that was occupied by Indonesia for over two decades, 75 percent of the rural population remains outside the purview of medical care, against 18



percent in cities.

The main reasons for this were underfunding, negligence and investments in "prestige" projects in urban areas, said Scheil-Adlung.

She said this could be rectified with steps to ensure comprehensive national protection, moving away from depending on charities to meet the shortfall and revamping policies and budgets.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP), April 28, 2015



ADB Urges Greater ICT Use to Deliver Affordable Universal Healthcare

Information and communication technology (ICT) tools are crucial to helping Asian governments fast-track good-quality, affordable healthcare for all their citizens, delegates at a regional healthcare conference here heard on December 2, 2014

“Better use of ICT means better data and systems that improve the quality of healthcare while reducing the costs,” said Susann Roth, Senior Social Development Specialist at the Asian Development Bank (ADB). “And ultimately, good health makes for improved lives and sustainable and inclusive growth.”

The conference, Measuring and Achieving Universal Health Coverage with ICT in Asia and the Pacific, is gathering around 200 key government officials from health, social protection, finance agencies, academic institutions, and development organizations from over 25 countries. Participants will review evidence on the cost, benefit, and impact of ICT solutions in order to improve healthcare monitoring and thus achieve universal health coverage more quickly. The conference also aims to help ADB developing member

countries strengthen their own business cases for strategic ICT investments to maximize the use of their healthcare budgets.

The conference is co-hosted by ADB, the World Health Organization, and the Asia e-Health Information Network.

ADB aims to boost its annual financing of health-related projects to between \$400 million and \$750 million dollars a year by 2020, roughly doubling its health assistance of recent years. ADB is also developing an Operational Plan for Health, with universal health coverage as the overarching goal. ICT will play a big role in the plan.

ADB is already supporting ICT use to improve delivery of health services and ensure better data collection in Asia. For example, ADB is financing the laying of fiber-optic cabling in the Pacific and a related project to help Tonga use computer

networks to provide healthcare services to patients who live far from hospitals and transmit X-ray images and other health data to specialists. In Bangladesh and Lao People's Democratic Republic, ADB is helping to collect patient data and collating them



electronically to enable communities to better plan their health programs. Meanwhile, ICT investments in Mongolia are improving hospital management and health financing by ensuring hospitals have all the data they need to make the best decisions.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, it is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2013, ADB assistance totaled \$21.0 billion, including co-financing of \$6.6 billion.

Source: Asian Development Bank, December 2, 2014 ■



Foxconn Expanding Into Health-Care Market

iPhone assembler in talks with Varian Medical Systems to obtain rights to sell radiation-treatment devices in China

By Lorraine Luk

Foxconn, the world's biggest contract electronics maker by revenue, is teaming up with U.S. medical device companies to expand into the health-care market.

The Taiwan-based iPhone assembler, formally known as Hon Hai Precision Industry Co. 2317 -0.21 % , is in talks with Palo Alto-based Varian Medical Systems VAR -0.64 % to obtain the rights to sell radiation-treatment devices in China, Leonard Wu, general manager of Foxconn's health-care business group, told The Wall Street Journal in a recent interview.

Varian confirmed the talks, noting that Foxconn has a good business development track record in Taiwan and China.

The move comes after Foxconn also acquired an undisclosed stake in San Diego-based medical device startup, Sotera Wireless Inc., last year. As part of the deal, Foxconn will make sensors and batteries used in Sotera's medical devices, and has become the U.S. company's exclusive sales agent in China. Sotera Wireless Chief Executive Tom Watlington said in an interview that Foxconn could eventually take over production of its devices, which are done in the U.S. currently.

Sotera, backed by Qualcomm Ventures and Intel Capital, makes wireless, body-worn devices that can monitor vital signs like blood pressure. New York-listed Varian makes medical systems for radiotherapy and radiosurgery, as well as oncology software.

It remains uncertain if the U.S. companies can help Foxconn gain a significant presence in the market, but Mr. Wu said he expects its health-care



Foxconn has started selling Sotera Wireless' vital-sign monitoring device in China. PHOTO: SOTERA WIRELESS INC.

business—which was established in 2009—to ring in revenue of US\$200 million by 2020 from US\$20 million in 2014, driven partly by China's rising health-care needs. That would represent a fraction of Foxconn's annual revenue of US\$130 billion.

Foxconn's expansion into the medical devices market comes as it searches for new growth engines and clients amid rising competition in consumer electronics assembly. Apple Inc., AAPL 1.82 % which accounts for about half of Foxconn's revenue, has been diversifying its suppliers to assemble its iPhones and iPads in recent years. Foxconn's revenue growth slowed to 6.5% last year from 53% in 2010 as Apple shifted more orders to smaller assemblers such as Pegatron Corp. and Quanta Computer Inc.

Foxconn has diversified over the past couple of years by venturing into new areas, including telecom services, mobile software and e-commerce. So far, the businesses haven't contributed much to earnings.

London-based consulting firm PA Consulting Group estimates that revenue in the global contract-manufacturing market for medical

devices will grow 52% to \$35 billion in 2016 from \$23 billion in 2013, faster than the 17% growth projected for contract manufacturing of consumer electronics over the same period.

While the product life cycle of an iPhone is usually less than three years, strict regulation and limited competition often mean the lifespan of medical devices can be almost two decades, experts say. Contract manufacturers of medical devices also have higher margins of about 23% to

25%, compared with 4% to 7% for consumer electronics, said Simon Burnell, a medical device expert at PA Consulting Group.

"The growth in the consumer health market is blurring the traditional divide between consumer electronics and medical devices," said Mr. Burnell.

"Contract manufacturers that can serve both markets will differentiate themselves."

The idea to expand into health-care originated from Foxconn founder Terry Gou, who lost his first wife to breast cancer in 2005 and his younger brother to leukemia in 2007. The incidents prompted Mr. Gou to donate US\$500 million to the National Taiwan University in 2008 to fund the construction and operation of a new cancer treatment and prevention center in Taipei.

Mr. Gou's donation project paved the way for the establishment of the health-care group within Foxconn and it has recruited hundreds of medical professionals to study the equipment market and identify growth opportunities.

"Our major challenge is to attract

Continued on page 6

Toshiba to apply expertise to medical equipment

By Chihiro Nakajima

Toshiba Corp. was Japan's first company to produce color TVs 55 years ago. However, the fierce price competition with overseas manufacturers in today's home electronics market makes it difficult to turn a profit.

Toshiba sees the health care industry as a way to utilize the technological strengths it cultivated in the electronics business.

The Yomiuri Shimbun spoke with Toshiba president Hisao Tanaka, 64, about his company's business strategy. The following are excerpts from the interview.

"We decided to abandon in-house production of thin LCD televisions for overseas markets. Factories in the United States, Europe, China, and Japan have been closed and sold off but even after reducing fixed costs to this extent, we don't expect to break a 5-percent profit margin on sales.

"Overseas, we will shift to the licensing business, allowing overseas companies to use the Toshiba brand for their televisions. Domestically, high value-added products — our forte —

such as 4K televisions have garnered praise, and we will continue to produce them.

"We've placed our hopes on the health care industry as a mainstay for new growth. Things like the combination of the chronically low birthrate and our ageing population, along with population growth in developing countries, have become issues around the world.

"The image processing technology we cultivated through developing televisions can also be applied to medical monitors, so television engineers are being reallocated to the

health care division.

"Our strength is that we have deeper relationships with medical institutions than other companies, and we understand things like the permissions and licensing systems of countries around the world.

"We have the fourth-highest global market share for imaging diagnosis equipment such as CT and MRI scanners, and we export to over 130 countries.

"For the fiscal year 2017, our goal is to have our current sales more than double to 1 trillion yen (US\$8.41 billion). To acquire technologies we do

not possess and achieve this goal, we will actively pursue mergers and acquisitions, as well as partnerships with other businesses.

"In the energy field, one of the mainstays of our business, we will devote more effort to hydrogen-related technologies. Although it is still expensive, it is a groundbreaking, clean energy source.

"We have high expectations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games as an opportunity for our public relations.

"To take full advantage of the Olympics, we'll need to have achieved a certain level of installations in commercial buildings in 2018.

"Research on supplying power for buildings such as condominiums is ongoing. We aim to establish overseas operations as well, and to expand the scale of the business to more than 100 billion yen as quickly as possible.

"We don't believe that all of these new businesses will flourish, but we want to increase our employees' motivation to produce new value."



Foxconn

... Continued from page 5

talent from the medical field as many people don't know that Foxconn can also make medical equipment," said Mr. Wu.

Foxconn has made some changes to its factories to meet the quality standards of medical devices, though analysts say there is little difference in the physical assembly of medical devices compared with making a smartphone.

"The main challenge is to implement cultural changes at all levels of the company to ensure quality improvement," Mr. Burnell said.

Over the past the few years,

Foxconn has set up dedicated production lines to make blood glucose monitoring devices and sensors that monitor brain waves.

Only four of its more than 90 manufacturing sites world-wide are certified for medical devices or components, said Mr. Wu. Those facilities are in China and Taiwan.

Foxconn executives say medical devices would take more than one year to receive the necessary regulatory approvals in different countries, so it is more challenging than assembling consumer electronics.

Source: Wall Street Journal, April 14, 2015 ■

Source: The Yomiuri Shimbun/Asia News Network, April 27, 2015 ■

IBM, Apple team up on AI health program

IBM on April 13, 2015 announced alliances with Apple and others to put artificial intelligence to work drawing potentially life-saving insights from the booming amount of health data generated on personal devices.

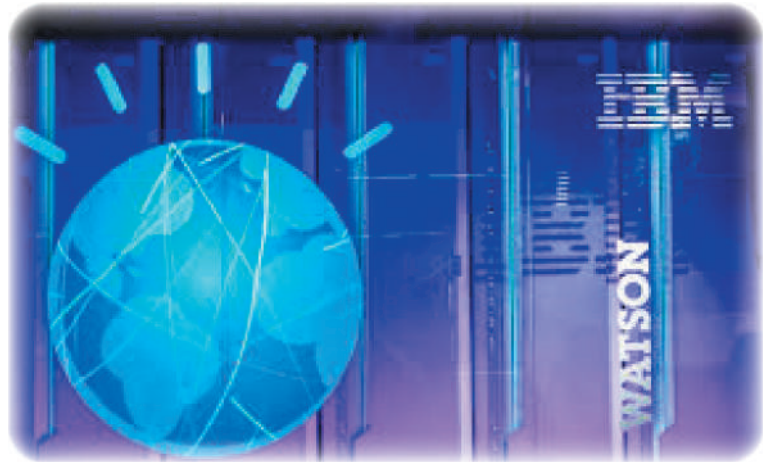
IBM is collaborating with Apple, Medtronic, and Johnson & Johnson to use its Watson artificial intelligence system to give users insights and advice from personal health information gathered from fitness trackers, smartphones, implants or other devices.

The initiative is trying to take advantage of medical records increasingly being digitized, allowing quick access for patients and health care providers if the information can be stored and shared effectively. IBM wants to create a platform for that sharing.

“All this data can be overwhelming for providers and patients alike, but it also presents an unprecedented opportunity to transform the ways in which we manage our health,” IBM Senior Vice President John Kelly said in a news release.

“We need better ways to tap into and analyze all of this information in real-time to benefit patients and to improve wellness globally.”

IBM expects more companies



to join the health platform, which it envisions growing to a global scale.

In addition, the New York based company said it is acquiring a pair of health care technology companies and establishing an IBM health unit.

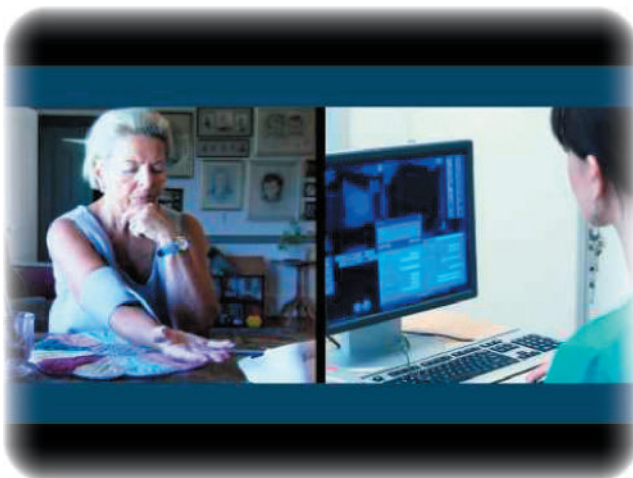
Watson is a cognitive computing system that bested human competition in a Jeopardy trivia television game show.

Under the partnership it will be able to handle data collected using health applications from Apple mobile devices, according to IBM.

“Now IBM’s secure cloud and analytic capabilities provide additional tools to help accelerate discoveries

across a wide variety of health issues,” Apple senior vice president of operations Jeff Williams said in a release.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP), April 15, 2015



Medical costs in South Korea soar as difficulties of an aging society loom

By Claire Lee

Kim Nan-hee, a 58-year-old housewife, sometimes secretly wishes she hadn't supported her son's wedding four years ago. She and her husband, a retiree in his late 60s, spent almost 200 million won (US\$182,000) for his wedding and housing, thinking they were still financially safe with their personal savings and private pension payments.

But things turned difficult for them when Kim's mother, 80, was diagnosed with dementia three years ago. In spite of the medical treatment paid by the couple, Kim's mother's condition quickly worsened — to a degree where she could not recognize her own children. Kim, who suffers from her own health problems including osteoporosis, is thinking of placing their mother, who currently lives with Kim, in a residential medical facility for the elderly.

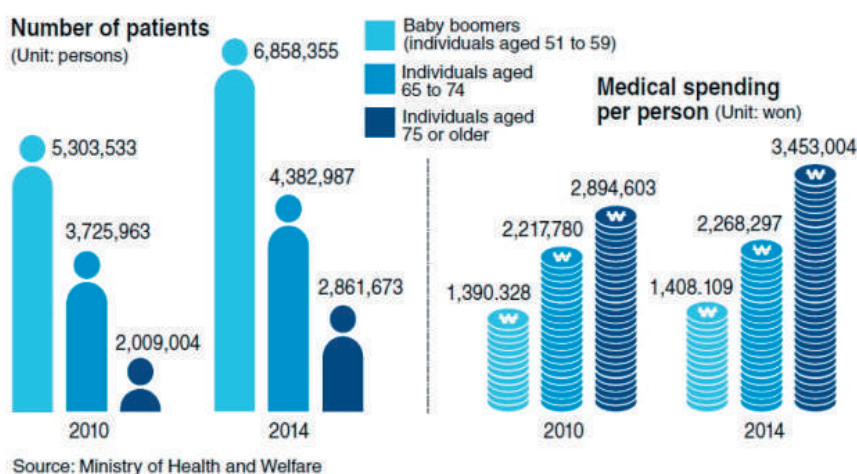
"I thought my husband and I were well prepared for our post-retirement years, but I'm not sure anymore," she said.

"I don't want my mother to stay at an ill-equipped facility, but the ones that I like cost about 1.3 million to 1.5 million won a month. My husband is diabetic and I have osteoporosis. We don't have major health issues, but I'm just constantly worried about our finances because I don't know what will happen next."

Kim is one of more than 6.8 million baby boomers (those born 1955 to 1963) who are entering their 60s this year. The government predicts that medical costs for the elderly will continue to rise as the boomers' population begins to grow older, thereby doubling the current elderly demographic — those aged 65 or older — to more than 7.2 million.

"It is certainly worrisome because

Medical spending by baby boomers and elderly in S. Korea



the cost for the boomers increased by 31 percent from 2010 to 2014, which is more than the cost for those currently aged 65 or 74 increased in the same time period, at 20.3 percent," said an official from the Health Ministry.

Last year, about one-third of total medical costs — 19.4 trillion won — was spent to treat the elderly, who already account for 11.9 percent of the total Korean population. The cost increased by 10.4 percent from the year before, mostly due to the increased number of those aged 75 or older who sought medical help for dementia and cerebrovascular diseases, according to the latest government data.

While the cost for those aged 65 to 74 increased by 20.3 percent from 2010 to 2014, the cost for individuals aged 75 or older rose dramatically by 69.9 percent in the same period. Among patients aged 75 or older, the cost to treat dementia increased by 138.4 percent from 2010 to 2014, while the cost to treat Parkinson's disease rose by 204.5 percent in the five-year period.

Shin Hyun-chul, a researcher

at the Health Insurance Review and Assessment Service, said while many baby boomers today are supporting their parents — mostly aged 75 or older — with their medical costs, it is unclear if they would be able to receive support from their children if they become ill in their later years.

"All we know for sure is that the cost will be huge to treat baby boomers," he said. "But we don't know who is going to pay for it."

Experts say both the physical and mental well-being of the elderly is already at risk.

According to the Korea Institute for Health and Social Affairs, almost 70 percent of all senior citizens either lived by themselves or with their spouses. The average monthly income for a single elderly person was 799,400 won, which is less than half the country's average household income at 3.53 million won.

Source: The Korea Herald/Asia News Network, April 7, 2015

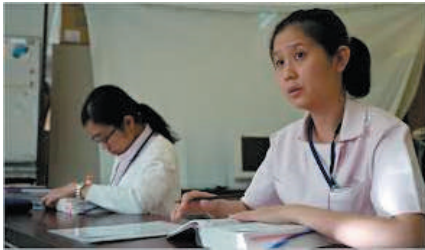
Foreign nurses, caregivers to get special visa status in Japan

By Tomohiro Osaki

The Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on March 6, 2015 approved the creation of a new category of visa for foreign nurses and caregivers as part of efforts to fill a shortage in the workforce.

Drafted by the Justice Ministry and requiring Diet approval, the proposal to amend the immigration law mainly targets exchange students studying nursing care in Japanese universities and vocational schools. It would enable them to stay in the country and find a permanent job after graduation.

It reflects recommendations made by a panel of third-party immigration experts to Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa in December. In its report, the panel urged the nation to pursue highly skilled foreign talent more aggressively.



The amendment proposal is slated to be submitted in a bill to the current Diet session.

Currently, foreign nurses and caregivers are allowed to work in Japan only under bilateral Economic Partnership Agreements, which exist with Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam. The new visa category will give aspiring nurses and caregivers opportunities regardless of nationality.

To qualify, applicants would have to pass the national exam for care workers.

Like other working visas, the new status is renewable, granting foreign nurses the potential to settle in the country.

Japan's short-handed nursing industry is notorious for its low pay and labor-intensive work, which causes low retention. The welfare ministry said annual turnover was 16.6 percent in fiscal 2013.

Exchange students with a nursing degree from Japanese universities should be "most welcome" to enter the industry, the panel said in its December report, citing their likely skill set and strong command of the Japanese language.

Meanwhile, the Cabinet also approved a separate immigration-related bill proposed by the ministry to overhaul a state-backed foreign internship program that critics have called tantamount to forced labor.

The bill calls for the establishment of a state-run oversight body tasked with eradicating malpractice by employers and firming up guarantees for foreigners' human rights.

Specifically, the body will be authorized to conduct an on-site investigation into interns' working conditions and examine the tuition they are receiving. It will also create a complaints system where victims of human rights abuses can blow the whistle on malpractice.

It also calls for the maximum period of internship to be extended from the current three years to five years.

The bill will also prohibit employers from using physical force, threats or confinement.

Furthermore, it secures greater protections for interns' freedom to move, forbidding employers from confiscating their



passports and residence cards — one reason why the current program is denounced as allowing forced labor.

The internship initiative, dubbed the Industrial Trainee and Technical Internship Program, kicked off in 1993 purportedly as part of Japan's "international contribution" to foster basic industrial skills in developing countries.

Critics viewed it as an attempt by the government to lure cheap foreign labor.

"I'm aware there are many voices of criticism over the program," minister Kamikawa said after the Cabinet meeting on the morning of March 6, 2015.

"But I hope the bill will lead to a more legitimate operation of the program and rectify its problems."

Source: Japan Times, March 6, 2015



Peanuts may reduce risk of death, heart disease, according to cancer researchers

Eating peanuts, in small amounts, may reduce the risk of mortality, especially death from cardiovascular disease, a new study showed on March 2, 2015.

The report compiles research from people of varying races, including Caucasians, African Americans and Asians, all from low income backgrounds.

Researchers found that consuming peanuts regularly reduced mortality among men and women from all groups, and suggests that eating the nuts — which are relatively affordable — can be an inexpensive and nutritious way to reduce mortality and cardiovascular disease around the world.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association, Internal Medicine* includes more than 70,000 Caucasians and blacks in the United States and some 130,000 Chinese people in Shanghai.

“We found that peanut

consumption was associated with reduced total mortality and cardiovascular disease mortality in a predominantly low-income black and white population in the U.S., and among Chinese men and women living in Shanghai,” said senior author --iao-Ou Shu, associate director for Global Health at the Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center (VICC).

There was a reduced risk of total mortality of in 17 to 21 percent of participants, the study showed.

The risk of death from cardiovascular disease was slashed by between 23 and 38 percent.

But co-author William Blot warned that because the data was from observational epidemiological studies and not randomized clinical trials, “we cannot be sure that peanuts per se were responsible for the reduced mortality observed.”

“The findings from this new study, however, reinforce earlier research suggesting health benefits from eating nuts, and thus are quite encouraging,” added Blot, who is also associate director for cancer prevention control and population-based research at VICC.



Peanuts are less expensive and more widely available than many other nuts, and are eaten by many cultures around the world.

The nutritious nuts — which are actually legumes — are high in and unsaturated fat, fiber, vitamins, and anti-oxidants and can boost cardiovascular health with as little as 30 grams eaten weekly.

“The results suggest that including a modest amount of nuts as part of a well-balanced diet may be of benefit,” said Peter Weissberg, director of the British Heart Foundation, who did not participate in the study.

“The data do not show that the more peanuts you eat the lower the risk of a fatal heart attack, so people should not start eating large quantities of nuts, particularly salted nuts, in the hope that it will protect them from heart disease,” he added.

Previous research has focused on white upper class research subjects.

The participants in this latest study were observed for between five and 12 years.

Source: Agence France-Presse (AFP), March 4, 2015



World's top chefs say eat small fish to make a big difference

Want to make a big impact on the health of our oceans? Think small, top chefs say. As in anchovies and sardines.

That's the message from 20 of the world's leading chefs, who gathered in northeastern Spain on March 17, 2015 to draw attention to what they hope is a simple solution to the threat facing many of the larger fish species that overfishing has pushed to near collapse. Their take: If more people ate more little fish — anchovies, sardines, herring and mackerel, for example — both human diets and seafood populations would improve.

Ferran Adria, of Spain's now closed elBulli restaurant, joined with Grant Achatz of Chicago's Alinea, Massimo Bottura of Italy's Osteria Francescana and more than a dozen other chefs for a summit with the U.S.-based ocean conservation group Oceana to discuss leveraging their star power to get these fish not just onto their own menus — which only a lucky few will ever eat from — but into restaurants and homes worldwide.

"It's the right moment and the right ingredient," said Gaston Acurio, the co-owner and chef of Peru's famed Astrid y Gaston restaurant, during an exclusive round table discussion with The Associated Press. "One of the best markets in the world is health and wellness, and anchovies and small fish are health and this is wellness that is good for society."

Driving the chefs' involvement is the campaign by Oceana aimed at convincing consumers to embrace eating more small oily fish. Known as "forage fish," they're part of the food chain that feeds larger fish, such as tuna or swordfish, both of which are threatened. The smaller fish are abundant enough to feed both the larger predators as well as plenty of people, says Oceana chief scientist Michael



Top chef Ferran Adria of Spain, center, is seen with other top chefs from some of the world's best-rated restaurants as they gathered in San Sebastian, northern Spain, on Tuesday, March 17, to urge consumption of small fish that many people do not eat. Want to make a big impact on the health of our oceans? Think small, top chefs say — as in anchovies and sardines. (AP)

Hirshfield.

But though anchovies, sardines and similar small fish are treated as delicacies in much of the Mediterranean, in the rest of the world they often end up as feed for farmed salmon, chicken and pigs.

"They feed 3 pounds of fish to make 1 pound of salmon. That's not a great way to feed a planet," said Andy Sharpless, Oceana's CEO and author of "The Perfect Protein." "We can feed tens of millions more people if we simply eat anchovies and other forage fish directly rather than in form of a farmed salmon or other animals raised

on fish meal and fish oil."

Their point isn't to criticize the farmed seafood industry, the chefs said. Rather, they want to lead by example. They agreed to serve small oily fish at their restaurants as much as they as they can, to train younger chefs that the fish are as good for the planet as for the plate, and to develop recipes that make it easy for the average consumer to prepare them at home.

"We need to take advantage of species that there are in great abundance," Acurio said. "We as chefs with the magic and the passion and the talent we have can provoke and convince people to consume them and influence the market. As chefs we can create a consciousness to inspire many other cooks."

The chefs scoffed at the idea that people — particularly small fish-wary Americans — might be reluctant. They said the same food revolution that has turned sushi into convenience store food around the world can work just as well on this. It doesn't hurt that the chefs gathered in San Sebastian are known for their innovation and for taking raw food materials people would never think of buying and transforming them into delicacies.

Acurio said the chefs' best contribution to promoting consumption of small fish might be creating simple meals anyone could cook. "If we can invent concept products, like the best burger you have ever eaten mixed with anchovies, that's one way to popularize it," he said.

For Joan Roca, who runs Spain's famed El Celler de Can Roca with his brothers, the involvement with the campaign boils down to his feeling that "all chefs have a responsibility to be visible."

Source: Associated Press (AP), March 19, 2015 ■



Levelling the field for manufacture of medical devices in India

By: Varsha Chitale

The fast growing medical devices market in India is ridden with tax & regulatory anomalies and malpractices. These are expected to be addressed soon.

The Association of Indian Medical Device Industry (AIMED) is optimistic that the Drugs and Cosmetics (Amendment) Bill, 2014, which is expected to be introduced (and passed) in the current parliament session, will facilitate creation of a level playing field for the Indian manufacturers of medical devices. The earlier avatar of the bill was shelved by the government as industry participants had raised several concerns and objections. While medical devices were earlier classified under a broad definition of drugs, the new bill provides a separate set of standards and regulations for them.

The impending legislation along with talks of raising the FDI limit in medical devices has raised hopes that the various anomalies in the current regulation of the medical devices industry in India will be removed in the near future.

A key aberration relates to import duties. Import duties on medical devices are lower than those on the raw materials that go into making of the medical devices. Additionally, while there is no VAT levied on imported devices, domestic manufacture attracts

excise duty as well as VAT. Further, for the same finished medical device, the import duty is less than the excise duty on domestically manufactured product.

(Incidentally several other sectors in India also have inverted tax structures; these include aluminium products, capital goods, cement, chemicals, electronics, paper, steel, textiles and tyres.)

In order to promote R&D, the government has exempted the import of certain medical equipment from customs duty. Some lifesaving equipment is also exempted from import duty.

As a result of the current tax structure, domestic products are rendered uncompetitive, particularly against cheap imports from China. This explains why over 70% of medical devices sold in India today are imported. The Indian manufacturers primarily play in the low value disposables and consumables space, while the high value equipment and devices are imported.

Fixing the tax structure to make it fairer for domestic manufacture and will encourage manufacture of medical

devices in the country. It will also encourage investment and innovation in cost effective devices that better suited to Indian consumers.

Taken together, the initiatives - the new legislation with measures to curb malpractices, increase in FDI in medical devices and fixing of tax anomalies - could change the face of the medical devices market in India quite significantly - for the better!

Source: ValueNotes, December 10, 2014



Healthcare and Pharmaceuticals in Turkey

Turkey's pharmaceutical market became the 6th largest market in Europe and the 16th largest in the world in terms of sales in 2012. Pharmaceutical sales reached a stunning USD 12.5 billion, which means a CAGR of nearly 10 percent between 2003 and 2012.

Domestic and international investors are ramping up their new investments in the pharmaceutical sector to take advantage of Turkey's attractive market where the healthcare industry and the pharmaceutical sector grew by 5.8 percent and 8.9 percent respectively from 2012 to 2013, while the growth in real GDP was 3.5 percent for the same period.

Turkey has one of the largest and youngest labor pools in Europe with more than 65 percent of the population aged between 24 and 54. The strength of Turkey's labor force is reflected in the pharmaceutical sector. In the academic year 2011-2012, more than 41,000 students graduated from vocational training schools and universities in fields related to the

pharmaceutical sector.

The Turkish healthcare system has undergone the largest transition in its history. The successes of health reform, namely the Health Transformation Program (HTP), have significantly improved the healthcare system and enhanced access to healthcare facilities.

The Universal Health Insurance (UHI) program was put in place to provide healthcare to every individual. As a result, the Social Security Institution (SGK) has become the number one buyer on the purchasing side of healthcare services.

A rapidly growing young population is one of the key factors driving demand for the healthcare sector. Over the next two decades, as the current young population of Turkey ages, there is likely to be a sharp rise in healthcare demand as almost 80 percent of a person's healthcare requirements typically occur after the age of 40-50.

Turkey will experience a continued economic expansion and rising incomes which, in turn, will create more demand

for health services and products. These increases are reflected in healthcare spending projections. According to Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) forecasts, the healthcare sector in Turkey is set to boom by a CAGR of 5.6 percent between 2013 and 2017, while most developed countries will be experiencing relatively lower growth rates. Turkey is also expected to surpass the forecasted world average with this growth rate.

The social security system now covers approximately 99 percent of the total population with 75.2 million people covered, which is an increase of 29 percent from 2002.

Investments in the healthcare sector are expected to continue as the government strives to increase the number of hospital beds per 10,000 population to 32 in 2023, up from the current number of 26.5. The Turkish government has also taken on an ambitious healthcare PPP program.

The Ministry of Health is planning to open health "free zones", which will include hospitals, rehabilitation centers, thermal tourism facilities, nursing houses, health techno-cities and R&D centers. These health "free zones" will be built in big cities where transportation will be relatively easy.

According to PPP professionals, Turkey is the second most attractive market globally for PPP projects in the medium to long-term.

Official targets to adopt and develop e-Health systems present significant investment opportunities for ICT infrastructure companies.

There are plans to increase health tourism revenue to USD 20 billion by 2023. As a result, healthcare spending per capita has been targeted to almost triple by 2023, reaching USD 2,000.

Source: Invest in Turkey



Uncovering opportunities in the healthcare sector in India

By: Varsha Chitale

There are many opportunities for companies selling products and services to the healthcare sector in India. However, creating a go-to-market strategy for tapping these, is a challenge...

The Indian healthcare market is currently estimated at USD 80 billion and is expected to grow to USD 280 billion by 2020. According to the Investment Commission of India, the healthcare industry in India has experienced a remarkable growth of 12% per year during the last 4 years.

The key driver for growth is the huge demand-supply gap in healthcare services. Rising population, disposable incomes and literacy; increasing incidence of lifestyle diseases; increasing penetration of health insurance provided by private companies as well as state governments; and medical tourism have all contributed to the rise in demand for healthcare. On the supply side, there is an acute shortage of hospital beds, doctors and nurses. India's healthcare compares poorly not only with developed nations, but also other emerging economies.

While urban India's healthcare infrastructure metrics are somewhat acceptable, the shortage is acute in the semi urban and rural areas.

The government has woken up to this, and has taken several initiatives to encourage investment in healthcare. Some of the initiatives include tax holidays for setting up hospitals in tier II and tier III cities, tax deduction on investment in hospital infrastructure for hospitals with more than 100 beds, higher rates of depreciation on life saving medical equipment, lower customs duty on import of certain medical equipment, increased support for public-private-partnerships (PPP), among others.

This scenario has created



Indicators	India	Brazil	China	US	UK
Hospital beds (per 10,000 population)	12	24	30	31	39
Doctors (per 10,000 population)	6	17	14	27	21
Nurses (per 10,000 population)	13	30	10	98	60
Healthcare expenditure as % of GDP	4	8	4	15	9

opportunities for various providers of products and services to the healthcare sector – medical services (hospitals,/ clinics), medical infrastructure, medical equipment and devices, medical consumables, health insurance, pharmaceuticals and drugs, pathology laboratories, and so on.

While all the aspirants in the industry recognise the opportunities, most of them are not able to clearly formulate their strategies for capturing business due to a lack of clear understanding of the market. They are shooting in the dark. What products or services should they sell? Where should they sell? What messaging should they use? How to structure the pricing? Who are the decision makers? What are their budgets? These and other similar critical questions are unanswered.

So why is the market difficult to fathom? A large part of the healthcare sector is unorganised and highly fragmented. Additionally, since healthcare is a state subject, data on is dispersed, disparate and non-uniform. While some states have good documentation, others have close to none.

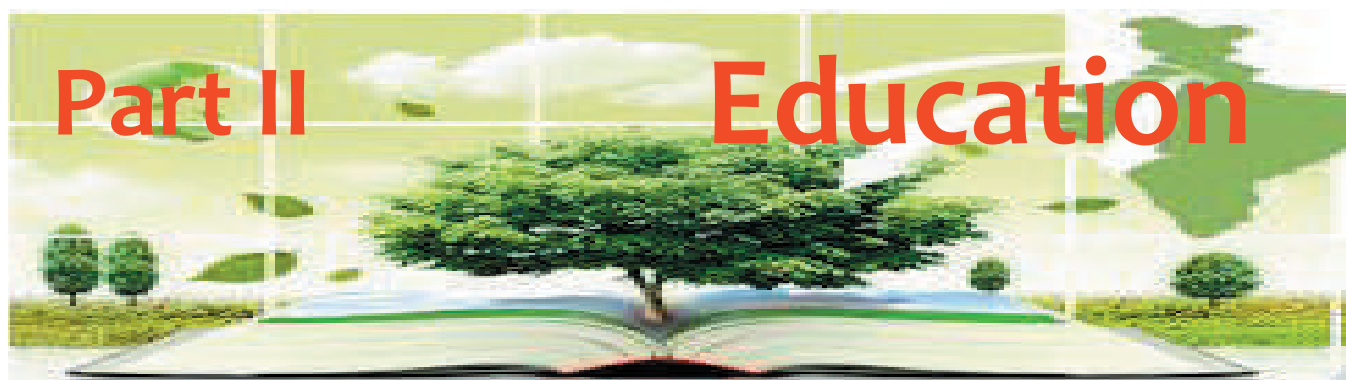
There are around 40,000 hospitals in the country (no-one knows the exact number) of which around 13,000 are in the public sector and around 27,000 are in the private sector. Together, they house around 11 lakh beds. Some private sector entities have

tried creating databases of hospitals, but these databases provide only very basic information such as the name and address, and are of little use to the industry players. For example, a company that makes cardiac equipment is interested to know which hospitals have cardiology departments. Having a list of all hospitals is of little use.

Having a list of potential buyers is the first step. In order to formulate an effective go-to-market strategy, companies also need to understand their customers. What are the key important parameters in the buying decision? How important is price? Who are the decision makers? What is the decision making process? Who are the key influencers? What are their perceptions and key pain-points? Answers to these will vary across different types (public/private), sizes, and locations (metro/ urban/ semi urban/rural) of hospitals. While most established industry players have managed to reach out to the players in the metros and tier I cities, future growth will come from the smaller tier II and III cities, whose needs and characteristics are likely to be different.

Unless providers of services and products to the healthcare sector in India need to gain an understanding of these issues, the opportunities for them will remain elusive.

Source: ValueNotes, October 7, 2013 ■



APEC Launches Scholarship Initiative

Students and professionals across the Asia-Pacific will now enjoy greater access to cross-border education, training and internships in the region following the launch of a new APEC Scholarship and Internship Initiative.

The initiative aggregates sponsored study and career development exchanges offered by universities and companies in APEC member economies and supports the creation of new opportunities by facilitating coordination among governments, higher learning institutions and companies in the region. Applications are now being accepted through an online portal, which was opened by APEC Senior Officials during their two-day meeting in Clark that concludes on February 7, 2015.

“A well-educated, well-trained and well-connected workforce is critical to ensuring long-term growth and prosperity on both sides of the Pacific,” said John F. Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States which is leading the Initiative’s development. “Together, APEC and the private sector are opening the gates of opportunity to provide more of the region’s three billion people the knowledge, skills and experience they need to thrive in a 21st century marketplace.”

The APEC Scholarship Initiative was introduced during a meeting of APEC Trade Ministers in Qingdao, China last May and endorsed by the region’s Leaders in November in Beijing. Universities and

companies interested in sponsoring an undergraduate or graduate-level scholarship, or an internship or training program for a student or professional, can inquire with participating APEC economies.

“Our goal is to maximize opportunities afforded by globalization to strengthen people’s employability and earning potential,” explained Dr Alan Bollard, Executive Director of the APEC Secretariat. “We are particularly intent on empowering youth and women to narrow economic inequalities and drive new growth.”

The initiative will bring APEC economies an important step closer to realizing their target of one million intra-APEC university-level students annually by 2020, advancing these overarching objectives. Set in 2013, it would represent an estimated 25 percent increase compared to existing levels.

“Broadening access to education, training and skills is needed to mitigate the threat of skilled labor shortages due to unfolding demographic changes around the Asia-Pacific, namely aging



populations and lower birthrates,” noted Dr Bollard. “Candidates with overseas experience are in many cases viewed more favorably by firms seeking future leaders with a global outlook.”

“At the end of the day, nurturing a more highly skilled and mobile workforce is good for people’s career development, it’s good for employers and it’s good for growth,” he concluded. “Economic empowerment promotes a virtuous cycle of greater productivity, the creation of higher quality, higher paying jobs and more prosperous and equitable societies which is what we are all aspiring to achieve.”

More information on the APEC Scholarship and Internship Initiative, including a preliminary listing of related opportunities and links to application materials, is available at: <http://education.apec.org/>.

Source: APEC, February 7, 2015 ■

Philippines' TESDA now pushing 'green' vocational-technical training

By Edd K. Usman

Technical-vocational (tech-voc) education is going green with the formal launch of the over P25-million Green Technology Center (GTC) in Bicutan, Taguig City.

It is built as a new training center offering green skills training courses catering to the needs for renewable and emerging green jobs.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (FFCCCII) unveiled the GTC on March 20.

Secretary Joel Villanueva, TESDA director general, believes the GTC "will be a game-changer to "create a whole community of changed people around them."

The FFCCCII on January 21, 2014 signed an agreement with TESDA for the former's donation of the GTC.

GTC will cater to various trainees, clients and stakeholders in different fields and areas of tech-voc education and training (TVET), among them, photovoltaic systems, hydroponics, vertical gardening, landscaping, inverter technology, and e-trike servicing.

"TESDA is definitely going green as it pursues its TVET drive," said Villanueva. TVET is tech-voc education and training, which offers many courses.

Alfonso Siy, FFCCCII president, cited the GTC as a building that "will



The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is combining technical-vocational curriculum with green technology. This is being implemented through the newly constructed R25-million Green Technology Center donated by the Filipino-Chinese business groups. It is located inside TESDA's complex in Bicutan, Taguig City. (Edd K. Usman)

provide green skills for our people... and a learning environment to students and trainees that will inspire them to study harder."

He cited the need for green technology in the face of the global climate change. "We are very happy for donating this training center [that is] supportive of green technology," said Siy.

Villanueva said the GTC will serve as a "campus of ideas and resources for environmental innovation and stewardship."

The GTC was designed to be a model in green technology and will boast of vertical gardens and landscaping, showcase implementation of waste segregation system, use of

natural light and ventilation, harness solar panels/lighting and conservation of water and power.

For the TVET programs, GTC will adopt the TESDA Technology Institutions (TVIs) concept, appropriately dubbed TREE or Training-Research-Extension-Service-Entrepreneurship.

Training programs under GTC's roof will be mainly for trainers and researchers on green technologies and bring research products to communities through extension service, and promote green products entrepreneurship.

FFCCCII is composed of over 200-member organizations across the Philippines. It has been into various civic works, collaborates with the government in its barrio school donations, relief operations and medical missions.

TESDA hopes that GTC would serve as a beacon for green technology in sustaining better and healthier environment.

Source: Manila Bulletin, March 25, 2015





Asia Society Social Improvement and Sustainable Transformation (ASSIST) trained around 6000 students in Tamil Nadu, India through its initiative, 'I2Can – Ignite & Inspire young minds.' The initiative started last year and successfully implemented 20 events.

The events are being supported by a police officer, fire safety instructor and health instructor who train the students during the interactive sessions at the schools. The I2Can initiative aims to train youth on practical topics like health, sanitation, hygiene,

fire safety, road safety, emergency response, green living, problem solving and decision making.

"We believe that in addition to traditional subjects, hands-on, practical and relevant topics will create an enriching and meaningful learning experience," said Sreenivas Narayanan, Managing Director of ASSIST.

"What the I2Can event has achieved goes beyond educating young people on practical topics. More importantly, what this initiative has accomplished is a strong foundation for a creative and socially responsible future generation. An important dimension of the I2Can initiative is to also enable the trained young people to be change agents in their communities. We aspire to achieve a long-term multiplier effect by developing a strong

volunteer force," Narayanan added.

ASSIST Social Actions (ASA), is the dynamic unit which oversees the implementation of two major actions of ASSIST. Through its various social initiatives, it seeks to challenge conventional thinking, spark positive change, and build enduring partnerships for progress.

Source: Asian NGO, April 13, 2015 ■



Philippine Business groups back K to 12 curriculum

By: Amy R. Remo

Seven local and foreign business groups have thrown their support behind the government's K to 12 enhanced basic education program despite calls for its suspension.

"K to 12 will foster the development of competent graduates who will join the workforce and contribute to national competitiveness. With this in mind, we the members of the Philippine business community

reiterate our support for the continued and proper implementation of the K to 12 reform," the groups said in a joint statement issued on April 24, 2015.

The statement of support for the Enhanced Basic Education Act (Republic Act No. 10533, or the K to 12 Law) was signed by the Management Association of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Australian-New Zealand Chamber of Commerce Philippines, American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Employers Confederation of the Philippines and Information Technology and Business Process Association of the Philippines.

To effectively implement the K to 12 curriculum, the business groups also called on the government agencies involved, namely the Department of Education, Commission on Higher

Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Department of Labor and Employment to address the challenges of the systematic reform.

These challenges include: the potential displacement of tertiary faculty and staff during the 2016-2021 transition period; the possible closure of higher education institutions (HEIs), particularly small colleges, due to significant revenue losses; and the perception that the government is not fully prepared to meet the logistical requirements of the law such as faculty and staff, facilities and equipment, and learning materials.

According to the business community, the CHED and Tesda must clearly outline the criteria for unemployment ad diminution benefits of the affected education personnel and to devise packages to support the development of post-secondary institutions during the transition period.

Source: Philippine Daily Inquirer, April 26, 2015 ■



Maine teacher wins US\$1 mil. Global Teacher Prize in Dubai

By Aya Batrawy



Nancie Atwell, a teacher from Southport, Maine, center, throws a kiss as she poses with former U.S. President Bill Clinton, left, and Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, prime minister of the U.A.E. and ruler of Dubai, after she won the US\$1 million Global Teacher Prize in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on Sunday, March 15. (AP)

An English teacher from rural Maine won the US\$1 million Global Teacher Prize on March 15 after 42 years of work as an innovator and pioneer in teaching literature.

Nancie Atwell plans to donate the full amount to the Center for Teaching and Learning that she founded in 1990 in Edgecomb, Maine as a nonprofit demonstration school created for the purpose of developing and disseminating teaching methods. The school says 97 percent of its graduates have gone on to university.

Atwell said that winning the award is a valedictory for her life's work, but that her true validation comes from the responses of students.

"I really find that I'm validated every day just by the experiences I have with children in the classroom," she told The Associated Press after receiving the award.

Atwell was selected from a pool of 1,300 applicants from 127 countries.

The top 10 finalists, which included two other teachers from the U.S. and others from Afghanistan, India, Haiti, Cambodia, Malaysia, Kenya, and

the UK, were flown to Dubai, United Arab Emirates for the ceremony. The winner was announced on stage by Sunny Varkey, founder of the non-profit Varkey Foundation that focuses on education issues and founder of the for-profit GEMS Education company that has more than 130 schools around the world.

The award was created to be the largest prize of its kind and to serve as a sort-of Nobel Prize for one exceptional teacher each year.

After Atwell won the award, a young boy no older than 11 with a book bag strapped to his back waited patiently with his mother for a photograph with the winning teacher.

Varkey said that the award is aimed at fostering that kind of admiration for teachers and to say "to a celebrity-obsessed world that teachers are important and worthy of respect."

Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum and former U.S. President Bill Clinton, who is honorary chair of the Varkey Foundation, were also on-hand to give Atwell the award.

Atwell has received numerous

other awards throughout her life for her innovative approach to teaching. She has authored nine books about teaching, including "In The Middle," which sold more than half a million copies.

"The other recognition I've received has been content-area specific," she said. "This is global ... this is really an award for a body of work, for a lifetime of teaching."

Hundreds of teachers have visited her center in Maine over the years to learn its writing-reading practices.

Her school's eighth grade students read an average of 40 books per year, compared to the national average of about 10. They also write extensively, and many of her students have gone on to become published authors.

All of her students choose the subjects they write about and the books they read. The school's website boasts that there is "never a raised voice or standardized test," but that there are tens of thousands of books and time to read from among them every day.

"If we want them to be highly literate, we have to value the power of stories and self-expression," she said, explaining her approach. "Anything else is a false choice. Anything else will be an exercise that gets kids good at doing exercises."

This is the first year for the Global Teacher Prize to be awarded, though the Varkey Foundation plans it to be an annual event.

Experts, including other teachers and school administrators, shortlisted the top 50 finalists and a prize committee helped select the top 10. The winner was then selected by a group of more than 60 people that included CEO's, investors, professors, journalists and public figures such as Oscar Award-winning actor Kevin Spacey and Grammy Award-winning artist Esperanza Spalding.

Source: Associated Press (AP), March 17, 2015 ■

Taiwanese Professor takes industrial design students to market

By John Liu

It is a sad truth that winning design competition prototypes are rarely adopted by the general public. The reason is simple. These ingenious designs are not fit for mass production.

Take concept cars displayed at motor shows as an example. While their radical designs may be appealing, mass production of these models may or may not be possible. One can invest a lot of time and money into making a prototype, but doing so on a large scale may simply be unfeasible. This is why few aspiring industrial designers are able to promulgate their innovations.

It is great to win in design competitions, but it is even more rewarding to receive the consumer market's approval, said Quentin Tsou, an experienced industrial designer.

A new program at National Kaohsiung Normal University (NKNNU) is set to address this issue. The school's Department of Industrial Design recently opened five "entrepreneur studios" to give students an opportunity to test their ideas on factory floors before introducing them in the marketplace.

The school provides guidance for students' new ideas, teaches them pertinent mass production technologies, and matches them with manufacturers

who can mass-produce on the students' behalf.

In the future, the school may also provide financial support to scale up the production of products that have received positive market feedback.

"My goal is to teach students so that they can mass-produce their design ideas," said Lin Han-yu, the creator of the entrepreneur studio project and the chair of NKNNU's Department of Industrial Design. The school will provide the funds and molds that are required in the manufacturing process, Lin added.

Through these entrepreneur studios, the school aims to equip students with the knowledge required to roll out a new product, from start to finish, Lin stressed.

A Success Story

We often rave about great design ideas, but how these inventions can be adopted by the general public is where the rubber meets the road. Only through mass production can a designer know if their innovations are economical. The mass production process will force designers "to consider all questions in the real world," said industrial designer Tsou.

Many designs can never be commercialized. Some local businesses complain that college graduates nowadays do not possess practical knowledge applicable to the industry.

Professor Lin's entrepreneur studios are poised to reverse the trend. He already has a success story. Lin started working with a group of students more than a year ago. These students later formed a company called Gandan Design, which now runs mass production.

Gandan focuses on making wooden furniture and cultural design items. One of the company's products is a funnel



Lin Han-yu, second right, the chair of the Department of Industrial Design at National Kaohsiung Normal University (NKNNU), poses with students participating in the entrepreneur studio project, at the department on Friday, December 12. Courtesy of Quentin Tsou

with a cut channel on the side. It allows air in a container to flow out easily to speed up the flow rate. The company's products are now shelved in department stores and a couple of cultural and creative design shops.

The group received Germany's Red Dot Design Award and won prizes from the iF International Forum Design GmbH. The group also received cash grants from the Ministry of Culture as part of the ministry's efforts to promote the cultural and design industry in Taiwan.

Ivana Guo, a designer of Gandan, said that Lin has been a great help. He offered suggestions on new product ideas, product aesthetics and design structure to help cut down on costs, Guo said. Since Lin also has a degree in psychology, he also provided tips on how to promote products using psychology theories, Guo added.

Bring Industry Experience into Classrooms

Lin wants to bring his success story into the school. The entrepreneur studios will help students overcome "obstacles that designers may face on their entrepreneur journey," Lin said, adding that the school will provide the resources and bear the risks of running a business.

There are currently four studios running and each is composed of four to five students. The students come up with their own designs and are "owners

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Products made by industrial design students at NKNNU are seen in this photo taken on Friday. Lin said that students participating in the school's entrepreneur studio project will design "small and beautiful" items that can be mass-produced. Courtesy of Quentin Tsou

Japanese Catholic priest helps hundreds of Cambodians get an education

By Magdalena Osumi

Increasing numbers of Cambodian children are getting an education thanks to the efforts of a Japanese Catholic priest.

The Rev. Fumio Goto, 85, has helped to build 18 schools in Cambodia so far and is looking forward to the completion of a 19th this winter. Each facility serves about 200 children in impoverished rural districts.

Goto, a member of the Society of Divine Word congregation of missionaries, heads AMATAK House of Cambodia, a nonprofit organization created in 1995 and based at Kichijoji Catholic Church in Tokyo. He travels to Cambodia about twice a year to check on projects.

The new school, the Norodom Ranariddh Elementary School in Kampong Chhnang province, is due for completion in February. It will serve five villages.

The budget is \$50,000, a sum that includes donations such as a ¥96,928 contribution from the 2013 Japan Times Readers' Fund. The money covers not only construction, but also the repair, maintenance and operating costs.

In February this year, AMATAK

opened its 18th school, in Pailin province, near Cambodia's border with Thailand.

The group believes it is helping people overlooked by other aid efforts. Some charitable organizations tend to build schools only near infrastructure such as highways, which means many undeveloped areas are neglected, Goto says.

To reach such places, a four-wheel-drive vehicle is needed. And in the rainy season, even that is no use.

"Even in those areas, children want to go to school," Goto said.



Construction is underway on AMATAK's 19th elementary school, in Cambodia's Kampong Chhnang province, in this image provided by the Tokyo-based NPO. | AMATAK

Classes are overcrowded, a sign that Cambodians are aware of the need for education in rebuilding the country, he said.

A mere six years of schooling can give children basic but sufficient literacy and numeracy. But demand for education and opportunity is often thwarted by poverty.

"Whenever a new school is built, the number of students wanting to attend increases," he said. "We try to set up projects in response to requests from local communities, but we have to choose the areas with the greatest need."

CHILD PROSTITUTION

Poverty not only restricts the education opportunities available. It makes families to send their children away in the hopes that they will secure a more prosperous future elsewhere — often placing them in a trafficking network that leads to prostitution.

Victims of child prostitution can be as young as 10 or 12 years old, and many quickly contract HIV.

"Parents who can't afford to feed their children often end up selling their eldest daughter for \$300," Goto said. "It doesn't mean it's their will; they just have no choice."

Goto himself helped to save at least one girl from this fate. During his group's early years in Cambodia he came to know of a girl who was about to be traded. She already had a price tag, he said, an amount of money that would have enabled her parents to feed the family for only a few weeks.

Goto sent sacks of rice to them, and they promised to keep the girl in school in return. As a result, the girl continued through junior college. She is now a science teacher at a junior high school.

Goto finds it hard to express his emotion at seeing the girl overcome poverty and hardship.

"When you see people like her, you realize what great joy you can find in helping people," he said. "I'm so thankful that there are more and more people willing to help."

Source: Japan Times, December 3, 2014

Taiwanese Professor

... Continued from page 19

of their own company," Lin said.

The program kick-started not long ago, but it has received positive feedback from students. One of them is graduate student Liao Pei-yi, whose team plans to make products that combine cultural elements and fashion design.

"Professor Lin gives us suggestions from the standpoint of a consumer, like what are the needs of a consumer, and how to induce a desire to purchase," Liao said. Her team is currently working on heart-shaped rings from which plants

can grow into a small green cluster.

After students fine-tune their prototype through a mass production process, they will put their products on the market.

With positive consumer feedback, it will be considered a success in the business sense. If products don't sell, it will be considered a failure. However, "a success and a failure are both good," Lin said, because students will have learned something new and gained valuable experience.

Source: The China Post, December 15, 2015



Ceylon Chamber commences program to develop “Commerce Stream” students

Under the endorsement of the Ministry of Education, The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, the premier business chamber in the country commenced an awareness program to help educate the students, who are studying in the commerce stream of the public schools.

The move, which is the latest out of a several similar programs conducted by the Ceylon Chamber is targeted to nature the younger generation, this initiative has so far seen visits by nearly 900 students, who are engaged in Commerce studies in several schools in the western province.

Backed by the Ministry of Education, the program saw students already taking part from schools such as Saint Anthony's of Wattala, Lumbini College, Presbyterian College, Saint Mary's

College of Polwatta, Vidyawardena College of Talangama, Sri Chandrajothi Maha Vidyalaya of Yakkala, Wadduwa Maha Vidyalaya and Kotehena Maha Vidyalaya.

“We took this move in order to help lift the knowledge level of the Commerce students, who are going to take over the responsibilities of driving the country's economy in the future,” said Mangala P. B. Yapa, CEO / Secretary General of the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

Accordingly, the half a day program conducted at the Ceylon Chamber premises at Nawam Mawatha focuses on educating the students on the services offered by



the Ceylon Chamber, the history of the Chamber and also an awareness session on the largest single origin Tea Auction in the world and the world's only Rubber Auction, which takes place weekly at the Ceylon Chamber of Commerce.

“This program helps our students to gain practical knowledge of what they learn through theories,” said Mrs. Kamani Perera, Director of Education, who is in-charge of the Commerce Section at the Ministry of Education.

The Chamber plans to host a student group every week thus helping to spread the program to a wider student population, during a short time period.

Source: The Ceylon Chamber of Commerce, 7 November, 2014 ■

Education Technology Funding Jumped 55% in 2014

According to a recent research by CB Insights, the total Education Technology (Edtech) funding in the U.S in 2014 rose to \$1.87 billion, a 55% increase from previous year. Online education has become a new trend joined by many top universities such as Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley, and South East Asia is no exception with many prominent institutions such as Sains, Tenaga Nasional (Malaysia), Binus (Indonesia), and AMA (Philippines) on their way to bringing their courses online.

Online teaching has become popular

In US and Europe, online degree programs have become popular.

Students can pick the classes and timeframes which are more suitable for them. They can also study anywhere where internet connection is available. Dozens of US institutions including Harvard, MIT and Princeton are offering their courses via Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) format, while hundreds of other universities such as UC Berkeley and University of Maryland have launched their own online degree programs. A report by Sloan Consortium in 2013 shows that 74% of Chief Academic Officers in US considered the learning outcomes in online education as the same or superior to those in face-to-face

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Education Technology

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instruction.

According to Coursera, one of the most well-known education companies online, online teaching will play a disruptive role in the next 10 years.

However, it is highly risky and may cost a lot for universities to set up online teaching programs by themselves. A report from University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) shows that more than 50% of US institutions who tried to develop their own online degree programs have failed due to various reasons such as issues related to institution visibility, discipline, retention rate, among others.

Universities going online in 6 months, with no upfront investment

In South East Asia, an Edtech organization named TOPICA has been delivering turnkey solutions for universities that want to set up their online teaching programs. They have already partnered with 7 Universities in Vietnam and with AMA University in the Philippines and are currently negotiating with several institutions in Indonesia and Thailand. TOPICA is known for its ability to set up online teaching programs for a school in only 6 to 9 months while assuming all the

risks. Moreover, the school doesn't have to make up front investments.

After graduating from TOPICA's programs, 97% students are employed, 34% get a better job. Among those, 100% got a raise of 16.1% on average – 2.5 times higher than average salary raise at Vietnam in 2013 (research by Towers Watson). Many of them became managers, CEOs or founders of their own business.

TOPICA is among the first organizations to apply latest technologies like Google Glass, Mobile, IPTV, and 3D Second Life into online teaching. In 2008, they integrated 3D technology called Second Life into their online degree courses like microeconomics, business law, math, accounting, algorithms etc. where students can walk around and interact inside that 3D virtual environment. Their 3D technology did not just create a new visual environment for teaching; it also created strong motivation for students to learn.

TOPICA has received many awards and recognitions from various globally respected organizations including Asian Association of Open Universities (AAOU), APIN, CASA, Development Gateway, Red Herring, SEAMOLEC, Stockholm Challenge, and World Economic Forum. Their initiatives were selected from the Top 7 of 160 finalists at Development



TOPICA Representative giving speech of E-learning in Global Economic Symposium 2014

Gateway Award in 2007, and from the Top 4 of 132 finalists of Stockholm Challenge GKP Award in 2008.

Source: *Inquirer Business*, March 4, 2015



TOPICA Edtech Group's Office in the Philippines



Don't stop: CNN Hero of the Year Awardee

Five years after being named CNN Hero of the Year, Efren Peñaflorida is still tirelessly working to give out-of-school Filipino youth a fighting chance.

By Nickky Faustine De Guzman

MOVE FORWARD.

Efren Peñaflorida has kept on moving, pushing his Kariton Revolution along with his dreams of giving education to impoverished kids in Cavite, whose “bandwagon,” five years after winning his CNN Hero of the Year Award, many have joined.

As the organization head of the Dynamic Teen Company (DTC), Efren and his mentor Harnin Manalaysay have put together academic programs under Kariton Revolution, whose beneficiaries are indigent, unwanted street kids, usually below 10 years old.



But now, their lessons are not just taught from the kariton or a makeshift classroom anymore. With the help of Universal Robina Corporation, DTC built a learning center at the second floor of DTC's red building, bought from the CNN grant. It is fully furnished with desks, whiteboards, chairs, bookshelves, even a small laboratory. The center was built for kids in grades seven, eight, and nine like Kesz Valdez, who has been studying under DTC's DOSE (Dropout, Out of School Edification) program ever since his parents badgered him for money after winning the International Children's Peace Prize in Netherlands.

The more than 50 students—out-of-school youths who wanted to go back to formal education, those who were bullied, the drop outs—taking DOSE are only too happy to



use a new classroom. Credited by the Department of Education, DOSE teaches EnSciMaVa (English, Science, Math, and Values), along with robotics, multimedia, laboratory, cooking, baking, music, and IT programming classes. It has been credited to lowering the number of street children in Cavite.

“They love it here,” Kuya Efren says, smiling. And what's not to love? Everything is free: merienda, school supplies, and laptop. They love it so much that other kids in Cavite who go to a formal school have expressed, albeit jokingly, their desire to drop out of school and study under Kuya Efren instead. Efren teaches Math, by the way.



But it is not Efren's hard work alone. He has the DTC and the many volunteers who go there every day

to teach these kids to thank for. For DOSE, there are 15 professional teachers that teach during their free time. The classes are divided into two: morning shift for grade seven students and afternoon shift for grades eight and nine. On Saturdays, all students volunteer in Kariton's outreach program.



So far, Kuya Efren says two students under his wings have taken a successful flight: They are now in college and are taking engineering courses. Kesz, meanwhile, says he'll still be studying under Kuya Efren, but “I plan to study college abroad and take up Journalism.” He says he knows the power of words and how a story can inspire people across the world.

In the next two years, Efren hopes to establish grades 10 to 12 and there is no stopping him.

That's the beauty of having dreams and determination. You move forward, you don't stop.

Source: Manila Bulletin, August 24, 2014





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.biz



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