

Madrid plays host to WYSTC

Currency

1xUS\$ =currency*

Argentinean	Pesos	2.980
Australian	Dollar	1.387
Brazilian	Real	2.823
British	Pound	0.560
Bulgarian	Leva	1.575
Canadian	Dollar	1.272
Chilean	Pesos	604.8
Chinese (PR)	Yuan	8.276
Czech	Koruny	25.68
Danish	Kroner	6.062
Egyptian	Pound	6.235
EU	Euro	0.814
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.798
Hungarian	Forint	200.5
Icelandic	Kronur	71.48
Indonesian	Rupiah	9,100.6
Israeli	New Shekels	4.465
Japanese	Yen	111.12
Maltese	Lira	0.348
Mexican	Peso	11.349
New Zealand	Dollar	1.494
Norwegian	Kroner	6.760
Polish	Zloty	3.519
Russian	Rubles	29.185
Singaporean	Dollar	1.687
Slovakian	Koruny	32.618
South African	Rand	6.467
South Korean	Won	1,149.02
Swedish	Kroner	7.374
Swiss	Franc	1.266
Taiwanese	NT Dollar	33.821
Thai	Baht	41.420
Turkish	Lira	1,512,376.5
Venezuelan	Bolivar	1,917.6

*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 05/10/04

English Village opens in Korea

AN NEW learning compound, English Village, has been established in South Korea's Gyeonggi province, which surrounds the capital city, Seoul. The teaching compound enforces a strict English-only rule throughout the complex, which accepts students from the province for a week-long intensive study period.

From passing "immigration control" to buying food or going to shops, students are expected to converse only in English. The project has been co-funded by Unicef, according to the Chosun Ilbo newspaper in Korea. The village has its own currency, 38 on-site teachers and imposes fines for breaking the English-only rule. □

The World Youth and Student Travel Conference (WYSTC) was held in Madrid in September this year, welcoming over 800 delegates from around the world. Organised by Fiyto and ISTC, the conference, which is renowned for its networking opportunities, combined seminars and a trade fair with pre-selected business appointment scheduling during a week-long period.

"Overall, the conference was very successful," said Kristen van der Poel of Fiyto, who said that numbers were up on attendance figures of last year, although slightly down on 2002. "Considering that the industry has been hit hard with tragic world events over the past two to three years, it is very encouraging," she said, adding that 81 organisations attended WYSTC for the first time.

Tom Allen of Zip Travel, which has branches in Eastern Europe, commented, "As always this was a good conference. The addition of breaks for the seminars was very good, and provided a chance to attend. The computer booking system [for business appointments] had some flaws but worked for us." A computerised booking



One of the stands at this year's WYSTC used underwear in its display!

system organises appointments between buyers and sellers and has proved controversial in the past. Oksana Golovina of Evmar agency in Estonia said it saved a lot of time, but if the other party rejected a meeting, she was unable to fill the slot with another company of her choice.

During the conference, Fiyto and ISTC announced their intentions to merge both associations into one. A steering committee has now been appointed.

Seminars organised during the event included a roundtable discussion between Alto members on marketing materials and one on US visa policy for exchange students, which gave delegates a chance to put questions to a representative of the US State Department.

The venue on the outskirts of Madrid – the largest hotel in Europe – attracted criticism. "The hotel was too impersonal and big and the location wasn't great," said Andrew Mangion of EC - European Centre of English Language Studies in Malta. César Rennert of Rennert Bilingual in the USA agreed, but said he understood there had been a switch of venue from the USA because of visa concerns.

Tony Evans of LSF in France praised business opportunities but felt that the venue restricted socialising opportunity. "I hope that WYSTC will be able to re-discover its trademark next year: doing good business and having the time of your life... together," he said. Next year's event will be in Toronto, Canada. □

FBI gains access to Sevis files

THE FBI now has the right to access information about international students on the Sevis database, but only in cases where there is justification. The change in law, introduced in September, means that special permission does not need to be granted now to FBI agents who wish to access international student data, photographs and fingerprints.

Almost 300,000 students currently have their records in the Sevis central database, according to the Daily Californian. Now in its second year of operation, Sevis has processed details for over 770,000 students and exchange visitors.

The FBI was also granted the right by the Department

of Homeland Security (DHS) to access the US Visitor and Immigration Status Indication Technology System, known as US Visit. This system records biometric data of tourists entering the USA and was expanded in September this year to include the 27 countries whose nationals were previously exempt from being fingerprinted and photographed, if on a short-term trip, due to their visa waiver status (see page 8).

Since September, international students have also been required to pay US\$100 to fund the operation of the Sevis system, prior to visa issuance and regardless of whether they are successful in gaining a stu-

dent visa (see Language Travel Magazine, October 2004, page 6). The Sevis database records personal information such as a student's field of study in the USA, address and attendance status as well as their photograph and fingerprints.

Any student not turning up at their institution once entering the country is filed as a no-show. DHS reports that more than 2,900 students were noted as no-shows in the first year of operation. Subsequent investigations resulted in 155 arrests. A number of investigations also took place into school officials trying to fraudulently issue I-20 forms to international students wanting to gain entry to the USA. □

Big merger in Australia

THE AUSTRALIAN Centre for Languages (ACL) has taken over the Australian College of English (ACE) and Australian Campus Network (ACN) to form one of the largest private education and training groups in Australia. While the companies will continue to trade under their existing names for the time being, Helen Zimmerman, ACL's Managing Director, commented that the merger will allow the group to expand in both international and domestic markets.



"It positions the group to compete strongly for international English language, university, vocational and teacher training contracts burgeoning throughout Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America," she said. "This will further enhance the contribution that quality Australian education providers make to the economy."

The ACE group, which has sites in Sydney, Brisbane and

Perth, is the longest established English language teaching company in Australia, operating since 1981. In 2003/2004, ACE taught over 6,000 students on various English or study tour programmes. The company also operates English language teaching units in private secondary schools. ACN is the commercial partner of La Trobe University, offering business tuition in Sydney, Perth and Brisbane.

Managing Director of both companies, Alyson Moore, and Kazuhiro Araki, Executive Director, will continue in their roles. Zimmerman said, "We are delighted to be working with [Moore and Araki] and their talented team. The businesses are highly complementary [to ACL] and will provide a varied choice of linkages and pathways for students."

ACL teaches over 8,000 students annually and claims to be the largest private business of its kind in Australia. □

ILC in Toronto closes

A TORONTO-BASED language school closed down in September, leaving its students stranded. The one-time Capls member school, International Language Centre of Canada, left students out of pocket, according to a school source in the city, who told Language Travel Magazine that some students had paid in advance for up to one year of language tuition.

Most affected students were accepted at other schools in the city, but placement in alternative accommodation was proving more difficult to negotiate, according to the source, who said students were having to pay again for accommodation. International Language Centre

of Canada, which was situated on the outskirts of the city, was believed to have a small number of students when it finally closed this year.

Linda Auzins at Capls said that the school had been taken over by new owners a couple of years ago and let its Capls membership lapse. She warned that some Canadian language schools were experiencing difficult times and that agents should be wary of excessive discounts offered in Canada.

Auzins added that all Capls members have a student placement policy in the event of closure. The ex-owner of ILC Canada could not be contacted at the time of going to press. □

Calendar

Fitur 2005

Date: 26-30 January
Venue: Madrid, Spain
Contact: Feria Internacional de Turismo, Apdo. de Correos 67.067, Madrid, 28080, Spain
Tel: +34 91 722 30 00
Fax: +34 91 722 5787
Email: fitur@ifema.es

Expolangues

Date: 9-12 February
Venue: Paris, France
Contact: Camille Rabehanta L'Etudiant
27 Rue du Chemin Vert
Paris, 75011, France
Tel: +33 148074372
Fax: +33 148070292
Email: camille.rabehanta@letudiant.fr

Nolia Education and Future Fair

Date: 16-17 February
Venue: Piteå, Sweden
Contact: Annica Renberg, Nolia AB
Noliagatan, 1, Piteå
94131, Sweden
Tel: +46 911 933 33
Fax: +46 911 183 30
Email: info@nolia.se

Kub Educo 2005

Date: 25-27 February
Venue: Belgrade, Serbia
Contact: Magdalena Jugovic
Kub Travel Enterprises
Vasina 10, Belgrade
11000, Yugoslavia
Tel: +381 116 34648
Fax: +381 116 33957
Email: maggie@kub.co.yu

The Pacific-Rim Workshop

Date: 1-2 March
Venue: Tokyo, Japan
Contact: Andreas Marks, ICEF
Am Hofgarten 9
Bonn, 53113, Germany
Tel: +49 228 201190
Fax: +49 228 2011944
Email: a.marks@icef.com

21st International Fair "Education and Career"

Date: 3-5 March
Venue: Moscow, Russia
Contact: Irina Shipilova, RTV Media
Shukhova str. 14 of. 301
Moscow, 113162, Russia
Tel: +7 095 2377226
Fax: +7 095 2370355
Email: rtv@znanie.info

The Partnership Workshop

Date: 3-5 March
Venue: São Paulo, Brazil
Contact: Rupert Merrick
C&S Associadas
Alameda Santos, 1470
Sao Paulo, 1470, Brazil
Tel: +55 112 896599
Fax: +55 112 510251
Email: rupert@csglobal.net

Salao do Estudante

Date: 5-6 March
Venue: São Paulo, Brazil
Date: 8 March
Venue: Curitiba, Brazil
Date: 10-11 March
Venue: Belo Horizonte, Brazil
Date: 13-14 March
Venue: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Contact: C&S Associadas (as above)

ExpoBelta 2005

Date: 5-6 March
Venue: Sao Paulo, Brazil
Date: 8 March
Venue: Curitiba, Brazil
Date: 10 March
Venue: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Date: 12 March
Venue: Salvador, Brazil
Contact: Maria Eglantine Gabarra

Belta, Av. Paulista, 2006
cj. 507, Sao Paulo,
01310-200, Brazil
Tel: +55 11 3284 6661
Fax: +55 11 3266 9133
Email: expobelta@belta.org.br

Aula - Education Opportunities Exhibition

Date: 9-13 March
Venue: Madrid, Spain
Contact: IFEMA
Parque Ferial Juan Carlos 1
Apdo de Correos 67.067
Madrid, 28067, Spain
Tel: +34 917 225052
Fax: +34 917 225788
Email: aula@ifema.es

Alphe Korea

Date: 13-15 March
Venue: Seoul, Korea
Contact: Jane Gilham
Hothouse Media Ltd
11-15 Emerald Street
London, WC1N 3QL, UK
Tel: +44 20 7440 4027
Fax: +44 20 7440 4033
Email: jane@hothousemedia.com

Alphe Japan

Date: 16-18 March
Venue: Tokyo, Japan
Contact: Hothouse Media (as above)

Work Experience Travel Market

Date: 16-17 March
Venue: Prague, Czech Republic
Contact: Meritxell Morera,
GWEA
Bredgade 25H
Copenhagen, 1260, Denmark
Tel: +45 3333 9600
Fax: +45 3393 9676
Email: mailbox@gwea.org

The Moscow Workshop

Date: 19-21 March
Venue: Moscow, Russia
Contact: ICEF (as above)

Korea Student Fair

Date: 26-27 March
Venue: Seoul, Korea
Contact: MH Kim
Korea Trade Fairs Corp.
Suite 710, Kumsan Bldg,
17-1 Youido-dong,
Youngdeungpo, Seoul, Korea
Tel: +82 2 783 8261
Fax: +82 2 784 6810
Email: fairs@ktfairs.com

Expolingua Madrid

Date: 8-10 April
Venue: Madrid, Spain
Contact: Álvaro García Pérez
Expolingua Madrid
C/ Joaquín María López, 23
Madrid, E-28015, Spain
Tel: +34 915 447727
Fax: +34 915 439408
Email: info@expolingua.es

English Australia Agents' Workshop

Date: 14-16 April
Venue: Perth, Australia
Contact: English Australia
Level 3, 162 Goulburn St
PO Box 1437, Surry Hills,
NSW 2010, Australia
Tel: +61 2 9264 4700
Fax: +61 2 9264 4313
Email: easec@englishaustralia.com.au

Ialc Agents' Workshop

Date: 28 April - 1 May
Venue: Paris, France
Contact: Jan Capper
JC Communications
Lombard House
12/17 Upper Bridge Street
Canterbury, CT1 2NF, UK
Tel: +44 1227 769007
Fax: +44 1227 769014
Email: info@ialc.org