

NZ introduces X-ray rule

Currency

		1xUS\$ =currency*
Argentinean	Pesos	2.816
Australian	Dollar	1.361
Brazilian	Real	2.895
British	Pound	0.558
Bulgarian	Leva	1.625
Canadian	Dollar	1.343
Chilean	Pesos	605.25
Chinese (PR)	Yuan	8.276
Czech	Koruny	26.94
Danish	Kroner	6.231
Egyptian	Pound	6.191
EU	Euro	0.837
Hong Kong	Dollar	7.797
Hungarian	Forint	210.97
Icelandic	Kronur	73.423
Indonesian	Rupiah	8,605.0
Israeli	New Shekels	4,529
Japanese	Yen	108.43
Maltese	Lira	0.351
Mexican	Peso	11.272
New Zealand	Dollar	1.577
Norwegian	Kroner	6.937
Polish	Zloty	4.028
Russian	Rubles	28.620
Singaporean	Dollar	1.679
Slovakian	Koruny	33.554
South African	Rand	6.602
South Korean	Won	1,158.4
Swedish	Kronor	7.692
Swiss	Franc	1.297
Taiwanese	NT Dollar	32.876
Thai	Baht	39.414
Turkish	Lira	1,363,807.2
Venezuelan	Bolivar	1,918.5

*Rates are subject to change and should be used as indications only. 14/04/04

Taiwan's president encourages study abroad

IN AN EFFORT to ingratiate himself with Taiwan's young population, President Chen Shui-ban has said his government will offer loans to students who want to study abroad. "I encourage the young generation to continue their advanced education abroad, whether in the USA, Japan, European countries or Australia," he said during a TV show.

He added that students should follow their undergraduate degree in Taiwan, rather than in China, "because of Taiwan's high academic standards", according to an article in TaiwanNews.com

Chen also promised start-up loans for young businesses and new venues for professional baseball and music concerts. □

The New Zealand Immigration Service has changed its entrance rules and from April 1, all students studying for more than six months in the country are required to undergo X-ray screening for tuberculosis (TB) prior to entry.

The changes were announced earlier this year as part of a comprehensive review of health screening policies. Immigration Minister, Lianne Dalziel, commented, "These changes reflect the international environment in which New Zealand operates. With increasing number of travellers visiting New Zealand and increasing numbers of foreign students, it is important to ensure that our publicly-funded health and education systems are not adversely affected."

For potential students, the new rules mean additional costs, as the X-ray check-up must be paid for. Also, the time allowed by students to apply for a visa would

have to be increased to factor in the X-ray. The New Zealand Immigration Service said that as a guideline, an X-ray test in New Zealand costs NZ\$100 (US\$63).

Students from low-risk countries are exempt from the new rule, but all nationals who have spent a total of three months living in other countries in the last five years will also be expected to present a chest X-ray plate and X-ray certificate to immigration services. Students from South America and Asia are affected by the rule, among others. By the end of the year, the new rules will be extended to require all visitors who are staying in New Zealand for more than 12 months to have a full medical examination.

Dalziel said the new rules were "more in line with countries like Australia and Canada". Marcela Amaral, an agent from IE Intercambios in Brazil, confirmed that students already had to satisfy similar requirements if they



New rules will not affect demand say agents

wanted to study in Australia or Canada. "I really think this will not affect a student's decision to go to New Zealand," she told *Language Travel Magazine*.

In Japan, Kenichi Yokoyama of Ryugaku Journal Inc. agreed. "Students who go to Australia have to provide similar X-ray certificates, but it's never been a problem [with] the student's de-

Enlarged EU to bring in business

LAST MONTH saw the expansion of the European Union (EU) with 10 new entrants from the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia joining the fold.

A number of governments in the original EU member states have taken measures to limit migrant workers from moving and claiming benefits in other countries, but the outlook for language travel is more positive, with schools in the existing EU countries expecting a rise in the number of students travelling in the region for study purposes.

Graham White, Principal of Eastbourne School of English in the UK, observes that student numbers from Eastern European countries have already been on the rise, since the accession into the EU for these countries was agreed. "I don't expect there to be an enormous surge of bookings this year," he said, "but I do think that bookings will increase further as economic conditions improve

and English language skills become essential for anyone pursuing a professional career."

White singled out the Czech Republic, Poland, Latvia and Hungary as showing the most positive signs for growth in the future. He commented, "Whereas in the past, Polish students invariably chose the cheapest courses, they are now beginning to enrol on more expensive, intensive courses." He also underlined that seasonality was less typical of some of these markets now.

In France, Eleri Maitland of French in Normandy agreed that Eastern European nationalities have been rising in number every year. "So far as I can see, there will be a greater level of exchange between East and West, with more students coming here rather than going further afield," she said. "We are getting requests for two language courses – French with English too – which we can do as we offer other languages to French learners. I think this is an interesting development." □

Pacific Gateway Study Group is born

A NEW language school alliance has emerged in the marketplace, as Pacific Gateway International Colleges, with three centres in Canada and one in Australia, has joined forces with two US schools and one in South Africa to form the Pacific Gateway Study Group.

Intercultural Communications College in Honolulu, HI; CEL, College of English Language in San Diego, CA; and Cape Studies in Cape Town make up the marketing group. Vice-President, Giovanna Santiago, said, "We base our unique group on three core values: commitment to excellence, 100 per cent satisfaction guaranteed and quality assurance. This makes our members distinctive from other English language schools."

Jens von Wichingen at Cape Studies said he expected the new strategic alliance to improve the international mix at his school. "We hope to welcome more clients from Japan, Korea and South America and have already added three classrooms," he said. □



cision," he said. But Yokoyama underlined that the new procedure indicated a tightening up of the visa system. "We realise that New Zealand's visa procedures are getting stricter," he stated. "It is a big headache for us. We could obtain [New Zealand] visas very smoothly compared with other countries. However, we feel like we have lost the last paradise." □

Regent hits 40-year milestone

UK-BASED Regent Language Training, which has centres in seven different locations in the UK as well as a home tuition and language holiday department, celebrated 40 years in the business in March this year with a party for long-standing agent partners and current and ex-Regent staff.

Geoff Hardy-Gould, Managing Director of Regent, said, "We wanted to thank everyone who has helped make Regent a success over the years. The company has gone from strength to strength, thanks to our enthusiastic staff, close relationships with international partners and company-wide dedication to customer service."

The first Regent school opened in London's Oxford Street in 1964 and the company grew to include residential summer centres and a school in Brighton. In 1994, Regent merged with Godmer House Group to incorporate Margate and Oxford centres. Regent Edinburgh, Trebinshun in Wales and Cambridge now complete the school group. □

UK industry valued at UK£10.3 billion

UK TRADE and Investment (UKTI) and the British Council have jointly funded a study into the value of the UK's Education and Training export industry. In the 2001/2002 academic year, the industry was valued at UK£10.3 billion (US\$18.4 billion).

Of this figure, the English language teaching industry was estimated to earn UK£1.3 billion (US\$2.3 billion). And education and training export earnings overall have grown by around five per cent each year for the last 10 years, estimated Neil Kemp at the British Council.

The study was undertaken to provide a new methodology to calculate the value of international education to the UK.

Tony Millns, Chief Executive of English UK, said, "This is an extremely rigorous study and the best piece of work done in many years. It provides a strong case for increased promotion of UK education and training abroad, with accredited English language teaching a priority sector."

Millns explained that with the five-year plan known as the Prime Minister's Initiative – which has already reached its target for expanding international student numbers in the higher education system – scheduled to end in 2005, there was a question mark over ensuing industry direction.

Stephen Brown, Chief Executive of UKTI, commended the findings and said, "This study, and the Vision 2020 report [forecasting international student mobility, launched at the same time], demonstrates that the government support network, in dialogue with the industry, needs to look over the horizon to ensure the continued success and growth of UK education and training."

Director General of the British Council, David Green, added, "New investment is essential... to combat increasing competition from countries such as the USA, Australia, Malaysia and Singapore and to ensure high quality in the provision of education." □

Calendar

The 13th New Zealand Int. Education Conference

Date: 19-20 August
Venue: Auckland, New Zealand
Contact: Education New Zealand
Level 4, Dalmuir House
114 The Terrace
Wellington, New Zealand
Tel: +64 44720788
Fax: +64 44712828
Email: enquiry@educationnz.org.nz

The Alphe UK Workshop

Date: 27-29 August
Venue: London, UK
Contact: Hothouse Media
11-15 Emerald Street
London, WC1N 3QL, UK
Tel: +44 20 7440 4027
Fax: +44 20 7440 4033
Email: jane@hothousemedia.com

International Languages & Education UK Fair

Date: 31 August - 2 September
Venue: Brighton, UK
Contact: Annie Wright, Arels
56 Buckingham Gate
London, SW1E 6AG, UK
Tel: +44 20 78029200
Fax: +44 20 78029201
Email: annie@arels.org.uk

Language Parade

Date: 3-5 September
Venue: Budapest, Hungary
Contact: LingVisit, PO Box 435,
Budapest 62, 1395, Hungary
Tel: +36 1269 5489
Fax: +36 1302 2863
Email: lingvisit@lingvisit.hu

The Americas Workshop

Date: 10-12 September
Venue: Orlando, USA
Contact: Andreas Marks,
ICEF, Am Hofgarten 9
Bonn, 53113, Germany
Tel: +49 228 201190
Fax: +49 228 2011944
Email: icefbonn@icef.com

WYSTC 2004

Date: 12-18 September
Venue: Madrid, Spain
Contact: Katarina Stattin
WYSTC Secretariat
Bredgade 25H
Copenhagen, DK-1260,
Denmark
Tel: +45 333 39600
Fax: +45 339 35646
Email: ks@wystc.org

16th Annual Conference of the EAIE

Date: 15-18 September
Venue: Torino, Italy
Contact: Janny Van Wijk, EAIE
PO Box 11189
Amsterdam GD, 1001
The Netherlands
Tel: +31 205 254999
Fax: +31 205 254998
Email: eaie@eaie.nl

International Educational Fair

Date: 21 September
Venue: Busan, Korea
Contact: Mansuk Bae, KAMC
422-30 Jangjeon 3 - Dong
Geumjeong-Gu, Pusan
609-840, Korea
Tel: +82 51517 7340
Fax: +82 51517 7341
Email: kamc@korea.com

VI Fedele Annual Meeting

Date: 30 September - 3 October
Venue: La Coruña, Spain
Contact: Astrid Verlot,
Fedele, c/o CN 340,
Km 189.6, Marbella,
(Málaga), 29600, Spain

Tel: +34 952 834 782
Email: info@fedeleSpain.com

Expo Estudiante

Date: 23 -30 September
Venue: Monterrey, Guadalajara,
Merida, Mexico City – Mexico
Date: 2-3 October
Venue: Panama City, Panama
Date: 6-7 October
Venue: Lima, Peru
Date: 9-12 October
Venue: Bogota, Cali – Colombia
Contact: Rupert Merrick, C&S Assoc.
Alameda Santos, 1470
Sao Paulo, Brazil
Tel: +55 11 2896599
Fax: +55 11 2510251
Email: rupertmerrick@
csassociadas.com.br

Scope on the Globe

Date: 13-16 October
Venue: Utrecht, Netherlands
Contact: Janine Bekker,
Aromedia,
Postbus 58202
Amsterdam, 1040, Netherlands
Tel: +31 206 646127
Fax: +31 206 646168
Email: scope@aromedia.nl

The Asia Workshop

Date: 18-20 October
Venue: Shanghai, China
Contact: ICEF (as above)

International Education Fairs of Turkey

Date: 20-24 October
Venue: Ankara, Izmir, Istanbul –
Turkey
Contact: Global Visions Education
Receppasa Cad., Imren Apt
No:15/6, Kat:1, Istanbul
34437, Turkey
Tel: +90 212 361 6825
Fax: +90 212 361 0538
Email: info@ieft.net

Expolingua Portugal

Date: 21-23 October
Venue: Lisbon, Portugal
Contact: Goncalo Borges de Sousa
Expolingua Portugal
Rua da Esperanca, 4 - 2
Lisbon, 1200-657, Portugal
Tel: +351 213 966089
Fax: +351 213 966223
Email: info@expolingua.pt

The Alphe China Workshop

Date: 21-23 October
Venue: Shanghai, China
Contact: Hothouse Media
(as above)

The Alphe Asia Workshop

Date: 25-27 October
Venue: Phuket, Thailand
Contact: Hothouse Media
(as above)

Nexus World of Study Education/ Postgraduate/MBA Fairs

Date: 23-24 October
Venue: Beijing, China
Date: 26 October
Venue: Shanghai, China
Date: 28 October
Venue: Hong Kong
Date: 30-31 October
Venue: Singapore
Contact: Jason Newman
Nexus Media, Nexus House
Azalea Drive, Swanley,
Kent, BR8 8HU, UK
Tel: +44 1322 660070
Fax: +44 1322 616323
Email: jason.newman@nexusmedia.com

The Berlin Workshop

Date: 7-9 November
Venue: Berlin, Germany
Contact: ICEF (as above)