APPENDIX 7: EA NEWS

1: ELICOS ASSOCIATION NEWS

2:

3: APRIL 1997 NEWSLETTER

4:

5: IELTS PROJECT

6:

7: A research study, undertaken for the IELTS Australia Research Program,
8: by the ELICOS Association in association with LTS Pty Ltd, has
9: recently been completed. A final report on the project, IELTS in
10: Context - Issues in EAP for Overseas Students, has been submitted to
11: IELTS Australia.

12:

13: Greg Deakin, LTS Pty Ltd, acted as Project Director for the project
14: and Robynne Walsh, Deputy Chairperson of the ELICOS Association, acted
15: as Project Advisor.

16:

17: The Project surveyed attitudes to IELTS within the English language
18: teaching profession in Australia, with the main focus being on the
19: context in which IELTS is used as a screening device for overseas
20: students wishing to undertake tertiary education in Australia.

21:

22: In Stage One of the project, more than 100 ELICOS providers were
23: surveyed by questionnaire. Stage Two involved a follow-up survey of a
24: selected group of respondents from Stage One, with a more qualitative
25: emphasis on the important issues on English language learning and
26: testing for overseas students undertaking tertiary studies. Stage Two
27: also included the collection of a number of case studies which
28: illustrate the application of IELTS test results in tertiary admission
29: decisions. Three focus group workshops, at which the preliminary
30: findings from Stage Two were discussed in greater depth, were
31: organised for Stage Three of the project.

32:

33: It is anticipated that the results of the project will be published by
34: IELTS Australia, along with the results of other research projects
35: recently commissioned by IELTS Australia.

36:

37:

38: STUDENT VISA SERVICES WITHDRAWN FROM OSAKA

39:

40: The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) has
41: closed its offices in Osaka. Applications for student visas in Japan
42: must now be lodged in Tokyo.

43:

44: According to the AIEF in Tokyo, the effect of the closure of the Osaka
45: office on student visa handling is minimal. The DIMA office in Osaka
46: did not accept over-the-counter applications, as the Tokyo office
47: does, and DIMA has increased the number of staff in Tokyo to ensure
48: that delays are not caused.

49:

50: The AIEF office in Osaka has not closed and AIEF staff are doing their
51: best to facilitate applications by students wherever possible.

52:

53:
Planning has commenced for the next issue of Education Australia, to be published by Nexus.

It is anticipated that Education Australia 1997/8 will be published by the end of July. As with past issues, the new brochure will provide information on all EA member centres as well as generic information on each state and territory in which EA member centres are located and information on studying English in Australia. EA member centres will again be given an opportunity to place 1/2 page advertisements in the brochure.

The new koala brochure will be distributed throughout the world including Australian Embassies, AIEF offices, Australian Education Centres, Austrade offices, and education exhibitions and trade fairs.

An EA paper, entitled Equipping Students for Flexible Post-ELICOS Pathways, was presented at an IIR Conference on "Tertiary Education in a Global Market Place", in Sydney on 26 March. The paper was presented by Julie Styles, EA General Delegate, on behalf of Christine Bundesen, EA Chairperson.

The EA paper outlined the ELICOS industry in Australia, giving particular emphasis to the provision of EAP courses, and to accreditation and regulation procedures and requirements.

In an attempt to address a trade deficit, the South Korean government has taken steps to severely limit the number of school students leaving Korea to study overseas.

Regulations that restrict access of school students to exit visas for the purpose of study abroad have been in place in Korea for a long time. As from 18 February 1997, those regulations, which were previously rarely applied, have been enforced. Korean students under the age of 18 now require written authorisation from their city or provisional education office to travel abroad for study purposes.

Without such authorisation, funds cannot be sent from Korea to overseas destinations for tuition and living expenses.

There have been some rumours in the Korean media that the regulations may be extended to include ELICOS students, other than students undertaking ELICOS as part of a package which also includes further post-secondary education. These reports, however, have not been confirmed and no official action has been taken in this regard.

The ELICOS Association has written to the AIEF Council requesting that:
109: (i) the AIEF encourage the Australian government to oppose these trade
110: protection measures through such forums as APEC;
111:
112: (ii) the AIEF provide the industry with current information regarding
113: the GATT position on the protection of trade in services; and
114:
115: (iii) in relation to an AIEF suggestion that it may be appropriate for
116: Australian providers to establish operations off-shore in Korea,
117: either wholly owned or in joint venture arrangements, the AIEF
118: commission a comprehensive and up-to-date risk analysis of
119: establishing business in Korea, particularly in the education
120: industry, focussing on both economic and political risks.
121:
122: EA member centres will be kept informed of any developments in this
123: matter.
124:
125:
126: FEDERAL BUDGET OUTCOMES
127:
128: Lobbying by the ELICOS Association has resulted in a formula for
129: calculating the Provider Registration Fee which is far less
130: discriminatory against short-course providers than was originally
131: proposed by DEETYA.
132:
133: A DEETYA Bill to introduce a Provider Registration Fee has been
134: accepted by both houses of federal government. All institutions on
135: the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas
136: Students (CRICOS) will be required to make an annual payment of
137: between $300 and $5,000. In calculating the fee payable by an
138: institution, student visa holders enrolled for less than 26 weeks
139: during the previous calendar year will be counted as 0.5 student, and
140: each student enrolled for 26 weeks or more counted as 1 student.
141: DEETYA's original proposal would have seen each student enrolled at an
142: institution counted as one, regardless of the length of enrolment.
143:
144: The Hansard record of the Senate debate on the legislation records
145: Senator Carr (Labor) acknowledging that:
146:
147: "The way the legislation was previously framed discriminated against
148: the providers of shorter courses many of whom are members of the
149: English language Intensive Courses to Overseas Students Association".
150:
151: Senator Brown, representing The Greens, is recorded as having said
152: that the amended legislation "is not ideal, but it does at least go
153: some of the way to overcoming the burden that was being placed on the
154: English language intensive courses for overseas students colleges".
155:
156: Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA)
157: legislation, to enable the government to introduce a Student
158: Information Services Fee (SISF), has also been accepted by both
159: Houses. The legislation does not directly introduce the SISF, but
160: enables the government to propose regulations to do so. At this point
161: in time, however, such regulations have not yet been introduced into
162: either house.
The EA will continue to oppose the SISF and will lobby to have the relevant regulations opposed when they are gazetted and tabled.

Source: Senate Hansard, 3 March 1997.

TOURISM IN ASIA-PACIFIC REGION

An OECD report, released last month, revealed that the highest growth rates in tourism in "rich countries" in 1996 were in the Asia-Pacific region.

According to the OECD report average growth in tourism among industrialised countries in 1996 was 3.4%. The overall growth in tourist arrivals in the Asia-Pacific region increased by 15%, with tourist arrivals in Australia growing by 13%. According to Mr Bill Calderwood, Deputy Managing Director of the Australian Tourist Commission, the increase in tourism to Australia "has been very much driven by strong performances out of Asia and New Zealand".

The number of tourist flows from North East Asia, excluding Japan, to all destinations grew by 20%.


VICTORIAN EDUCATION MISSION TO SOUTH EAST ASIA

Suzanne Jackson, Chief Executive of Melbourne Language Centre, has joined Mr Phil Honeywood, Victorian Minister for Tertiary Education and Training, and approximately 40 chief executive officers from Victorian universities, TAFE institutes and private training providers on a mission to South East Asia to promote Victoria's tertiary education and training system. The Mission will visit Indonesia, Vietnam, Malaysia and Singapore.

Mr Honeywood, when speaking of the Mission, said:

"Education is Victoria's eighth largest export earner and our third largest services-based generator of income from overseas, behind tourism."

In 1996, overseas students contributed approximately $2 billion to Australia's economy, including around $514 million to Victoria's economy.

Mr Honeywood said that the seniority and size of the Mission to South East Asia highlighted Victoria's unified approach to Tertiary Education and Training opportunities for overseas students.

LOSING MARKET IN CHINA

Critics of Australia's visa controls have accused the Australian
According to Geoff Maslen, writing in Campus Review:

"Australian education institutions are losing tens of millions of dollars each year because of continuing federal government restrictions on the issuing of study visas to students from mainland China."

The number of student visas issued by Australian immigration authorities in the PRC in 1996 was only 1,500 in contrast to 40,000 students from China studying in the USA last year.


NEXUS FAIRS MUNICH AND MADRID

ELICOS Association promotional brochures were distributed from an Austrade stand at the Nexus Fair, held in Munich, 25-26 January 1997, and from a Nexus stand in Madrid, 18-19 January 1997.

Austrade's Australian national stand at the Munich Fair represented a total of 13 education institutions, as well as the ELICOS Association, ULCA and the AIEF. In addition to the national stand, three Australian ELICOS providers has stands at the Fair.

It is estimated that the Fair attracted approximately 1,200 visitors.

A survey undertaken by the AIEF representative at the Fair revealed that approximately 30% of enquiries received at the national stand were for ELICOS courses. According to an Austrade report on the Fair, "The high number of visitors on both days of the fair reflected that Australia is still high in demand as a destination of study".

In Madrid, two Australian ELICOS providers has stands at the Fair, which were collocated with the Nexus Australia stand. The Fair attracted about 7,000 visitors and the level of interest in Australia as a study destination was significant.

ENGLISH IN POLAND

Primary school children in Poland will study English from the age of eight.

Entrance examinations have been introduced to determine selection at Poland's small number of bilingual Polish/English schools in an attempt to handle the high demand for places at those schools.

An English language training program for Poland's primary schools is being developed by a group of specialists.

Despite the rising prominence of English language learning in Poland, Tomasz Milacki, a language travel agent in Poland, is not predicting a
growth in the number of young Polish children travelling abroad for study purposes, citing low average incomes in Poland and a reluctance on the part of Polish parents to send their children abroad as factors limiting growth in the market.


DEETYA INTERNATIONAL DIVISION

Jenni Gordon recently returned to the International Division of the Department of Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA) and, as Acting First Assistance Secretary, assumed overall responsibility for the Division. Barbara Bennett has taken on the role of Assistant Secretary, International Policy Branch and John Rowling continues to head the Australian International Education Foundation Branch. Michael Blee is managing DEETYA's International Services Branch.

PEAV REUNION

Plans are under way to hold a reunion for European language travel agents who participated in the pan European Agents Visits, continued between 1993 and 1996.

The reunion will be held in Paris either directly before or directly after the FIYTO Conference (WYSTIC) in September. Participating agents will be provided with an up-date on the ELICOS industry in Australia. EA member centres which participated in the PEAVs will be given an opportunity to sponsor the reunion, with sponsor centres being able to have their logos displayed and brochures distributed at the reunion, and able to provide a short text and transparencies for presentation by an EA representative at the reunion. Sponsor centres will also be given an opportunity to have a representative attend the reunion, on a user-pays basis.

RADIO AUSTRALIA AND AUSTRALIA TELEVISION

The Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee is conducting an inquiry into the role and future of Radio Australia and Australia Television.

The ELICOS Association forwarded a submission to the inquiry. The EA submission opposed the abolition of Radio Australia and Australia Television, stressing their importance in raising awareness of Australia in the Asia Pacific Region and the implications for the ELICOS industry in Australia. The EA submission referred to the importance of Australia's profile in Asia to the success of projects such as the EA-AIEF Australia Television Project and the joint EA/Austrade/AIEF/ATC Asia Study Tourism Strategy.

The EA was represented by Alyson Moore, General Delegate on the EA
Council, and Margaret Power, EA Executive Officer, at a public hearing, conducted in Sydney on 15 April.

BEST PRACTICE DOCUMENTS

EA member centres were recently provided with two new EA Best Practice documents - Best Practice in Grievance Procedures and Best Practice in Disciplinary Procedures.

EA member centres have previously been provided with copies of Best Practice documents relating to Working with Overseas Representatives, Provision of Secondary School Preparation Programs and Provision of Study Tour Programs.

The sixth EA Best Practice document, which will be related to Pastoral Care, is now in draft form.
WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER CENTRES

The EA welcomes five new member centres to our Association. The following providers were accepted into EA membership at a Council meeting by teleconference on 15 May, with the membership to be effective from 1 July 1997.

- ANUTECH Education Centre, Canberra ACT
- Russo Institute of Technology, Brisbane QLD
- ELS Language Centre, Charles Sturt University, Wagga Wagga NSW
- ELICOS Centre, University of Southern Queensland, Toowoomba QLD
- National Centre for English Language Training and Research (NCELTR), Macquarie University, Sydney NSW

EA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

All Welcome!

The eighth Annual General Meeting of the ELICOS Association Limited and professional development seminars for EA member centre personnel will be held at the Old Sydney Parkroyal, The Rocks, Sydney on 13-14 October 1997.

The formal AGM, on 14 October, will include a number of presentations including the Chairperson's Report, a Report on the 1997 EA Education Conference, State/Territory Delegates' Reports and the presentation of the audited financial statements for the 1996/97 financial year, as well as the election of a Deputy Chairperson and three General Delegates. Nominations for these positions will be called for in August/September.

On the afternoon of Monday 13 October, two professional development seminars will be conducted. The AGM Dinner will be held at a Sydney restaurant, yet to be determined, in the evening. On Tuesday 14 October, the official AGM will be held in the morning and two further professional development seminars will be held in the afternoon.

There will be no charge to EA Member Centre representatives for participation at the AGM or at the Professional Development Seminars.

Probable topics for professional development seminars include:

- The Trade Practices Act;
- Competitive Neutrality;
- Competency/Accreditation Standards/Quality Assurance;
403: Offshore Representation - Where do we go from here?
404:
405: A formal notice of meeting and participation forms will be forwarded
406: to EA member centres in August/September.
407:
408:
→BEGIN: Construction of Taiwan
409: EA MEETING WITH AIEF COUNSELLORS
410:
411: Four EA Council members, a representative of the School of TESOL and
412: International Education at the University of Canberra and Lloyd Downey
413: of Austrade Sydney met with AIEF Counsellors from Korea, Taiwan,
414: Thailand, Indonesia, Japan and Vietnam, and John Gallagher of the AIEF
415: in Canberra, on Wednesday 30 April.
416:
417: At the meeting, held at the Department of Employment Education
418: Training and Youth Affairs (DEETYA), EA Chairperson, Christine
419: Bundesen, provided the AIEF Counsellors with an up-date on
420: developments within the EA and the ELICOS industry in Australia and
421: invited input from the Counsellors. After the meeting, those present
422: and Jenni Gordon of DEETYA enjoyed dinner at La Scala Restaurant.
→END: Construction of Taiwan
423:
424:
425: AULA 1997
426:
427: The fifth education trade fair "Aula", sponsored by the Ministry of
428: Education and Culture in Spain, was held on the outskirts of Madrid,
430:
431: Some 105,000 visitors attended the fair at which there were a total of
432: 149 national and international exhibitors. Most visitors were
433: students who are finalising their secondary education, vocational
434: courses and/or university studies.
435:
436: Publicity for the fair included specialised and national press, TV
437: stations, public transport systems, schools and universities, etc.
438: Many secondary schools visited the fair en masse for the afternoon,
439: with a number of colleges coming from the provinces of Spain.
440:
441: ELICOS Association brochures and the brochures of a number of
442: Australian educational institutions, including EA member centres, were
443: distributed from an Austrade stand. Austrade also distributed
444: stickers with the slogan "I'm going to study English in Australia -
445: And you?" written in Spanish.
446:
447: As in previous years, Austrade conducted a raffle with a free return
448: trip to Australia, courtesy of Singapore Airlines, and one of the
449: various scholarships offered by the brochure display participants as
450: the prize.
451:
452: Austrade Madrid has provided participating institutions with a
453: detailed report on the fair, which includes a list of approximately
454: 340 enquiries.
455:
456: Information provided by Ricardo Zalapa, Senior Trade Commissioner and
457: Auriol Seaton, Marketing Executive, Austrade Madrid.
458:
459:
460: ASIA STUDY TOURISM STRATEGY - INDONESIA
461:
462: An ASTS workshop, organised by Margaret Pearce and Shirley
463: Hardjadjinata, AIEF Jakarta, was held at the Australian Embassy Theatre
465: The workshop was attended by 12 key Indonesian travel agents and by 12
467: ASTS participating EA member centre representatives.
468: A generic presentation on English language study tourism in Australia,
469: by Seamus Fagan, EA General Delegate, was followed by a
470: mini-exhibition which enabled travel agents and member centre
472: representatives to liaise on a one-to-one basis.
473:
474:
475: INTEREST FROM THE PHILIPPINES
476: Rosemarie Rafael, an agent from the Philippines who attended the
478: Travel Australia Business Show in Manila in 1996, recently visited
479: Sydney.
480: Ms Rafael included visits to two ASTS participating EA member centres
482: in her schedule. In a phone call to the EA Secretariat at the
483: conclusion of her stay, Ms Rafael indicated that she had been very
484: impressed with the quality of the ELICOS centres which she visited and
485: with the tourism opportunities available in Sydney. Ms Rafael
486: commented that she "would definitely be organising a study tour to
487: Australia next year".
488:
489:
490: AUSTRALIAN TOURISM EXCHANGE
491: As part of our Asia Study Tourism Strategy, the EA will take a stand
494: The EA stand will be staffed by representatives of ASTS participating
496: EA member centres in Victoria. The AIEF will provide a study tourism
497: display for the stand and the EA's generic Asia Study Tourism
498: brochures, with lists of participating member centres, will be
499: distributed.
500: It is anticipated that some 800 buyers representing 630 companies,
502: mainly travel agencies, will participate in ATE, which is one of the
503: Australian Tourist Commission's major annual events.
504:
505:
506: ELICOS INDUSTRY STUDY
507: Asia Pacific Access was commissioned by the EA to undertake a study of
509: the ELICOS Industry in Australia during the 1996 calendar year.
510: Similar studies were conducted by Asia Pacific Access in 1990, 1992
The ELICOS Association has a strong commitment to the provision of accurate and current information on the participation of international students in ELICOS courses in Australia. The Study will provide up-to-date data on the ELICOS sector and assist the industry, through the EA, to assess the developments which have taken place in the intervening two years since the 1994 study.

The Study involved surveying 35 EA and non-EA ELICOS centres and more than 2,000 ELICOS students in October-November 1996. Five single nationality focus groups were also surveyed. The surveys' findings and their analyses will provide factual rather than anecdotal information about students' perceptions and attitudes, their backgrounds and intentions, industry parameters and trends, and will provide valuable marketing intelligence.

The results of the Study will be published and formally launched by the EA in July. The publication will be of significant interest and usefulness to educators, administrators and marketers alike, both within the ELICOS sector and within all other sectors of Australia's international education industry. EA member centres will each be provided with a complimentary copy of the publication and further copies will be available for purchase at a cost of $250 per copy.

The acknowledgement and thanks of the ELICOS Association is extended to the Australian International Education Foundation and to IDP Education Australia for assistance through financial contributions towards the cost of the study.

Insearch Language Centre's Major Award Win

Insearch Language Centre (ILC), and EA member centre, has won the prestigious 1997 International Business Asia News Magazine Award for providing "the best Australian service activity in Asia".

The Award recognises ILC's outstanding achievements in language programs and teacher training, both in Australia and throughout Asia. ILC was one of six corporations and organisations, including Mitsui, Ansett Australia and Emil, which shared top honours in different categories of achievement. ILC Director, Michael Fay, said:

"It was won against strong competition from major Australian companies operating in Asia. It's very exciting for a relatively small operation, providing education services, to be recognised for its achievements in international best practice."

ILC is one of Australia's largest language teaching centres, teaching English to overseas students, as well as offering 12 Asian and European languages to Australian students and companies. ILC is also heavily involved in teacher training, both in Australia and overseas, as well as the development of teaching materials and the publication of course books for the IELTS (International English Language Testing System) test.
The International Business Asia News Magazine Awards, introduced four years ago, are designed to reward vision, innovation, determination, planning and production in the marketplace.

EXPOLINGUA CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY

The 10th Expolingua in Berlin is scheduled for 20-23 November 1997. Expolingua is now supported by the German Association for Modern Languages (Fachverband für Moderne Fremdsprachen). Most German teachers of English are members of this association.

Karin Schuster, Education Adviser in Bonn has been invited to give a paper during the Scientific Programme of Expolingua, focussing on language training in Australia, in line with the main topic of the presentation forum: Learning Languages - a life-long learning process.

Article by Karen Schuster, Education Advisor, Australian Embassy, Bonn.


It is planned to have the publication ready for dissemination in time for Expolingua in Berlin, 20-23 November 1997. The AIEF Education Adviser in Bonn has negotiated AIEF terms of collaboration on the project including funding and acting as co-author. It is in our interest to have credible information which is endorsed, produced and made available to the German speaking public by a consumer protection association. AIEF participation signals our interest in implementing projects to strengthen collaborative ties with the German education media sector. It will ensure AIEF objectives are embedded in the publication and that our requirements are met. Our contribution to contents, format, numbers published etc. guarantees maximum influence as well as maximum benefit (eg. Good investment and trade potential) for our member institutions.

A questionnaire will be sent to EA Member centres in July/August to ensure correct and up-to-date details are included in the German language student guide. All English language training providers are requested to return the completed questionnaire as soon as possible. The authors will require extra time for translation.

Article by Karin Schuster, Education Advisor, Australian Embassy, Bonn.

SWISS AND DANISH STUDENT VISA APPLICATIONS

Student visa applications from Swiss and Danish students are now
processed and issued by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) in Bonn. With the closure of the Australian Consulate in Berne and the Embassy in Copenhagen all visa processing has been transferred to Bonn. DIMA in Bonn confirms that all student visa applications will continue to have 24 hour turnaround time, provided the applications are complete and further documentation is not required. Students should be informed to take the mailing time from and to Bonn into account when calculating an estimated date for return of their passports. Provision for Australian panel doctors will be maintained in both Switzerland and Denmark for students undertaking courses of study longer than three months and thus requiring medical examinations.

His Excellency Max Hughes at the Australian Embassy in Bonn is accredited as Ambassador to Switzerland. With the closure of the Australian Embassy in Copenhagen he is also accredited to Denmark. Government to government dialogue with regard to education matters will be conducted from Bonn.

Article by Karin Schuster, Education Advisor, Australian Embassy, Bonn.

The 1997 JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers) Conference will be held in Hamamatsu, Japan, 9-10 October 1997.

This year’s conference, sponsored jointly by the Australian International Education Foundation and the Australia-Japan Foundation, will have a strong Australian flavour and a significant presence by leaders in Australian TESOL education.

As part of the theme of Town Square Australia exhibition space at the conference, the EA and the Australia-Japan Foundation will be co-ordinating a booth for distribution of brochures and generic information about ELICOS studies in Australia. Extensive interest in participation has been received from EA member centres.

EDUCATION EUROPE NEWS UPDATE JUNE 1997

Europe:
Education advisers have been appointed in Italy and France. The appointment in Spain will be made shortly.


France:
The promotion of Australia with the CIDJ (French youth information centre) is currently under way. The three day "L'Australie pour les jeunes" was launched by His Excellency Ambassadore Spender and the Senior Trade Commissioner, Mrs Atkinson on Wednesday 4 June. On that afternoon, a conference/debate was held by Kati Jahromi, on Australian Education. It was attended by over 150 students and lasted for 2
676: hours, with a presentation followed by a question and answer session.
677: For the CIDJ promotion, Austrade Paris was able to secure special
679: student fares to Australia during the months of September and October
680: from Singapore Airlines for French students, which will be sold
681: through the Travel Centre of the CIDJ.
682:
684:
685: Hungary:
686: This post's recent enquiry to the ELICOS Association re Hungarian
687: students desire to study a full high school year has attracted an
688: unprecedented response; 17 educational institutions responded and
689: although the majority cannot qualify being language schools, some good
690: offers were also received. The local education agent is still working
691: on this opportunity and eventual future working arrangements. This
692: post provides full support to institutions when negotiating via this
693: agent.
694:
695: Jeno Juhasz, Senior Business Development Manager, Austrade, Hungary.
696:
697: CIS:
698: "Moscow weather is making all the students to think about changing the
699: climate for a bit more sunny one".
700:
701: Sergei Podobed, Business Development Manager, Austrade, Moscow.
702:
703:
704: Switzerland:
705: Given the relocation of the Berne office, from midnight June 30th,
706: there will be no means of communication with the existing Berne
707: office.
708:
709: Mary Valach and Susan Stettler, Austrade, Switzerland.
710:
711:
712: EA/ELCA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR
713:
714: The third in a series of EA/ELCA (English Language Centre of
715: Australia, Bangkok) professional development seminars was held at the
716: Siam Inter-Continental Hotel in Bangkok on Friday 30 May 1997. The
717: theme of the seminar was Enhancing Learner Motivation.
718:
719: An introduction to the EA was provided by Seamus Fagan, on behalf of
720: Christine Bundesen, EA Chairperson. Presentations included:
721:
722: Motivation and Corporate Language Training by Clyde Fowle, ELCA,
723: University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce.
724:
725: Self-Access and Learner Autonomy as Sources of Motivation by Denise
726: Young, Phoenix English Language Academy (Perth).
727:
728: Motivating Fluency Activities by Todd Beuckens, American University
729: Alumni.
730:
The seminar was attended by approximately 29 TESOL professionals from Thailand and Australia, including 8 EA member centre personnel.

NEWS FROM THE AIEF

The Review of the AIEF was announced in the 1996-97 Budget. Its purpose was to assess the effectiveness of the AIEF as a partnership between the Commonwealth Government and the Australian international education and training industry for the promotion of Australia's international education and training capabilities.

An independent consultant, the Allen Consulting Group, was engaged to conduct the Review in December 1996. The consultant sought the views of all sectors of the education and training community and other stakeholders through written submissions and direct consultations across Australia.

The Government received the consultant's Report on the Review on 13 March 1997 and is considering its response. A copy of the consultant's Report has been provided to all AIEF members.

Before finalising its position, the Government is seeking further advice from the education and training industry. Peak education and training bodies and State/Territory Ministers responsible for education and training have been invited to provide the Minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs, Senator Amanda Vanstone, with written comments on the Review. Senator Vanstone wrote to peak education and training industry bodies on 30 May inviting them to a round-table discussion on the Review on 18 June.

A decision on the future of the AIEF is expected to be made later in the year.

ONE-STOP SHOP FOR AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION LAUNCHED ON THE INTERNET

A web site launched on the Internet is not only a powerful marketing tool for Australia's $3 billion international education industry but also a valuable domestic resource, according to the web site's authors, the Australian International Education Foundation (AIEF).

Launching the site in Canberra in April, AIEF Chairman, Eric Mayer, said the web site will be a boon to students, academics, parents and education interest groups by providing a comprehensive one-stop shop for information ranging from courses and institutions to types of scholarships and accommodation.
"With a click of a mouse, prospective students and others will be able to visit more than 100 institutions representing all levels of study such as higher education, vocational education and training, foundation studies, schools, English language and distance education," Mr Mayer said.

"Built into these pages is an electronic mail facility and a hyperlink to the institutions' own home pages to provide visitors with a direct route to further information," Mr Mayer said.

The website was developed by the AIEF on behalf of its members as an immediate and dynamic response to the emergence of a new global market with more and more people around the world relying on the Internet for information.

The site will be continually developed in response to the evolving needs of the overseas market with an interactive discussion facility and information on consultancy services offered by Australian institutions soon to be added. Local language sites promoting Australian education have been developed in China, Japan, Korea and Indonesia.

The AIEF World Wide Web Site is at: www.aief.edu.au

OVERSEAS STUDENT STATISTICS PUBLICATION

The 1996 edition of the Australian International Education Foundation's (AIEF) publication Overseas Student Statistics is currently being finalised.

For the first time, estimates of students' expenditure while in Australia by country and sector and by sector and state are included. The expenditure estimates at the state, sector and country level have been estimated by the AIEF, while the estimates at the total level are consistent with that published in the ABS publication Balance of Payments, Australia December Quarter 1996. Additionally tables on level of study, average cost and duration of course and the ELICOS industry have also been included for the first time, while additional country information by field of study has been included.

There was a 18.9% rise in the overseas student enrolment in Australia in 1996 over 1995, from 120,334 to 143,067. Since 1993 overseas student enrolment has increased by almost 60,000 students or 69.0%. Across all countries the four major sectors all showed growth with "Vocational Education" leading the way with 27.8% over 1995, next was "ELICOS Colleges" (20.9%)*, then "School Education" (19.7%) and "Higher Education" (12.0%).

The report will be available from the AIEF in July.

* This does not take into account ELICOS provided by other sector institutions eg TAFE Colleges.
840: JAPAN AND KOREA

841: Senator Vanstone, Minister for Employment, Education Training and Youth Affairs, is scheduled to visit Seoul in September 1997 to attend an APEC Human Resource Development Ministerial meeting. She will visit Japan on the same trip. This will be her first Ministerial visit to Korea and Japan and in addition to repaying the visit by the Japanese Minister of Labour, Mr Nagai, in August 1996, she will have the opportunity to discuss future co-operation in employment, education, training and youth affairs with counterpart Ministers in both countries.

851: 

853: CHINA
854: 
855: The Chinese Minister responsible for State Education, Mr Zhu Kaixuan, will visit Australia as a guest of government in September 1997.

---BEGIN: Construction of Taiwan---

859: TAIWAN: MARKET CHANGES ADDRESSED
860: 
861: The 1997 March Quarter figures on total student visas issued by Australian posts recently released by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, indicate that while growth is continuing, it is continuing at a slower rate than previously. In the 1997 March Quarter 23,488 student visas were issued by offshore posts, an increase of 6 percent on the corresponding quarter in 1996.

867: 
868: Taiwan, however, showed an 18 percent decline over the same period. Taiwan has now recorded negative growth for the last three quarters and is a market that requires immediate and longer term attention if Australia is to maintain its position and redress the decline. The Australian International Education Foundation (AIEF) is finalising its strategies in its 1997-98 Country Business Plan for Taiwan.

875: 
876: There are multiple factors contributing to this turnaround, such as:
877: 
878: Fallout from the racism debate;
879: 
880: A relaxation by the United States in its issuing of study visas;
881: 
882: The appreciation of the Australian dollar against competitor countries and Taiwanese currencies;
884: 
885: Australia’s low profile relative to the USA;
886: 
887: Increased promotional activity by the USA and other competitor countries;
888: 
889: Increases in the cost of Australian courses relative to our major competitors; and
892: 
893: Increased student visa fees.

718
In the short term, the ELICOS Association and the AIEF are seeking to counter recent negative publicity with good news stories supplied by institutions.

In the longer term, a multi-faceted strategy to improve Australia’s performance in Taiwan is being developed as part of the AIEF’s Country Business Planning process. The strategy builds on the theme of promoting Australia’s image as a technologically advanced country with outstanding research excellence. The key areas being addressed are:

- Increasing the availability of information on Australia’s education and training capabilities;
- Increasing awareness of Australia generally;
- Further efforts to build and maintain relationships with local education agents;
- Increasing the number and level of activities under institutional links; and
- Promotion of Australia’s research excellence.

AIEF members met with Mr Watt, the AIEF’s Director in Taipei, on 2 May 1997 to provide input into the strategy and it is now nearing finalisation. Planning and implementation of some of the activities supporting the strategy are well advanced. For example:

- Planning for the Second Australia Taiwan Vocational Education and Training (VET) Conference is well advanced; and
- Supporting activities to the Vocational Education and Training conference are being organised, including an Australian Education and Training Exhibition to be held immediately prior to the conference which will attract institutions from the VET, ELICOS and the Schools sectors.

Article provided by the Australian International Education Foundation (AIEF), Canberra.

--->END: Construction of Taiwan
The EA web site has been given a rating of 5, the highest rating possible, by Webnet Web Ratings.

Webnet Web Ratings rates websites on their content, navigation of site, appearance and ease of reading. Each category is rated from one to five, then an average of the overall score is given. The EA web site rated 5 in each category and received the following review:

"New to Australia, want to learn English - then have a look at this site. The site is easy to read and navigate, with information on all institutions around Australia."

The EA web site was established in late March 1997 and by the end of June had been visited 250 times. In the following six weeks to 18 August, however, the number of visits had increased to 756.

The EA web site has recently been updated to include changes to the EA's contact details, any changes to Member Centres' contact details, a publications screen and a hot-link to the EA Conference home page.

LAUNCH OF ELICOS INDUSTRY STUDY

A Study of the ELICOS Industry in Australia - 1996 will be launched on Monday 13 October 1997, 5.30 pm - 7.00 pm, in the Auditorium at the Australian Centre for Languages, Science House, Cnr Essex and Gloucester Streets, The Rocks, Sydney. The launch will take place on the evening between two days of the ELICOS Association's Annual General Meeting and professional development seminars. It is anticipated that there will be an attendance of over 100 ELICOS industry, international education, government, non-government and corporate sector representatives.

The industry study was conducted by Asia Pacific Access, on commission to the ELICOS Association. This study, which is a study of the industry during the 1996 calendar year, is the fourth in a biennial series of such studies. The information contained in these studies is of vital importance not just to Australian ELICOS providers but also to all other parties involved in Australian international education and allied industries.

ELICOS centre surveys and student surveys, undertaken in the course of the industry study, provide statistical information not readily available through any other source (e.g., immigration statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics) due to the systematic coverage of both student and non-student visa statistics. The longitudinal nature of the study is also important in tracking, in a very detailed manner, trends in the international education industry.

Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Education Employment Training.
and Youth Affairs has been invited to launch the final report of the 1996 Study, which encompasses the findings of the Centre Surveys and Student Surveys, an Executive Summary, an economic up-date on the industry and student nationality profiles.

EA member centres will each receive one complimentary copy of the Report, which will be published in October. Additional copies will be available for purchase at $250 per copy.

REVIEW OF THE OVERSEAS STUDENT VISA PROGRAM

The ELICOS Association has prepared a submission to a Review of the Overseas Student Visa Program, currently being undertaken by the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

The EA's submission, which has taken into account feedback from EA member centres, includes the following recommendations:

1. that the Australian student visa application fee be reduced to approximately the same as that charged by our competitor countries;

2. that the cost of extensions to student visas in Australia be reduced to a level perceptible below that charged for application for an initial visa;

3. that DIMA approve the facility for movement from non-student (eg tourist and working holiday visa) to student visa whilst in Australia;

4. that DIMA implement and apply effective procedures for responding to breaches of visa conditions by international students, and that a set of guidelines stipulating procedures to be undertaken by DIMA, and recommended procedures for international education providers, be developed, documented and distributed throughout the industry;

5. that DIMA staff in overseas posts undertake a staff training program with the objective of creating a client service culture in the Department;

6. that a set of procedures related to the issue of student visas in gazetted countries, and another set of procedures for non-gazetted countries, be developed, documented and adhered to by all visa issuing posts;

7. that a visa issuing post in Switzerland be re-opened;

8. that the English language requirements for students from PRC be abolished for PRC students enrolling and paying up-front fees for an English language training course followed by further education as part of a package enrolment and be waived for a limited trial number of stand-alone English language students;

9. that a process of consultation between DIMA and other Government Departments involved in the international education industry be implemented;
1046:
1047: 10. that a process of regular consultation between DIMA and peak
1048: industry body representatives be implemented.
1049:
1050: The EA has indicated to DIMA its preparedness to become involved in
1051: consultations to be undertaken in the course of the Review.
1052:
1053: 
1054: TOURISTS JOIN STUDENTS IN STUDYING ENGLISH IN AUSTRALIA
1055:
1056: A study recently undertaken by Austrade, on commission to the ELICOS
1057: Association, as part of the Asian Study Tourism Strategy, provided a
1058: clear picture of Asian students and tourists who has undertaken
1059: English language studies in Australia in 1996. The study included
1060: student visa, tourist visa and working holiday visa holders. Data and
1061: information was provided by approximately 56% of Australia's ELICOS
1062: institutions.
1063:
1064: The main conclusions of the study for 1996 were:
1065:
1066: Total Asian ELICOS numbers are running at some 65,000 students per
1067: annum;
1068:
1069: Of this total, 53,000 enrolled as individuals and 12,000 in groups;
1070:
1071: Total enrolments in the four Asian target markets of Korea, Taiwan,
1072: Indonesia and Thailand grew by 34% between 1995 and 1996;
1073:
1074: However, study tourist numbers from Asia grew by 78% over the same
1075: period;
1076:
1077: The greatest rate of growth was in enrolments from the Republic of
1078: Korea, which grew at 58% between 1995 and 1996. Taiwan grew at 31%
1079: and Indonesia at 16%, whilst Thailand recorded a 4% decrease;
1080:
1081: Japan was the source of the largest number of enrolments
1082: (approximately 25,000);
1083:
1084: Korea has notched up the largest number of student weeks (244,000);
1085:
1086: Japanese students were the largest users of tourist and working
1087: holiday visas;
1088:
1089: Overall, 41% of Asian ELICOS enrolments were on tourist visas, 5% on
1090: working holiday visas, and 54% on student visas;
1091:
1092: Total fees paid by Asian ELICOS enrollees was around AUD$181 million.
1093: including AUD$171 million paid by individuals and $10 million by
1094: groups;
1095:
1096: Individuals tended to enrol in courses lasting 12-15 weeks whilst
1097: groups enrolled in courses lasting 3-5 weeks.
1098:
1099: The EA has since engaged an analyst to work with Austrade to prepare
The eighth Annual General Meeting of the ELICOS Association Limited and professional development seminars for EA member centre personnel will be held at the Furama Hotel Central, 28 Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney on 13-14 October 1997.

The formal AGM, on 14 October, will include a number of presentations including the Chairperson's Report, a Report on the 1997 EA Education Conference, State/Territory Delegates' Reports, presentation of the audited financial statements for the 1996/97 financial year, the election of a Deputy Chairperson and three General Delegates. Nominations for these positions have been called for, with nominations closing on Tuesday 16 September 1997.

Two professional development seminars will be presented on the afternoon of Monday 13 October, with one further professional development seminar presented the following afternoon. There will be no charge to EA Member Centre representatives for participation in the AGM or the Professional Development Seminars. The AGM Dinner will be held at The Waters Edge Restaurant, Sydney, in the evening.

The schedule for the two days is as follows:

**Monday 13 October 1997**
- 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm Professional Development Seminars
- 8.00 pm AGM Dinner - a social opportunity to mix with council members and colleagues. Venue - Waters Edge Restaurant, Pier One, Sydney (beside Sydney Harbour, next to the Harbour Bridge).

**Tuesday 14 October 1997**
- 9.00 am to 12.15 pm EA Annual General Meeting
- 12.15 pm - 1.30 pm Lunch
- 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm Professional Development Seminar Trade Practices, Consumer Protection and Competitive Neutrality by Calvert Duffy, Senior Manager, Compliance Education Unit, Australian Competition &...
The Consumer Commission, Vic.

4:45 pm - 5:30 pm Visit to the EA Secretariat - tea and coffee will be served at the new EA premises.

A formal notice of meeting and participation forms will be forwarded to EA member centres in September.

---BEGIN: Construction of Taiwan

ASIA STUDY TOURISM STRATEGY

EA member centres were recently provided with a 2-page Brief Review of the First Year of the Strategy. In its first year the Asia Study Tourism Strategy was largely targeted at raising awareness of the potential for English language study tour programs in Australia for groups and individuals from the four target markets of South Korea, Taiwan, Indonesia and Thailand. EA/AIEF member centres which participated in the first year of the strategy were provided with contact details of some 160 travel agents who had indicated an interest in Australia's English language study tour programs and/or had specifically requested program proposals.

Following the success of the first year of the Asia Study Tourism Strategy (ASTS), the Strategy has continued into the current financial year.

Twenty-eight EA/AIEF member centres have signed on to the strategy for the period 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998. Funding from the AIEF is being sought and participating member centres have been provided with Guidelines for Participation and a Request for English Language Study Tour Program form for their use in negotiating study tour programs with agents or institutions.

The first ASTS activity for the current financial year has already been conducted. An ASTS Workshop with Taiwanese travel agents and participating member centres, was held at the Howard Plaza Hotel in Taipei, on Thursday 14 August, 10.00 am - 12.00 noon.

The Workshop was similar in structure to a successful ASTS Workshop held in Jakarta in June. A generic presentation on English language study tourism in Australia, presented by Seamus Fagan, was followed by a mini-exhibition which enabled travel agents and member centre representatives to liaise on a one-to-one basis.

The Workshop was attended by 12 key Taiwanese travel agents and 14 ASTS participating EA member centre representatives.

ASTS participating member centres will be provided with a detailed plan for the year, including Target Country Action Group plans, when available.

---END: Construction of Taiwan

10TH ANNUAL EA EDUCATION CONFERENCE

724
A Letter from the Organising Committee

To EA Member Centre Personnel,

The brochures have gone out, the papers have come in and it's time for the conference committee to hope that you will all be interested in coming to the 10th EA conference in Brisbane. It is a landmark conference - ten years! - and we are hoping that it will be a practical and productive event for all participants.

Our STOP PRESS news is that we now have Alan Duff booked as a keynote speaker. He will be joining Susan Stempleski and Allan Luke at the conference. We are pleased with the range of experience our keynote speakers offer: Susan is well known for her work with video in the classroom while Allan Luke is a popular speaker on cultural issues. Alan Duff has been working in the area of translation and should be an interesting speaker!

The standard of the papers so far received is high and this year in particular, in response to feedback from previous conferences, we have organised the Lesson Plan Swap Shop. This is an opportunity for teachers to bring their favourite lesson plan and swap it for someone else's. We are hoping that all the plans will eventually be posted on the World Wide Web and prove to be the basis for a teachers' resource site. If you are interested in this but not too sure what to do, contact Susan Gillion of the Russo Institute of Technology.

In keeping with the Conference theme, and current fascination, there will be a number of papers on issues of technology in the classroom. Some of these will be demonstrations and workshops and many will be presented by teachers with a profound experience of using technology in their classrooms. We also hope to host a couple of video conferences for those of you interested in seeing this technology in action! Examination and testing issues are a popular theme for papers and so are management issues. We hope that those of you who are interested in these areas in particular might join us in the pre-conference workshops. Contact Sally Brown for more details.

Brisbane is rather beautiful in early spring and we recommend that those of you who can, take up the conference travel agent's offer of trips into the Brisbane hinterland on the Saturday afternoon or the Sunday. The conference accommodation agent, Ozacomm, has a range of accommodation available and can probably organise something extra for that final Sunday. Contact either JTC or Ozacomm for more details.

We look forward to seeing you all in September!

Yours,

The Conference Convening Committee:

Jane Turner, Queensland University of Technology
Cam McConnell, TAFE Queensland International
Stephen Heap, ICTE, The University of Queensland
Wendy Tait, ICTE, The University of Queensland
Maggie Deeth, Queensland College of English
Note: The 10th Annual EA Education Conference will be held at The Heritage Hotel, Brisbane, 25-27 September 1997. The theme for the Conference is The Global Classroom: Technology, Language and Culture.

OVERSEAS STUDENT HEALTH COVER

Medibank Private has announced the Overseas Student Health Cover (OSHC) rates for 1998. The rates are effective from 1 January 1998.

NLC CONFERENCE OUTCOMES

At this year's NLC (National Liaison Committee) conference resolutions relating to the erratic pricing of student visas, the educational rights of children of international students in Australia and access to Medicare, were passed.

According to Chi Kang Gooi, NLC National Convenor, it is unfair that the children of international students must pay for kindergarten and primary schooling. Concern was also raised at the Conference that international students who earn more than $5,000 must pay a Medicare levy but do not receive Medicare benefits.

The NLC will seek to make a submission to DIMA's current Review of the Overseas Student Visa Program.


VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

According to Short Term Visitor Arrivals data provided by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and published in a report recently released by the Australian Tourist Commission, the number of international visitors, including tourists, to Australia during the month of April 1997 was 325,897, a decline of 2.2% on the number for April 1996. During the period year ending April 1997, 2,540,056 visitors arrived in Australia for a holiday.

With regard to visitors from Asia during April 1997, the report shows that:

There was a decrease of 0.8% in Asian visitor arrivals against April 1996; A total of 19,610 came from Korea, an increase of 35% against April 1996, making it Australia's largest tourism source market in Asia;
A total of 5,340 visitors came from China (PRC), representing an increase of 27.8% against April 1996; The number of visitors from Taiwan decreased by 16.7% against April 1996, bringing the number to 12,107; The number of visitors from Thailand decreased by 8.0% against April 1996, bringing the number to 14,826; Visitors from Indonesia totalled 11,063, an increase of 22.1% against April 1996. Year to date April 1997 figures indicate that total inbound tourism to Australia has increased by 4.2% against the previous year.

MINISTER SPEAKS OUT AGAINST HANSON
Senator Amanda Vanstone, Minister for Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs, has spoken out against Independent MP Pauline Hanson, branding her a would-be "messiah".

At the NLC Conference for International Students in Australia in July, Senator Vanstone criticised Hanson, promising that the Howard government would expose Hanson's prejudices and ignorance "to the point where she disappears off the political landscape".

At a meeting of the Australian American Chamber of Commerce in Melbourne the following week, Senator Vanstone accused Hanson of hating the world and of probably having had an unhappy childhood. In her speech Vanstone defended multiculturalism and immigration and told the meeting that Hanson did not understand the centrality of immigration in Australian history.

Senator Vanstone's attack on Ms Hanson, according to Warren Osmond writing in Campus Review, amounted largely to speculation on Hanson's "psychological origins", rather than a rebuttal of her policies.

Senator Vanstone's criticism of Hanson does, however, comply with the Minister's promise to continue her attacks on the independent MP.


Legislation, with the purpose of amending the Copyright Act, has recently been presented to Parliament.
Included in the legislation is an amendment of the definition of "education" and "institution" to include institutions and principal function of which is "the teaching of English to people whose first language is not English".

The copyright Amendment Bill 1997 was passed by the House of Representatives in June and is now before the Senate. On 26 June 1997, the Senate referred the Bill to its Legal and Constitutional Legislation Committee for inquiry and report.

The above mentioned amendment to the Copyright Act has been lobbied for by the EA for some time. EA member centres will be advised of the outcome of the Senate's deliberations in due course.

The 5th International Travel Show, "TT Warsaw Tour & Travel '97", will be held at the Palace of Culture and Science in Warsaw, 25-27 September 1997.

According to Cezary Godziemski, Business Development Manager, Austrade Warsaw, the Show has "proven to be a very good opportunity to meet Polish specialist education travel agents".

The ELICOS Association has become an Associate Member of IATEFL (International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language).

As a result of the EA's Associate Membership of IATEFL, the two organisations will regularly exchange information, including Newsletters. The EA will receive one free registrations at the IATEFL Conference each year and will offer one free registration at the EA Conference to an IATEFL representative. The EA and IATEFL will also publicise one another's events in Newsletters and at Conferences.

IATEFL is "the world's largest British-based international organisation dedicated to the interests of professionals in the teaching of English as a second or foreign language".

The EA's decision to join IATEFL underlines Council's commitment to achieving object 2.1(d) of the Memorandum of Association of ELICOS Association Limited, that is: "to promote the ELICOS sector of the TESOL profession by providing information about it, in Australia and overseas".

IATEFL CONFERENCE

The 32nd International IATEFL Conference will be held in Manchester, UK, 15-18 April 1998.
The speaker proposal deadline is 15 October 1997. A copy of the speaker proposal form may be obtained from the EA Secretariat.

ARELS WORKSHOP

The EA has been invited to send a representative as an observer to the ARELS (Association of Recognised English Language Services) Workshop to be held in Brighton UK, 27-28 August 1997.

The ARELS Workshop already attracts participants from some 200 agencies each year, from more than 30 countries world-wide. Attendance of agents is by invitation only, so that ARELS is able to maintain the reputation of the event. To date, the Workshop has always been open only to UK education providers which are accredited by the British Council. From 1998 onwards, ARELS plans to invite education providers from those countries which has achieved a comparable level of accreditation. It is in this context that the EA has been invited to the 1997 Workshop and that EA member centres may be able to participate in the 1998 and subsequent workshops.

The EA will be represented at the 1997 workshop by Helen Zimmerman.

EA JOURNAL

EA Journal Volume 15 No 1 is now available. "This issue is nothing is not provocative. Each article confronts the reader with a remarkable disclosure or audacious point of view." [Jones J, Editorial, EA Journal. Vol 15, No 1]

EA member centres have each been provided with two copies of the Journal. Additional copies are available for purchase from the EA Secretariat, at a cost of $15 per copy, postage within Australia included.

AIEF PUBLICATIONS

During the last two months the AIEF has produced and/or distributed a number of publications including:

* Your future begins here... a guide to excellence in Australian education and training*

* education and training is a comprehensive guide for international students considering Australia as a study destination. Covering issues ranging from the AQF, visa requirements, work entitlements and accommodation through to climate, the guide also provides contact details and a precis on each Member institution. 7,000 copies of the guide have already been distributed to the offshore network. A second print run, incorporating further institution details, is planned.

* Australian Education in Profile - 1997 provides up-to-date statistical information on the Australian education system. Incorporating information on the AQF, the pamphlet provides information on both
1478: participation rates and expenditure.

1479: Article by AIEF, DEETYA, Canberra.

1480: AIEF WEBSITES

1481: Use of the AIEF's site http://www.aief.edu.au continues to increase with hit rates now exceeding 13,000 per week. A substantial upgrade of the site's information, including enhanced graphic images, is currently under way.

1482: Statistical analysis of the hits continues to prove interesting.

1483: Visits are being recorded from all parts of the globe - including the former Russian states. As the site hit rates continue to grow and statistical analysis improves, the site may be used as an indicator for future business opportunities.

1484: The Members Only site was launched on 14 July. Features include a pre-departure kit which covers topics such as country statistics, business plans, market alerts and analysis reports, together with information on "doing business in country" compiled by the AIEF's Counsellor network. This will enable Members to obtain a solid grounding prior to departure.

1485: Article by AIEF, DEETYA, Canberra.

1500: AIEF UPDATE REPORT

1501: Student Visa Numbers Slow

1502: The leading indicator of trends in our offshore markets is visa granted statistics. So far this year there has been growth of only 6%, less than a third of the 19% growth achieved last year and well short of the 24% witnessed in 1995. In the period January to May 1997, 31,400 student visas were issued at offshore posts compared to 29,700 in the same period in 1996.

1503: Where the Slowdown has Occurred

1504: During the period January to May 1997, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong all recorded negative growth while Malaysia and South Korea grew at only 2% when compared with the corresponding period in 1996. The Taiwanese market has recorded negative growth for the last three consecutive quarters and is clearly a market that has turned against Australia.

1505: Singapore, Hong Kong and Malaysia are all considered "mature" markets that have experienced strong growth over the last 10 years. These growth rates are not sustainable in the longer term and a slowdown in growth is not surprising. While a slowdown has been expected in our mature markets it is too early to tell if this is a long term or a
1532: short term correction.

1534: Australia's largest market in 1996, South Korea, has managed growth of
1535: only 2% in the period January to May 1997, a marked decrease over the
1536: same period in 1996 of 66%. South Korea is experiencing an economic
downturn which has resulted in a blow-out in its current account
deficit. The South Korean Government has responded to these
1539: circumstances with an austerity program that targets luxury spending
1540: including tourism and overseas travel for educational purposes. It is
1541: also enforcing long standing regulations that prohibit the transfer of
1542: funds offshore to finance study of Koreans under 18 years of age.

1544: Given the latest available visa data, it would seem that more of our
1545: major markets are exhibiting sluggish growth as the year progresses.
1546: While Indonesia and Vietnam continue to grow more strongly in 1997,
1547: than in 1996, they are the exceptions rather than the rule.

1552: It is clear that there are a number of factors that impact on our
1553: difference offshore markets. However, industry representatives and
1554: the media are now beginning to link the slowdown, in what are
1555: predominantly Asian markets, to the racism debate. While it is
1556: impossible to quantify the impact the racism debate may be having on
1557: our offshore markets it is increasingly being reported as an area of
1558: concern by the AIEF's Offshore Counsellors and should therefore be
1559: treated seriously.

1563: Many articles on the racism debate are appearing in the press in Asian
1565: regions. The majority of articles are reproductions from the
1566: Australian press stating what comments Hanson has made and how the
1567: Australian Government is dealing with the issue. Many of the articles
1568: on the Hanson debate are indicating that it is only a very small
1569: minority and that readers should reject the voices of racism as this
1570: is not the voice of the majority of Australians. However, given the
1571: number of articles that have appeared in recent months it is obviously
1572: a cause for concern amongst the international education and training
1573: industry.

1576: Measures Being Taken to Counter the Racism Debate

1578: The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has established a task
1579: force specifically designed to counter the impact of the racism debate
1580: in Asia. The task force has developed a strategy document that has
1581: been cleared by their Minister and it is now being considered by the
1582: Prime Minister. An important part of the DFAT strategy is to work
closely with other organisations including the Australian
1584: International Education Foundation (AIEF). The involvement of
1585: educational institutions will be sought in the near future.
1586:
1587: Article by AIEF, DEETYA, Canberra.

-->END: Construction of Taiwan

1588:
1589:
1590:
A study of the ELICOS Industry in Australia during the 1996 calendar year revealed the following:

During the 1996 calendar year 48,900 ELICOS students, of all visa categories, occupied places at ELICOS Centres at some time during the year.

The sale of this quantity of ELICOS services raised $227 million in fee income in 1996.

It is estimated that during 1996 ELICOS students spent an additional $435 million on non-educational goods and services.

The result was a gross expenditure by ELICOS students in 1996 of $662 million dollars.

Gross value-added to Gross Domestic Product by the ELICOS industry in 1996 is estimated to have been $170 million, compared to $81 million in 1994 and $32 million in 1992.

During the period 1994 to 1996, growth in the numbers of ELICOS students coming to Australia took place in all major markets, although none grew faster than the number of Korean students.

In 1996, 51% of ELICOS students were interested in undertaking further study in Australia, compared to 62% in 1994.

As in previous industry studies, safety was given as the main reason for ELICOS students choosing to study in Australia.

The main sources from which ELICOS students obtained information about studying in Australia were Education Agents and Friends.

Sixty-four percent of ELICOS centres which participated in the survey had either acquired new teaching space and/or used other strategies to increase their teaching capacity during 1996.

This industry study was the fourth in a biennial series of such studies conducted by Asia Access, on commission to the ELICOS Association. ELICOS centre surveys and student surveys, undertaken in the course of the industry studies, provide statistical information not readily available through any other source (eg immigration statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics) due to their systemic coverage of both student and non-student visa statistics. The longitudinal nature of the studies is also important in tracking, in a very detailed manner, trends in the international education industry.
A Study of the ELICOS Industry in Australia - 1996 was launched in Sydney on Monday 13 October 1997.

The highly successful launch, held in the auditorium at the Australian Centre for Languages, was attended by over 70 people, including government representatives, representatives of the finance, travel and publishing industries, peak industry body representatives, foreign embassy representatives, university personnel and EA member centre representatives.

The EA Chairperson, Christine Bundesen, presented a comprehensive overview of the major findings and analyses of the study, which was officially launched by the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, Parliamentary Secretary to the minister for Employment, Education, Training and Youth Affairs. The launch was followed by a cocktail reception.

The EA acknowledges with thanks financial contributions towards the cost of the study from the Australian International Education Foundations and IDP Education Australia.

Each EA member centre has been provided with a copy of the publication. Further copies are available for purchase from the EA Secretariat at a cost of $250 per copy.

AFFILIATION OF PEAK BODIES

The affiliation of International Education Peak Bodies (AIEPB), is an informal group of representatives of the ELICOS Association (EA), Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), Australia TAFE, International (ATI), the Australian Council of Independent Business Colleges (ACIBC), Australian Council for Private Education and Training (ACPET), the National Council of Independent Schools' Association (NCISA) and the government schools sector. The AIEPB, initiated by the ELICOS Association, has recently been convened to provide a forum on an as-needed basis to consult on matters of interest and concern to the international education industry.

The first meeting of the group was held at the EA Secretariat on 29 August 1997, with a second meeting at the IDP Conference in Melbourne on 1 October. The group discussed OSHC, the Disability Discrimination Act Education Standards, the DFAT initiative to combat the effects of the racism debate, the DIMA Review of the Student Visa Program and the Australian International Education Foundation (AIEF).

At the first meeting of the group and through subsequent feedback and discussion a proposal was prepared in relation to the AIEF and submitted to the Minister for Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs. The peak bodies represented in the AIEPB unanimously agreed to support the continuation of the AIEF albeit in a modified form and only under certain conditions as specified in the AIEPB's proposal.

Following the first meeting, the group notified DEETYA that its members were dissatisfied with the consultative process undertaken during DEETYA's Review of OSHC and requested further consultation.
1700: It is anticipated that the formation of the AIEPB will strengthen the international education industry through cross-sectoral consultation and be beneficial to all sectors in the industry.

1706: EA CONFERENCE

1708: The 10th Annual EA Education Conference has been evaluated as having been a great success.

1711: The Conference, with the theme of The Global Classroom: Technology, Language & Culture, was held at Brisbane's Heritage Hotel, 25-27 September 1997. 216 registrants participated in the conference.

1714: Papers and workshops covered a wide range of topics, including nationality perspectives & profiles, listening and notetaking skills for EAP students, IELTS, business management models, CALL, assessment and many other topics related to the conference theme. The conference dinner, held at Rydges Rooftop Restaurant, proved to be a great opportunity for participants to mingle.

1721: The conference was opened by EA Chairperson, Christine Bundesen, who spoke on "ELICOS - A Global Industry".

1724: The three keynote speakers contributed markedly to the success of the conference. Alan Duff, a freelance writer and translator based in Slovenia, with 20 books in the field of ELT and translation, addressed the topic Global Languages and National Cultures: Is there a conflict of interest? Susan Stempleski, Lecturer on the MA program in TESOL at Columbia University in New York and Consultant on ESOL program design, teacher education, materials development and evaluation spoke to the conference on Making Media Matter: Using video to promote critical thinking. Allan Luke, Professor and Head of the Graduate School of Education, the University of Queensland and author and editor of 11 books, presented an address on Aliens, Simulations, Hybrids, Heterogeneity: New understandings of culture and the language classroom.

1738: The EA is appreciative of the financial support provided by the Australian International Education Foundation for the participation of two international keynote speakers at the conference.

1743: PEAV REUNION

1745: European language travel agents who participated in the Pan European Agents Visits (PEAVs), conducted jointly by Austrade and the ELICOS Association between 1993 and 1996, will be invited to a reunion in Paris to be held on Sunday 26 January 1998.

1750: The Reunion will be directly before Expolangues and will be a one day and one evening event, with an opportunity for an EA seminar presentation on "Australia as an English study destination", an Australian government policy update presentation and a cocktail function.
1755: All EA member centres which participated in any or all the PEAVs will be given an opportunity to have a representative in attendance at the reunion.

1761: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

1763: The 8th Annual General Meeting of ELICOS Association Limited was held at the Furama Central Hotel in Sydney on Tuesday 14 October 1997.

1766: The formal AGM included the election of Council members, the presentation of audited financial statements for the 1996/97 financial year and a number of reports, including a Chairperson's Report, State/Territory Delegates' Reports, a report by the EA representative on the board of the NEAS, an EA Journal Editor's Report and a Report on the 10th EA Education Conference. The EA Deputy Chairpersons also presented reports on the Year in Review which outlined the activities of the EA in relation to the results of last year's membership satisfaction survey.

1776: Robynne Walsh was re-elected, unopposed, to the position of Deputy Chairperson on the EA Council and Judy Colman, Seamus Fagan and Gerry Meister were elected as General Delegates. State/Territory Delegates will be elected by 3 November and EA member centres will be notified of the results.

1781: On the afternoon before the AGM, Monday 13 October, a professional development seminar on the topic Competency/Accreditation Standards/Quality Assurance was presented by Jill Gientzotis from the NSW Department of Training and Education Co-ordination and a seminar on Competitive Neutrality was presented by Vicky Hudson and Andrew McConville, from the Victorian Department of Treasury and Finance. Approximately 30 EA member centre representatives attended the seminars.

1790: The seminars were followed by the launch of the Study of the ELICOS Industry in Australia - 1996. Later in the evening 38 EA member centre representatives and guests attended the EA Annual Dinner at Harbour Watch, a well-known Sydney restaurant at Pier One, a spectacular venue in Sydney's Rocks area, located on the shores of Sydney Harbour, right beside the Harbour Bridge.

1797: On the afternoon after the AGM, 40 EA member centre representatives attended a professional development seminar on Trade Practices and Consumer Protection, presented by Calvert Duffy, of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission. After the seminar tea and coffee were served at the new EA premises.

1806: The ELICOS Association has raised many strong objections to the closure of Australia's visa issuing post in Switzerland.
1810: The EA has written to the federal ministers for Trade, Immigration and Multicultural Affairs, Foreign Affairs and Employment Education, Training and Youth Affairs expressing concern regarding the closure of the Australian Consulate in Berne. Matters raised in the EA's correspondence include:

1816: The increase of the student visa processing fee to an amount higher than the official visa processing charge;
1819: Possible conflict of interest associated with agency arrangements for the issue of visas in Switzerland;
1822: Reports of a fee being charged for the documentation required by persons in Switzerland wishing to apply for a visa; and
1825: A lack of communication which has occurred between DIMA and the international education industry regarding the new arrangements in Switzerland.

1829: The EA also included in its submission to the DIMA Review of the Overseas Student Visa Program a recommendation that a visa issuing post in Switzerland be re-opened.

1833: The EA has been advised that DIMA Bonn has received approval from Canberra to "introduce student visa agency arrangements in Switzerland and Denmark for a trial period of six months". No details of the arrangements have yet been received by the EA.

1839: CONGRATULATIONS

1841: At the IDP Conference Dinner in Melbourne, on 1 October, Christine Bundesen was presented with one of two inaugural awards for outstanding contribution to international education.

1845: Christine's award reads:

1847: This award recognises an outstanding and ongoing contribution to the development of Australian international education programs.

1850: Professor Tony Adams from RMIT, received a similar award.

1853: VISITORS TO AUSTRALIA

1855: According to Australian Bureau of Statistics figures, recently published by the Australian Tourist Commission (ATC), there were 308,177 international visitor arrivals into Australia during June 1997. This represents an increase of 0.4% over the 306,932 visitor arrivals recorded in June 1996. The year to date June 1997 visitor arrivals was 2,064,927, an increase of 4.4% compared to year to date June 1996.
1864: Some 75% of visitor arrivals in June 1997 were for the purposes of  
1865: holiday and visiting friends and relatives.  
1866:  
1867: The number of tourists from Japan visiting Australia in June 1997 was  
1868: 15.5% less than in June 1996. This reflects a slowdown in the  
1869: Japanese outbound tourism market. According to the ATC, airfare  
1870: discounting to the USA and Hawaii and the increasing Australian dollar  
1871: against the yen have contributed to the decline.  
1872:  
1873: Strong growth in visitors from Korea, Indonesia, China and Malaysia  
1874: have been recorded for the year to date June 1997, while growth from  
1875: Singapore, Thailand, Taiwan and Hong Kong have been "comparatively  
1876: weaker".  
1877:  
1878: Visitors from Europe in the first half of 1997 were 10.3% higher than  
1879: in the previous year, "making Europe Australia's fastest growing  
1880: source region". The largest number of European visitors were from the  
1881: UK, followed by Germany, Netherlands, France, Italy and Switzerland.  
1882:  
1883: The number of visitors to Australia from Latin America during June  
1884: 1997 was 75.6% more than in June 1996, with a large part of this  
1885: growth being "attributable to the convention segment".  
1886:  
1887: Source: Tourism Pulse, September 1997, No. 63, published by the  
1888: Australian Tourist Commission.  
1889:  
1890: CHINESE SPOKEN BY INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS  
1892:  
1893: The language most commonly spoken by international students in  
1894: Australia is Chinese,  
1895:  
1896: Ian Dobson, associate to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Monash  
1897: University presented a paper on the recent history of international  
1898: students in Australia at the Association for Tertiary Education  
1899: Management's annual conference, held in September.  
1900:  
1901: The conference was told that in 1996 40% of international students in  
1902: Australia's higher education institutions nominated a Chinese language  
1903: as the language which they spoke at home.  
1904:  
1905: Mandarin was spoken by approximately one-third of the Chinese  
1906: speakers, Cantonese by approximately one-third and other Chinese  
1907: languages spoken by the other one-third. The second most common first  
1908: language spoken by international students in higher education  
1909: institutions in Australia was English (21%), with Indonesian spoken by  
1910: 7%, followed by Thai (3%). Japanese, Korean, Hindi, Vietnamese and  
1911: Tamil were spoken by 2% or less.  
1912:  
1913: Source: Campus Review, "Chinese leads as language of international  
1915:  
1916:  
1917: BROCHURE DISTRIBUTION
1918:
1919: Generic EA brochures will be distributed at the following exhibitions
1920: and trade fairs in Europe:
1921:
1922: Expolingua, Berlin, 20-23 November 1997;
1923:
1924: Nexus Fair, Munich, 24-25 January 1998;
1925:
1926: Expolangues, Paris, 28 January - 1 February 1998; and
1927:
1929:
1930: Materials distributed by Austrade, on behalf of the EA, will included
1931: Education Australia 1997/98 and the Directory of ELICOS Association
1932: Member Centres.
1933:
1934:
1935: JALT 97
1936:
1937:
1938: Generic EA brochures and the brochures of 20 participating member
1939: centres were distributed from an EA booth at the Town Square Australia
1940: exhibition, held at the JALT (Japan Association of Language Teachers)
1941: Conference in Hamamatsu, Japan, 9-12 October 1997.
1942:
1943: Many visitors to the Town Square Australia exhibition were interested
1944: in undertaking post-graduate studies in TESOL by distant education.
1945: Some visitors showed in an interest in ELICOS and in study tour
1946: programs. The EA/Nexus koala brochure, Education Australia 1997/98,
1947: attracted interest as a suitable reference for student resource rooms
1948: in universities in Japan.
1949:
1950:
1951: STUDY OF ELICOS REGIONAL MARKETS
1952:
1953: Conclusions and recommendations from surveys of the 1996 calendar
1954: year, recently conducted by Austrade, on behalf of the ELICOS
1955: Association, include:
1956:
1957: Asia is by far Australia's largest ELICOS market region with around of
1958: 90% of all enrolments;
1959:
1960: Korea has shown the most spectacular growth and, because Korean
1961: students stay for comparatively long periods, Korea is our most
1962: important market in terms of dollars earned;
1963:
1964: Most Asian markets showed solid growth in 1996, but Thailand showed a
1965: slight decline;
1966:
1967: Some Western European market countries, including Switzerland,
1968: registered declines in absolute numbers;
1969:
1970: Switzerland dominated the European market;
1971:
1972: Brazil showed solid growth of 34% from a small base;
1973:
1974: In 1996, 10 market source countries showed growth rates in excess of 
1975: 50% over the previous year;
1976:
1977: In 1996, study tourists made up 42% of overall ELICOS enrolments and 
1978: working holiday visa holders made up another 5%.
1979:
1980: The surveys included student visa, tourist visa and working holiday 
1981: visa holders. Total enrolments for the year were 72,734, with 
1982: enrolments from each of the three regions surveyed being 65,000 from 
1983: Asia, 6,695 from Europe and 839 from Central and South America.
1984:
1985:
1986: DIRECTORY OF EA MEMBER CENTRES
1987:
1988: The Directory of ELICOS Association Member Centres is being updated 
1989: and reprinted.
1990:
1991: The Directory, which will be widely distributed throughout the world, 
1992: will include member centre home page addresses, the new EA secretariat 
1993: contact details and up-to-date contact details for each EA member 
1995:
1996:
1997: EA BROADCASTS
1998:
1999: Since March, as a new service to membership, the EA has been fax 
2000: broadcasting copies of enquiries received to member centres, giving 
2001: member centres an opportunity to contact the inquirers.
2002:
2003: From mid-March until the end of September enquiries about studying 
2004: English in Australia broadcast by the EA to member centres were:
2005:
2006: 54 enquiries received via the EA’s home page on the world wide web, 
2007: ie:
2008:
2009: 18 from Korea;
2010: 8 from within Australia;
2011: 3 from France;
2012: 3 from Japan;
2013: 3 from Germany;
2014: 3 from Switzerland;
2015: 2 from Spain;
2016: 2 from Brazil;
2017: 1 from Hong Kong;
2018: 1 from Paraguay;
2019: 1 from Argentina;
2020: 1 from the Czech Republic;
2021: 1 from the USA;
2022: 1 from Canada;
2023: 1 from Colombia;
2024: 1 from Syria;
2025: 1 from Tanzania;
2026: 1 from Barbados;
2027: 1 from Thailand; and
2028: 1 from Indonesia.
2029:
2030: 11 enquiries received through the mail, ie:
2031:
2032: 1 from Libya;
2033: 1 from Nepal;
2034: 1 from the Czech Republic;
2035: 1 from Thailand;
2036: 1 from Taiwan;
2037: 1 from Korea;
2038: 1 from Sweden;
2039: 1 from the UK;
2040: 1 from Germany;
2041: 1 from Switzerland; and
2042: 1 from the Philippines.
2043:
2044: 9 enquiries received by fax, ie:
2045:
2046: 5 from Spain;
2047: 2 from Korea;
2048: 1 from Thailand; and
2049: 1 from Germany.
2050:
2051: Clearly, interest in English language in Australia is very widespread
2052: and the EA web site is attracting interest from a particularly wide
2053: range of countries.
2054:
2055:
2056:
2057:
2058:
2059:
2060:
2061: IATEFL NEWS
2062:
2063: IATEFL FOSTERS WIDER INTERNATIONAL NETWORKING
2064:
2065: The well-known ELT author, Simon Greenall, took over as Chair of
2066: IATEFL in April 1997. He outlines here his current view of the
2067: Association and his vision for the future.
2068:
2069: "IATEFL has seen astounding growth in recent years. Its membership
2070: has now topped 11,000, precipitated largely by the new Associate
2071: Scheme. Some 50 teachers groups in over 30 different countries have
2072: already elected to join the scheme, so bringing the networking
2073: potential and services of IATEFL to the reach and benefit of many more
2074: teachers around the world. Recent new Associates include groups in
2075: Colombia, Cuba, Italy, Korea, The Netherlands, Palestine, Pakistan,
2076: Thailand and Uruguay, and of course the ELICOS Association in
2077: Australia. This breadth of membership has allowed us for the first
2078: time to elect a truly international committee with representatives
2079: from Brazil, Greece, Poland, Russia, Thailand and Turkey and I welcome
2080: the opportunity of harnessing their many talents to further the aims
2081: of the Association.
2082:
This international growth has in turn led to a significant rise in events outside the UK. Our conference remains the most important occasion in the IATEFL calendar when members come to the UK, and I look forward to presiding over what I hope will be yet another record attendance in Manchester in 1998, but the fact that we have so many SIG events now initiated by members around the world is a very important and exciting development, further emphasising the international aspect of the Association's work. SIG events for 1997 alone will take place in Spain, Slovakia, Israel, Germany, Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Italy, Turkey.

The IATEFL Newsletter, which now goes out six times a year, also provides a rich array of international views, experiences, conference reports and discussion points conveying a strong sense of IATEFL's growing global family, and allowing especially those members who are unable to attend IATEFL's many conferences to nevertheless feel closely involved in the association. In addition IATEFL has begun to develop a small publications list, and I see the continued raising of IATEFL's profile through the celebration of its members' talents and achievements in the Newsletter and an expanding range of publications as one of my major goals.

IATEFL is a strong and vibrant association. Previous criticisms that IATEFL is too UK oriented have finally been dispelled, and the I in IATEFL stands firmly for International. During my period of office therefore I see my major objectives as being:

- Exploring ways to support, increase and develop the Associate Membership Scheme so that the spirit of international exchange and co-operation which IATEFL is currently fostering may reach grassroots teachers around the world who may previously have thought such contact impossible;
- Facilitating and managing a steady increase in IATEFL's publications to represent the work and achievements of teachers in as wide a range of IATEFL's member countries as possible;
- Exploring ways of developing communications between teachers worldwide through improved WWW and other information services.

I relish the challenge and look forward to contributing to IATEFL's continuing development and outreach to members all over the world."

Two interesting new publications from the IATEFL Special Interest Groups are now available. They are:

- Teachers Develop Teachers Research 2, a collection of the best articles resulting from a range of SIG events;
- A collection of key papers from IATEFL International Conferences is planned for November 1997.
2138: These publications will go to all full individual members of IATEFL as an extra benefit of their membership, but are also on sale from IATEFL head office.
2141:
2142: IATEFL’s growing list of publications and videos of plenary talks at recent annual conferences can also be obtained from head office.
2144:
2145:
2146: IATEFL’S 32nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
2147:
2148: The 32nd IATEFL Conference will be held at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, one of the three universities in the Manchester area, from 14-18 April 1998, and will start with a stimulating pre-conference symposium run by the Special Interest Groups. The conference will offer wide ranging opportunities for professional contact and development. Plenary speakers will include Louis Alexander, Gwyneth Fox, Martin Bygate, Rod Ellis and Manny Vasques and there will be many international presenters giving workshops, colloquiums, panel discussions and poster sessions for over 1,300 participants to enjoy. The ELT Resources Exhibition showing the latest published materials, videos, computer software and services will be open to all delegates for the length of the conference. In addition the IATEFL Jobshop will provide a forum for job seekers and prospective employers.
2162:
2163:
2164: WORLD WIDE WEB
2165:
2166: Don't forget to look at IATEFL's World Wide Web page for the latest information about events, publications and the IATEFL Jobshop.
2168:
2169:
2170: SHOW CASE CENTRES
2171:
2172: The ELICOS Association has embarked upon an initiative to better facilitate visits to EA member centres by media representatives, government representatives, agents, TESOL professionals, and other interested persons.
2175:
2176: In order to establish and administer an effective and equitable mechanism to respond to requests to arrange visits to member centres, the EA is in the process of establishing a data-base of “Show Case Centres”. 42 member centres have registered an Expression of Interest as show case centres, agreeing to abide by National Guidelines for ELICOS Association Show Case Centres, and by providing information regarding the size of the centre, location, facilities, courses, special focus, etc.
2184:
2185: Copies of Expressions of Interest received have been forwarded to the appropriate EA state/territory delegates for inclusion on the state/territory show case centre data-base. Registered show case centres will be rotated in an unbiased manner to meet the requirements of visitors. If, for example, a visitor specifically requests to visit an ELICOS centre in a particular city which offers a specified course and which has certain facilities, the next show case centre on
the register which could accommodate that request will be selected for the visit and contacted by the relevant state/territory delegate.

ARELS WORKSHOP

The ELICOS Association was represented by EA Deputy Chairperson, Helen Zimmerman, at the ARELS Workshop, held in Brighton, England, 27-28 August 1997.

To date, the ARELS Workshop has only been open to UK education providers, accredited by ARELS. From 1998 onwards, ARELS plans to invite education providers from those countries which have achieved a comparable level of accreditation. In that context, the EA was invited to send a representative as an observer to the 1997 Workshop.

Attendance at the ARELS workshop is, and will continue to be, by invitation only. ARELS's mailing list of over 3,000 agencies has been built up over the years from a list which was originally provided by the British Tourist Authority (BTA). Each year ARELS requests BTA offices around the world to update the list. Agents seeking an invitation to the ARELS workshops are requested to complete a questionnaire to provide information about their organisation and its operations.

Education providers which participate in the ARELS workshops are provided with the agent mailing list once ARELS has received the institution's booking form and payments. During July each year participating institutions are provided with the names of agencies which have booked to participate in the workshop. On arrival at the workshop all participants - institutions, agents and others are given a copy of the workshop handbook with additional update pages for late participants.

ARELS plans to distribute booking forms for the 1998 workshop, which will be held 1-3 September, before the end of December 1997.
The collapse of a number of Asian currencies is likely to result in a loss of $100 million to Australian universities, according to a study carried out by IDP Education Australia.

An ABC TV news report on 10 November highlighted the potential detrimental effects of Asian currency collapses on Australia's international education industry, citing the results of the IDP Report, which predicts a decline of 10% in the number of international students in Australian universities.

On a more positive note for Australian international education providers, was information from the IDP Report which indicated that, though the price of Australian education has increased in terms of local Asian currencies, the price of education, in terms of the devalued currencies, in some alternative destinations, eg UK and USA, has increased by a larger amount. For example, for Indonesians, the price of Australian education increased by 40.7% in the period October 1996 to October 1997. In that same period however the price of education in the UK and in the USA, in Indonesian currency terms, increased by 56.2% and 52.9% respectively. In terms of the Thai currency, education in Australia increased by 31.8%, while the price of education in the UK and USA increased by 46.3% and 43.3% respectively. The price of education in Australia in local Malaysian currency increased, in that same twelve month period, by 19.1%, while the price of USA and UK education increased by 32.2% and 29.4% respectively. Thus, though the overall numbers of students travelling abroad for education from those countries may decrease significantly as a result of the currency crisis, whether the numbers undertaking study in Australia will decrease or increase is not entirely known.

Major Japanese outbound tourism operators have reported a decline of 30% in demand for package holidays, compared to last year, resulting in predictions of a "Christmas-New Year plunge" in Japanese tourist numbers in Australia.

According to an article in the Courier Mail last month, the three biggest tour operators in Japan have cited a number of factors contributing to the decline, including increases in consumption, depreciation of the yen and high package prices. They said, however, that the murder of Japanese tourist, Michiko Okuyama, in Cairns "had not affected bookings".

A spokesman for Nippon Travel indicated that a lack in repeat business to Australia was contributing to the decline of Australian-bound tourism. According to the spokesman, "Japanese tourists often complain about the quality of hotel accommodation and food. They also say there are no unique souvenirs".

Last month, the Australian Tourist Commission launched a campaign aimed at the flagging Japanese market.

Source: "Japanese Visitors to Plummet by a Third", Courier Mail, 18 October 1997, Brisbane.

GROWTH IN TOURISM

The number of international visitors to Australia during July 1997 was 397,358, a 10.9% increase on July 1996, according to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In the month of August 1997, the number was 330,432, only 0.4% more than in August 1996.

The July figures represent the best monthly growth rate recorded in the first half of 1997. The July 1997 arrivals from Japan were 6.4% higher than in July 1996, arrivals from Asia (excluding Japan) were 14.5% higher, from Europe 6.7% higher, from The Americans 12.2% higher and from New Zealand had increased by 16.6%. The highest national growth recorded in arrivals in July 1997, over July 1996, was from Indonesia, with an increase of 40.9%.

Arrivals from Japan in August 1997 were 0.8% less than in August 1996, from Asia (excluding Japan) 1.3% less and from New Zealand 8.0% less. Arrivals from Europe in August 1997 had increased by 8.6% over August 1996, and those from The Americans had increased by 10.7%.

The Year to Date (YTD) July 1997 arrivals from all countries, totalling 2,462,285, were 5.4% higher than YTD July 1996. YTD August 1997 arrivals represented a 4.8% increase over the same period last year.

The Federation of International Youth Travel Organisations (FIYTO) is proposing to create a subsidiary, the Association of Language Travel Organisations (ALTO). The main role of ALTO, according to the Language Travel Gazette, will be "to promote, on a global scale, high standards and excellence within language education and language travel, as well as creating a market-oriented forum for buying and selling".

The proposal was announced at the World Youth and Student Travel Conference (WYSTC), held in Paris earlier this year, and FIYTO plans to inaugurate the new subsidiary at WYSTC 1998.


**WELCOME**

The EA welcomes two new member centres - the English Language Centres at Monash University in Melbourne and at James Cook University in Townsville.

The Monash University English Language Centre and the English Language Centre James Cook University were accepted into membership at the Council meeting on 8-9 December, with membership effective from 1 January 1998.

**PEAV REUNION POSTPONED**

The PEAV Reunion, planned to have been held in Paris on 26 January 1998, has been postponed.

Plans are now underway to hold the reunion in English at around the time of the ARELS Workshop in early September 1998.

**NEAS REPORT**

In a report delivered to the Annual General Meeting of the National ELICOS Accreditation Scheme (NEAS) in October, Glenys Merrifield, the NEAS Co-ordinator, indicated that:

"The total number of accreditation applications dealt with in the year from October 1996 to September 1997 increased by eighteen over the previous year, with a total of fifty-three applications received. Provisional accreditation applications accounted for the majority of these, with thirty-three applications received. There were seven applications for full accreditation and thirteen branch accreditation applications."

Applications for provisional accreditation were received by the NEAS during the year from New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria, Western Australia and South Australia. A crucial development in the
diversification of the ELICOS industry was receipt of applications for provisional NEAS accreditation from four private secondary schools in Australia, with the establishment of accredited ELICOS centres within secondary schools being a relatively new characteristic of the industry. Applications for provisional accreditation were also received from the more traditional bases of the private sector (24), universities (2) and TAFE institutes (3).

During the year the NEAS also received notification of extensions/additions to premises from 45 accredited institutions and notification of changes of ownership from seven institutions. Six of the seven changes in ownership involved large overseas educational organisations with established marketing networks, "seeking to extend their scope by purchasing already accredited colleges in a range of locations in Australia. This move by such organisations to invest in the sector would appear to indicate that there is a degree of confidence in the market and in the reputation Australian language training has developed overseas".

Applications for the accreditation of new courses or changes to existing courses were received by the NEAS from seventy-four accredited institutions with the main areas of focus of the new courses being preparation for further studies, preparation for examinations and Business English.

In May 1997 the NEAS conducted its first DOS management training conference. Planning is underway for a 1998 DOS training conference.


The 11th Annual EA Education Conference will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre, 15-17 October 1997. The theme for the Conference will be Language the Key; Culture the Door.

Further information, including details of keynote speakers, registration costs, etc will be provided in EA Newsletters in the new year. Brochures and registration forms will be forwarded to EA member centres in due course.

According to Victoria's Minister for Education, Phil Honeywood, he has been told by senior Japanese officials that the Japanese government is willing to authorise partnerships between Australian and Japanese institutions but "it was up to the universities to make the arrangements".

Following his return from a two-week mission to Japan, Thailand and The Philippines, Mr Honeywood commented on the interest in Japan in linking up with Australian institutions and in "three-month courses for English language instruction - with coaching in golf and tennis or..."
The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) is planning to hold a 50th Anniversary Conference of the Adult Migrant English Program. The title of the Conference will be "Language Policy, Provision and Propagation in Diverse Societies: Global Aspects, Issues and Trends for the 21st Century". DIMA plans to hold the Conference in Melbourne in February-March 1999, though the location and dates are yet to be confirmed.

Three thematic streams are planned for inclusion in the Conference program:

1. Multicultural/Settlement;
2. Marketing/Productive Diversity;
3. Academic/Professional.

The Conference proposal indicates that the second theme, Marketing/Productive Diversity, will be closely related to the ELICOS industry, with thematic emphasis on "sharp end economic/export opportunities, international product exposure and take-up by overseas clients", with a major focus on "the promotion and marketing of Australia's English language programs and expertise to international students and institutions". This stream is planned to "provide a forum for the language industry to showcase its wares and expertise to an international audience (in particular, from the Asia-Pacific region)".

The third stream, Academic/Professional Stream, may also be of significance to the ELICOS sector, with this theme focusing on "academic and professional issues" and seeking to "advance the industry's thinking on the latest cutting edge developments with respect to: language planning, policy and provision, including adult and school-based ESL and linkages to broader language/literacy programs; professional development; testing and research; and new curriculum approaches, including innovative application of new methodologies and technologies".

The ELICOS Association has notified DIMA that we wish to nominate a representative to the conference planning committee, due to be formed early next year.

Student Visa Arrangements, Switzerland and Denmark

The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA), Bonn, has established arrangements for the issue of student visas in...
Switzerland and Denmark.

Australian Immigration and Trade Services, in Switzerland, and Scandinavian Australian NZ Friendship Association, in Denmark, have been nominated by DIMA as agencies for the processing of Australian student visas. Students may either arrange their student visas directly through DIMA Bonn or through the nominated agencies.

Students from third countries, who are in Switzerland or Denmark, are still required to process their student visa applications through DIMA Bonn.

EA member centres have been provided with contact details for the nominated agencies and with an outline of the procedures involved.

---BEGIN: Construction of Taiwan

ASIA STUDY TOURISM STRATEGY

The ELICOS Association and the AIEF have finalised a funding agreement for the Asia Study Tourism Strategy during the current financial year.

Thirty-one EA/AIEF member centres have joined the Strategy for 1997/98, each contributing $1500. The AIEF will contribute a further $46,500 towards the Strategy.

The Strategy during this financial year will be co-ordinated by the ASTS Steering Committee and the EA Secretariat. The Steering Committee is comprised of representatives from the EA, the AIEF, Austrade and the ATC.

The AIEF counsellors in Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand and Korea have each been requested to provide Target Country Action Plans for the year. The Plans, when received, will be considered by the Steering Committee.

Promotional materials, ie, 200 promotional folders, are currently being prepared. The folders will each contain a proforma page plus 4 pages, provided by participating member centres, regarding their study tour programs.

Participating member centres will be provided with ASTS progress reports as the Strategy proceeds.

---END: Construction of Taiwan

BACKPACKER NUMBERS TO INCREASE

The Australian government increased the limit on the number of working holiday visas to be granted to 55,000 in 1997/98. Prior to December 1995 there was no limit on the number of working holiday visas to be granted. In December 1995 the Australian government imposed a limit of 33,000. The limit was increased to 42,000 in March 1996 and to 50,000 for the 1996/97 financial year.
Australia has reciprocal working holiday agreements with Japan, South Korea, The Netherlands, the UK, Ireland, Canada and Malta.

Working Holiday visa applicants must, in most cases, be aged between 18 and 25. In special circumstances working holiday visas may be issued to nationals from the countries with which Australia has reciprocal agreements, aged between 26 and 30. Working Holiday visa applicants are required to demonstrate that holiday/travel is the main purpose for their visit to Australia and must have a return ticket or sufficient funds for a return fare.

Working Holiday visas may be granted to nationals from countries, other than the seven countries with which Australia has reciprocal arrangements, if there may be a benefit to both Australia and to the applicant.

Working Holiday visa holders may not undertake formal study in Australia but may undertake non-formal study, eg, ELICOS, for up to 12 weeks on each entry to Australia.


WARNING: APPLYING FOR POSITIONS ABROAD?

Be aware that some immigration laws do not allow women to sponsor husbands and children. This means, in effect, that men can take their families to these countries but women cannot.

An applicant can reach the point of a personal interview before being informed of this vital and often determining fact. So, do not assume anything and check a country's immigration policy before you start the often lengthy process of applying for a job overseas.

VICTORIAN GOVERNMENT TASKFORCE

The Victorian government announced last month the establishment of a taskforce to study the impact of the Asian currency crisis on the state and its education institutions.

Minister Phil Honeywood, the Victorian Minister for Tertiary Education, said that "the aim of the taskforce was to determine the effect of the currency crisis on international students already studying in Victoria, how the crisis might affect new enrolments, and what actions the government and the higher education sector could take to assist students in difficulty".

A taskforce is being chaired by Wendy Smith, a member of the Victorian government's Tertiary Education and Training Bills Committee, and includes Dr Ian Allen, Education Department Deputy Secretary; Professor Tony Adams, Dean of International Programs at RMIT University; Tony Pollock, International General Manager at Monash University; and Tan Beng Ti, Victorian Secretary of the National...
SINGAPORE DRIVES FOR FOREIGN STUDENTS

The government of Singapore has taken steps to encourage foreign students to undertake studies in Singapore. The Singaporean government has announced that, from next year, fees for international students at Singapore's universities will be only 10% higher than the fees paid by local students. This measure, according to an article in the Language Travel Gazette, is part of a government drive to "further the quality and reputation of higher education in the country".

The government of Singapore, which will be increasingly working with USA institutions, has estimated that 20% of undergraduates at Singapore's universities next year will be foreign students. They also plan to have their top scholars spend at least one term at a university abroad, "typically in the USA".


AIEF NEWS

ASIA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS

The economic downturns and currency devaluations in many of Australia's key markets will lead to an increase in the cost for many students from Asia studying abroad. However, despite current difficulties, prospects for the Australian education export industry remain positive.

The relative cost of studying in Australia is one of our key competitive advantages in attracting overseas students. Currency movements in a number of Asian economies may enhance this advantage. The Australian dollar has depreciated against our major competitors due to Australia's overall level of trade with the Asian region. This has made our education and training services more price competitive relative to the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.

While there is expected to be a slowdown in the rate of growth of overseas students coming to Australia, growth is forecast to continue. Growth overall in 1997 is expected to be 6% (or 8,000 additional students over the 1996 numbers). Education export earnings are expected to grow from $3 billion to $3.3 billion in 1997.

Overseas educational qualifications will continue to be strongly valued in Asian economies and in the longer term the demand for
The Swedish Parliament has rejected aspects of the 1998 Education Bill which were aimed at restricting the number of Swedish students studying abroad. The Swedish government will retain its existing allowance regime pending the outcomes of the establishment of a comprehensive new system for education assistance in the year 2000.

The impact of the proposals would have been to reduce by half the number of Swedish students studying overseas by reducing the maximum level of the additional study loan to meet overseas tuition fees and halving the time limit for government support for study abroad to 3 years. Australian International Education Foundation (AIEF) members were informed of these proposals in the Market Intelligence Report of 28 October 1997, Swedish Bill Proposes to Reduce Numbers Studying Abroad.

In place of these measures the Education Committee of the Swedish Parliament has resolved to consider the issue of foreign study assistance in the context of an existing parliamentary review of the entire National Study Assistance Scheme. The recommendations of this review are expected to form the basis of a new study assistance scheme covering both domestic and international study. It is expected that this scheme will be implemented from 1 January 2000.

In the interim, existing arrangements for assistance for overseas study will continue.

The AIEF is putting a submission to the National Student Aid Board (CSN) seeking to raise the profile within Sweden of the capabilities of Australian education and training providers. This is aimed at increasing the number of Swedish students coming to Australia in the short term and in positioning Australia's education and training industry in the context of the review by the Education Committee.

Articles provided by the Australian International Education Foundation, Department of Employment Education Training and Youth Affairs, Canberra.

IATEFL NEWS

IATEFL'S PRESIDENT DEFINES GOALS

Simon Greenall, previously known as Chair of IATEFL is now known as President, following a vote by Members to bring IATEFL in line with the nomenclature of other international associations. David Crystal, known previously as President, will now be referred to as Patron.
To support, increase and develop the Associate Membership Scheme so that IATEFL's spirit of international exchange and co-operation may reach more grassroots teachers around the world;

To steadily increase IATEFL's publications to represent the achievements of teachers in as wide a range of IATEFL's member countries as possible;

To develop improved www and other information services for teachers worldwide.

IATEFL'S 32ND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

IATEFL's 32nd International Conference will be held at University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, 14-18 April 1998, starting with a pre-conference Special Interest Group symposium, including An Introduction to CALL and Multimedia and the World Wide Web, Test Design for Classroom Tests and Time Management and Beyond.

The conference offers extensive opportunities for professional contact and development. Plenary speakers include Louis Alexander, Gwyneth Fox, Martin Bygate, Rod Ellis, Manny Vasquez and Svetlana Ter-Minasova and many other international presenters will give workshops, colloquiums, panel discussions and poster sessions for over 1300 participants. The latest published materials, videos, computer software and services will be available to delegates throughout the conference at the ELT Resources Exhibition. IATEFL's new publications list will be launched at the conference and the IATEFL Jobshop will provide a forum for job seekers and prospective employers.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Proposals for papers, and participation in the following events are welcomed.


2786: 14 April 1998 - Pre-Conference Events:

2788: Computer SIG. Theme: An introduction to CALL and Multimedia and the World Wide Web. Venue: Manchester University, UK;

2791: Testing SIG. Theme: Test design (classroom tests). Venue: UMIST, Manchester, UK;

2794: ELT Management SIG. Theme: Time Management and Beyond. Venue: UMIST, Manchester, UK;


2806: 21-23 May 1998 - IATEFL Testing/Young Learners/IATEFL Chile. Venue: Chile.