Global rankings

Asia-Pacific universities are growing in prominence globally though the US still takes eight out of the top 10 places in a just released league table. While the US has a total of 42 institutions in the top 100, the Asia-Pacific has 28 institutions in Times Higher Education's World Reputation Rankings, 10 more than last year. Harvard University leads the table for the seventh consecutive year.

Rising Chinese institutions have overtaken several European institutions. Phil Baty, Times Higher Education rankings editor, said, "A striking feature of this year's table is the continued rise of Asia, in particular China, whose universities are overtaking distinguished Western institutions including Imperial College London, the University of Pennsylvania and Cornell University. Meanwhile, universities in North America and Europe are losing ground. The ranking reflects an increasingly competitive higher education landscape, in which institutions across the world are jostling to make a name for themselves on the global stage."

The list has been compiled from research insight from global academics.

Hands-on lessons

Provide students more opportunities to put theory into practice, says SITAL KALANTRY, clinical professor of law, International Human Rights Clinic, Cornell Law School, US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Sital Kalantry

Your clinic students have conducted international field research in countries including India. Could you tell us about the work they are doing?

The Cornell International Human Rights Policy Advocacy Clinic has been collaborating with a Transnational Human Rights Seminar class at the National Law University in Delhi (NLU-Delhi) through videoconference during the past semester. Professors Aparna Chandra and Mrinal Satish from NLU-Delhi have been teaching in a global classroom with me.

The focus of the semester was to examine surrogacy from a transnational and comparative legal perspective. Since the end of January, 20 students have engaged in class discussions through videoconferencing. Cornell law students are visiting Delhi to carry out fieldwork along with their fellow students at the NLU-Delhi. To put theory into practice, students have interviewed surrogate-mothers, fertility doctors, feminist scholars, non-profit organisations, government officials, and other stakeholders. Supervised by their professors, they will produce a report that brings together their desk research and fieldwork with the goal of providing relevant information to parliament when it deliberates on the surrogacy bill of 2016. In addition, a team of students in the joint class also interviewed stakeholders in the US involved in compensated surrogacy. They will produce a legislative policy report related to a Child-Parent Security bill that the New York State Senate may vote on shortly.

What were your key observations after your recent visit to Delhi?

The US is one of the places in the world with the largest surrogacy industries, particularly in California. However, several states in the US still refuse to enforce surrogacy contracts. While India is considering banning compensated surrogacy, women's rights, gay rights, medical professionals, and other advocates in New York are pushing to legalise compensated surrogacy. It is a rewarding experience for students to learn how to develop solutions to real-world policy problems using extensive secondary research and primary field data. Legal clinics are aimed at developing lawyering skills such as interviewing, legal research, and legal writing.

Clinical legal education is an interactive, hands-on pedagogy that promotes learning by doing. Students gain real-world experience as lawyers typically representing a client in a case or other matter. While many Indian law schools have legal aid cells, there should be more intensive supervision from professors. Law schools around the world, including those in India, should provide even more opportunities for students to put theory into practice.

Tell us about your school's association with Bennett University.

We are happy to be an academic partner of Bennett University. As part of the partnership, faculty members from Cornell Law School will be teaching short courses at Bennett and faculty from Bennett's law programme will be visiting Cornell Law School in Ithaca, New York.

TEST CHANGED

The Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) has announced the upcoming launch of a feature that will allow candidates to customise their GMAT experience by choosing the section order in which they feel most comfortable taking the test. Select Section Order will be available to test takers worldwide beginning July 11, 2017. "The idea of being allowed to choose the section order had been commonly requested by test takers," said Ashok Sarathy, vice president, product management, GMAC. "We conducted a pilot in 2016 to test this feature and received overwhelmingly positive feedback."

AEROSPACE DEGREE

The University of Southampton, UK, is inviting applications for the MEng Aerospace Electronic Engineering programme, a new programme set to begin in September 2017. It is an expansion of the BEng Aerospace Electronic Engineering, aimed at propagating the uses of electronics in aircraft.

FUNDFACT

> For more information on scholarships, visit *www.educationtimes.com*

UNDERGRADUATE AWARD

Applications are invited for the Big History International Undergraduate Scholarship offered by Macquarie University, Australia. The scholarship is available to all international students who apply for any undergraduate course at the university and have verified completion of the Big History: Connecting Knowledge MOOC offered on the Coursera platform. The scholarships will cover all tuition fees up to A$50,000 per year for an undergraduate degree of three to four years' duration, depending on the study programme. This represents a value of Rs 25 lakh per year

- **ELIGIBILITY:** The applicant must have finished the six-week MOOC. Details are at *www.mq.edu.au/intl/bighistory*
- **FORM:** The application form is available on the website
- **DEADLINE:** June 30, 2017

INNOVATIVE

Switzerland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the US and the UK are the world's most-innovative countries, while a group of nations including India, Kenya, and Vietnam are outperforming their development-level peers, as per the Global Innovation Index 2017 co-authored by Cornell University, INSEAD and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). Key findings show the rise of India as an emerging innovation center in Asia, high innovation performance in Sub-Saharan Africa relative to development and an opportunity to improve innovation capacity in Latin America and the Caribbean. "Innovation is the engine of economic growth in an increasingly knowledge-based global economy," said Francis Gurry, director general, WIPO.

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