

**PRESS RELEASE : 12TH JULY 2007**

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**What does Europe's Bologna Process mean for Asia's  
students and professors?**

**European University Association expert addresses the  
3rd QS Apple Conference in Hong Kong (12th July 2007)**

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*Launched in 1999 by 29 European countries, the Bologna Process of higher education reforms aims to increase transparency between national higher education systems in Europe so as to enhance mobility of students and staff and improve the competitiveness of European universities. By the time the process reaches the completion date of 2010, it will involve more than 4,000 higher education institutions and 12 million students spanning 46 countries, which stretch well beyond the boundaries of the European Union. But what does all this mean for universities and students in China and Asia at large? This is the question that European University Association expert, Michael Gaebel, will be answering when he speaks at the QS Apple "Asia Pacific Professional Leaders in education" conference in Hong Kong, on Thursday 12th July.*

"We are seeing increasing interest in Bologna, from countries outside of Europe. The mutual recognition of degrees and the wide ranging reforms, which are on a scale that has never seen before, is opening up opportunities both in terms of study and employment for staff and students from Asia", he explains.

Higher education reforms in Europe are no longer a matter of interest only to Europeans but also have an impact on the global higher education arena. The Bologna Process has created a situation where countries outside of Europe are now looking at their own university structures. There is increasing evidence in the US, Australia, Latin America and parts of Africa, but also in Asia that educators are looking more closely at the reforms in Europe

and particularly the mechanisms in place to increase the quality of higher education.

Each of these countries/continents is looking at the Bologna Process from a slightly different standpoint. In China for example, where the student body is expected to rise to 25 million, there is great interest in the Bologna process as an example of a reform process which has implicated a diverse and large geographical area.

For more background information on the Bologna process, please consult this document:  
[http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user\\_upload/files/Publications/Europe s new higher education landscape.pdf](http://www.eua.be/fileadmin/user_upload/files/Publications/Europe_s_new_higher_education_landscape.pdf)

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The European University Association, as the representative organisation of both the European universities and the national rectors' conferences, is the main voice of the higher education community in Europe. EUA's mission is to promote the development of a coherent system of European higher education and research.

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