
DLO DAILY MEDIA UPDATE

CURRENT NEWS 18 AUGUST 2011

Asian languages on the decline in Australian schools

(ABC Radio Australia)

Australia's trade with Asia may be on the rise, but it has not been matched by an improvement in language skills. In fact, Asian language studies have atrophied in Australian schools over the past decade. Only six percent of Australian high school students now learn an Asian language. A new curriculum will be announced later this year, but business leaders are warning that without drastic changes, Australia's competitiveness in Asia will be at risk.

Young Emiratis back globalism but fear for identity

(The National) ... Afshan Ahmed

Young Emiratis welcome the idea of globalisation but are wary of the effect it may have on their culture, a report released by the Emirates Foundation says. The report is the result of a study carried out by Dr Raad Al Shawi, a professor at UAE University, among 500 Emirati youth. "The findings show that the positive attitude to globalisation does not prevent citizens from clinging to their identity," said Dr Al Shawi. Dr Al Shawi said his study revealed a sense of pride among young people towards the country's heritage, family cohesion and Arabic values and customs. But he suggested there should be initiatives to reinforce the Arabic language and culture in a global setting. Dr Al Shawi recommended the promotion of tolerance while keeping the Arabic and Islamic culture and history.

W&L to Host Three Virginia Governor's Language Academies for Five Years

(Washington and Lee University News)

Following the success of this summer's Virginia Governor's French Academy at Washington and Lee University, Dick Kuettner, coordinator of the program, has announced that W&L has been selected to host three such "full-immersion" language academies in French, German and Spanish simultaneously for the next five years. "We are all very excited at the prospect of having the very best foreign language students in the state of Virginia on our campus for the next five summers," said Dean of the College Hank Dobin. "And we're very grateful to Dick Kuettner for all of his work to bring the Governor's Academies to W&L."

Should My Kid Learn Mandarin Chinese?

(Wall Street Journal) ... Tom Scocca

started to truly appreciate the power of early childhood Chinese-language education when our son, at the age of two, started speaking English wrong. "The blue of cup," he would say, meaning his blue cup. This wasn't a random preschool linguistic hiccup, we realized. He was trying to use Chinese syntax: "of" was standing in for the Mandarin particle "de" to turn the noun "blue" into an adjective. And his odd habit of indicating things by saying "this one" or "that one"—he was rendering the Chinese "zhege" and "neige" in English. That is, he was speaking Chinglish. Fun, right? If building an optimized little academic and economic performer were all there is to it, we'd have pulled him out of bilingual preschool long ago. Luckily, the reality of having a little Chinese learner underfoot is messier and more entertaining than that.

Transfire Automatically Translates Chats In 50 Languages on Your iPhone

(Gotta Be Mobile) ... Josh Smith

If you've ever wished for the ability to chat without a language barrier in the way, Transfire app for the iPhone is a must download app. This app acts like a [Babel fish](#) for your iPhone, automatically translating your chat sessions into 50 languages in real-time. The [Transfire app](#) is a free download and connects to Google Chat, allowing you to communicate in real-time with friends, family and co-workers who speak another language.

PREVIOUS NEWS

[A Conversation with Secretaries Hillary Clinton and Leon Panetta](#)

(US Department of State – Press Release)

QUESTION: Like many of my peers here, I've spent about five years out of the last ten in the Middle East and Afghanistan. One of the things that concerns me, as we see the budget tsunami approaching, is problems with the teaching of foreign language and culture. It's an incapacity we've had in the Force that persists now. How will we deal with that as we lose the hundreds of millions of dollars to throw at contracting solutions? Have we looked at ways that maybe State and Department of Defense can synergize efforts to teach? Have we looked at working with academia? Is that sort of restructuring and reengineering how we approach these missions that are budget sensitive going on?

SECRETARY PANETTA: I certainly think we've got to look at creative ways to be able to deal with it. I'm a believer in foreign language training. I think, unfortunately, this country hasn't devoted enough resources really to foreign language training. We've looked at the three Rs – reading, writing, and arithmetic – but we haven't looked at reality of the world that we deal with. And in order for – I mean, when I was CIA director, I did not think you could be a good intelligence analyst or operations guy without knowing languages. And I believe that for the Defense Department and I think for the State Department, there's a recognition that you need to have language in order to be able to relate to the world that we live in. So my goal would be, as we go through the budget, as we develop the restraints that we have to develop, that we are creative and not undermine the kind of teaching and language training that I think is essential to our ability not only to protect our security, but frankly to be a nation that is well educated.

[In Afghanistan's Garmser district, praise for a U.S. official's tireless work](#)

*(Washington Post)...*Rajiv Chandrasekaran

Since September 2009, this district along the Helmand River has seen five different Marine battalion commanders, two governors and two police chiefs. The only constant was a compact American whom everyone here calls Carter Sahib. The adoration stems from his unflinching politeness (he greeted people in the traditional Pashtun way, holding their hands for several minutes as a series of welcomes and praises to God were delivered), his willingness to take risks (he often traveled around in a police pickup instead of in an American armored vehicle with a squad of Marines), and his command of Pashto, the language of southern Afghanistan (he conversed fluently, engaging in rapid-fire exchanges with gray-bearded elders).

[Navies seek "pirate cultural adviser"](#)

*(The Telegraph)...*Colin Freeman

It must rank as one of the most unusual recruitment adverts ever placed, even by the standards of the European Union: the search is on for a "pirate cultural adviser" to help naval commanders understand the foes they face along the coast of Africa. The right candidate - who must have knowledge of the "business model and modus operandi" of pirates in the Indian Ocean - will be asked to teach officers of the [EU navies protecting shipping in one of the world's busiest waterways](#) how best to tackle the growing threat.

[More Students Learning Spanish at Younger Age](#)

*(San Antonio Express-News)...*Erin Eggers

The children who attend the Spanish immersion preschool are some of the youngest of a growing number of children in San Antonio studying Spanish language and Hispanic culture from an early age, often in near total immersion, rather than waiting until high school to learn. "Being bilingual is valued today by society, but it's also that children learn Spanish so quickly. They do it without realizing they're doing it. It's very natural for them," says [Susan Carvajal](#), the director of the Pineapple School.

[PBS Brings Little Pim to iPad with Spanish Educational App](#)

(Enhanced Online News- Press Release)

[PBS](#) today announced [its newest educational app for iPad, LITTLE PIM SPANISH](#), is now available on the App Store. Adding to its successful [PBS KIDS](#) mobile app lineup, the new curriculum-based app helps

children acquire Spanish language vocabulary while playing games with Little Pim, an animated panda bear who is the star of the direct-to-DVD LITTLE PIM language series.

Opinion: Why is Bilingualism Seen as UnAmerican?

(Fox News Latino)...Roxana Soto

"...I've never really understood America's monolingual preference." Journalist and co-founder of SpanglishBaby.com Roxana Soto is perplexed by the reactions to an article she posted about dual language immersion education for her own daughter.

Encouraging study in critical languages

(Bureau of Labor Statistics)

The Department of Labor in its Summer Occupational Outlook provides a summary of available federal programs that gives opportunities for high school and college students to learn strategic languages.

Cultural Conundrums/Cross-cultural boundaries of information

(The Daily Yomiuri)...Kate Elwood

Kate Elwood is non-Japanese and living in Japan. She shares her experiences of how cultural differences appear in the spoken language. In an individualized Western culture people tend to use the first person more often while in Japan people tend to use second and third person. Read about the perceived differences.

Welcome to the family

(The Irish Times)...Sheila Wayman

Ever thought of being a host family for students wanting to learn English? Here's our some stories and thoughts from some Irish families who have taken students into their home. Eating preferences, personal space, curfews, and other family rules can be cross-cultural challenges.

Official Reports Security Progress in Afghanistan

(American Forces Press Service)...Donna Miles

Our goal is to deny safe havens to al-Qaida and to deny insurgents the ability to overthrow the Afghan government," Michael D. Lumpkin, acting assistant secretary of defense for special operations and low-intensity conflict, said yesterday at the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program first-anniversary conference. "Although progress in Afghanistan is substantial and our strategy is on track, significant challenges remain," Lumpkin said. U.S., Afghan and coalition forces have dislodged insurgents from key strongholds in the south and improved security through much of the northern, western and capital regions, he said. But eastern Afghanistan remains problematic, he acknowledged. There, the physical terrain, culture, geography and presence of safe havens in Pakistan all present "a complex set of challenges" he said are distinct from those in other parts of Afghanistan.

2-38 Cav. creates new FET, links GIRoA to Afghan women

(dvids)...Senior Airman Jessica Lockoski

"Afghan women comprise about 50 percent of the country's population," she added. "That's a large portion of people who could bear great influence among society. Sometimes in Pashto culture, the elder female may have a lot influence behind closed doors in her village."

Peace Institute honors Afghan defense advisers program

(UPI.com)...Rema Rahman

The U.S. Institute of Peace had a celebration Thursday to honor 17 U.S. civilians who spent one year in Afghanistan as part of the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program, helping train forces to ease the transition of power. "The basic purpose ... is to move the Afghans steadily toward self-reliance," said David Clifton, who was part of the first group to deploy last May. It's important to realize that "civilians will have a very key role in making this happen." Clifton, who was chief adviser for development to the Afghan Ministry of the Interior, stressed the importance of acknowledging cultural differences when agreeing on how things should be done.