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Japan, China and Australia shine in Nature Asia-Pacific Publishing Index

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Japan, China, and Australia are the top ranking nations in the Nature Asia-Pacific Publishing Index, a website which measures the annual output of research articles in Nature-branded journals from countries and institutions in the Asia-Pacific region. The online service from NPG Nature Asia-Pacific, the Asia-Pacific wing of Nature Publishing Group (NPG), launches today at **www.natureasia.com/en/publishing-index/**

The Publishing Index tracks research published from the Asia-Pacific region during the past 12 months in NPG's portfolio of over 30 highly cited Nature-branded journals, and will be updated weekly by downloading a 12-month window of data from nature.com, the online platform for Nature journals.

To celebrate the launch of this new service, a special print supplement *Nature Asia-Pacific Publishing Ranking 2009* is included with this week's print copy of *Nature* based on data drawn from the website for the period January to December 2009.

The Nature Asia-Pacific Publishing Index website enables users to analyze data by **institution**, country or **Nature journal**, and access **historical** data and **graphs** dating back to 1998.

In 2009, 232 original articles from Japanese institutions were published in *Nature* and the Nature Research journals. 93 articles came from Chinese institutions, and 98 from Australian institutions. When corrected for the percentage of authors on the papers from a given country, Japan ranks first, China second, Australia third. Korea and Singapore also performed strongly with India beginning to emerge as a significant player.

The data demonstrates the recent strong growth in output of high quality scientific research from China and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region. In 1998, China published just three articles in Nature and the Nature Research journals and, while the number of *Nature*-branded primary research journals has since doubled, the number of articles from China has increased 30 fold

At an institutional level, six of the top ten institutions in the 2009 rankings are in Japan. The University of Tokyo leads the table with 68 articles, followed by Kyoto University, Osaka University, RIKEN and the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The Index only covers *Nature* and the Nature research journals, so while it offers broad coverage of basic research in the life sciences, physical and chemical sciences, coverage of applied sciences, engineering and clinical medicine is relatively limited, and so the index should be used primarily as an indicator of strength in high quality basic research.

"We are delighted to be launching the index which is updated weekly alongside the print supplement that summarizes results for 2009" says David Swinbanks, NPG Publishing Director for the Asia-Pacific region.

"With the index users can drill down to find the abstracts of papers on which the index rankings are based and the weekly updating provides a means to keep track of where and in what fields and from which institutions and individual researchers some of the hottest basic research in the region is emerging."

"The index is fully transparent and institutions, countries and individual researchers are free to use the data on the website for their own analysis and interpretations provided they acknowledge and link to the source."

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About Nature Publishing Group (NPG)

Nature Publishing Group (NPG) is a publisher of high impact scientific and medical information in print and online. NPG publishes journals, online databases and services across the life, physical, chemical and applied sciences and clinical medicine.

NPG Nature Asia-Pacific is the Asia-Pacific wing of NPG, set up to serve the growing needs of the scientific and medical communities in the region, and has offices in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul, Delhi and Melbourne. For more information, please visit **www.natureasia.com**.

Focusing on the needs of scientists, ***Nature*** (founded in 1869) is the leading weekly, international scientific journal. In addition, for this audience, NPG publishes a range of *Nature* research journals and *Nature Reviews* journals, plus a range of prestigious academic journals including society-owned publications. Online, nature.com provides over 5 million visitors per month with access to NPG publications and online databases and services, including *Nature News* and *Nature Jobs* plus access to *Nature Network* and Nature Education's **Scitable.com.**

Scientific American is at the heart of NPG's newly-formed consumer media division, meeting the needs of the general public. Founded in 1845, ***Scientific American*** is the oldest continuously published magazine in the US and the leading authoritative publication for science in the general media. Together with scientificamerican.com and 16 local language editions around the

world it reaches over 3 million consumers and scientists. Other titles include *Scientific American Mind* and *Spektrum der Wissenschaft* in Germany.

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