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Message from *Nature* Editor-in-Chief Philip Campbell on the Nature Publishing Index

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This week sees the publication, in a supplement to *Nature*, of the 2010 rankings of research institutions and countries in the Asia-Pacific region based on the Nature Publishing Index, a measure of the output of research articles in Nature journals.

The rankings in this supplement provide snapshots of the Asia-Pacific in 2010 and 2009. To see the latest results for the region, please visit the index website at **www.natureasia.com/en/publishing-index/**, which is updated every week with a moving window of 12 months of data.

Simultaneously with the launch of the Asia-Pacific rankings we are releasing a new global version of the index as a beta website — the Nature Publishing Index Global Top 50 (**www.natureasia.com/en/publishing-index/global/**), produced in collaboration with Digital Science, a new division of Macmillan Publishers Ltd, owner of *Nature*. The global index ranks the top 50 institutions in the world according to the same criteria, thus enabling the Asia-Pacific rankings to be put in a global context. We shall be developing the global index further. Please visit the site and provide us with your feedback, which should be sent to index-feedback@natureasia.com.

Any index has its limitations and needs to be deployed with care. The compilation of the data as well as important caveats are explained in the websites and in the supplement, which was completed before the recent terrible events that afflicted Japan. The Nature Publishing Index is just one to be used alongside many. What the indices offer is a unique insight into some of the highest-quality basic research emerging from the leading institutions in the Asia-Pacific region and around the globe.

Philip Campbell
Editor-in-Chief, *Nature*

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