

A SUPPLEMENT TO NATURE

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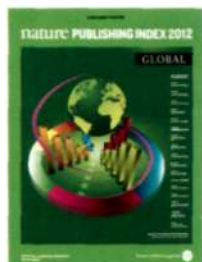
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Based on the Nature Publishing Index
nature.asia/publishing-index-global

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Cover art: Takeshi Murakami

Editorial

Herb Brody,
Michelle Grayson,
Tony Scully,
Rebecca Dargie

Editorial Support

Eric Bender, Andrew
Bossone, Roger
East, Ichiko Fuyuno,
Reinaldo Lopes,
Nobuko Miyairi,
Linda Nordling,
Richard Van Noorden

Art & Design

Alisdair Macdonald,
Takeshi Murakami

Web & Data

Bob Edenbach, Olivier
Lechevalier, Naomi
Nakahara, Yuxin Wang

Production

Susan Gray

Marketing

Kate Clubbs,
Hannah Phipps,
Elena Woodstock

Sales

Nils Moeller, Matthew
Ward, Kate Yoneyama,
Yuki Fujiwara, Gloria To

Project Manager

Christian Manco

Publishing

Nick Campbell,
Richard Hughes,
David Swinbanks

We are delighted to present the first global overview of high quality research output from the world's many countries and institutions based on the Nature Publishing Index (NPI), which tracks the number and affiliations of primary research articles published in 18 Nature-branded journals.

Created in 2009 to focus on the Asia-Pacific region, the NPI now covers the entire world. Using the Index, we are able to track output by institution and country. The NPI is a unique resource that spans all types of research institutions — not only universities but government research institutes and private sector companies.

What are the most noteworthy messages from this supplement? Unsurprisingly, the United States dominates the rankings, being home to five of the top ten research institutions in the NPI. What is more striking is the rapid rise of China, which has nine institutions in The Top 200 — up from just three a year earlier. China is now clipping the heels of France in the country rankings. The Chinese Academy of Sciences has, as of January 2013, surpassed the University of Tokyo as the top institution in the Asia-Pacific. Despite its dire economic circumstances, Ireland is emerging as a rising star — jumping from 30th to 20th in the NPI between 2008 and 2012. Similarly, Brazil has moved up seven places to 27th. Saudi Arabia and Kenya also stand out as newly emerging players in the Index.

Our interpretations and presentations of the NPI data are not definitive. Users are free to access the NPI online, read the abstracts of the papers on which it is based, and derive their own interpretations of the data (provided they acknowledge the NPI as the source). To that end, we strive to make the Index and the methodology behind it as transparent as possible: the underlying data for the past year can be viewed on the NPI website at nature.asia/publishing-index-global. We hope the analysis presented here will stimulate further use of the NPI by institutions and individuals, and we welcome your feedback.

David Swinbanks

Managing Director, Regional Markets and Science & Medical Communications, Nature Publishing Group. Managing Director, Australia and New Zealand, Macmillan Science and Education

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Macmillan Science Communication
Nature Editorial Offices
The Macmillan Building
4 Crinan Street,
London N1 9XW, UK
Tel: +44 (0)20 7833 4000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7843 4596/7

Федеральное государственное
бюджетное учреждение науки
«Российская академия наук»
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