

Australia Substantially Increases Research Collaboration with China, According to Thomson Reuters Study

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New Zealand researchers double collaboration with Spain and Norway

PHILADELPHIA and LONDON, March 9, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- A study from Thomson Reuters released today shows broadening international collaboration in the research of Australia and, to a lesser degree, New Zealand, over the past 10 years. The United States continues to be the biggest contributor to Australian and New Zealand publications, but of special interest is a sizable increase of Australia's collaboration with China.

The study, *Global Research Report: Australia and New Zealand*, found that collaboration within the Asia Pacific region is notably changing. Though collaboration with Australia among some Asia Pacific nations (such as New Zealand, India, and Singapore) increased, and collaboration with China doubled (rising from 2.3 percent to 4.4 percent of all Australian outputs), collaboration with Japan remained unchanged. Likewise, Japan's rank as a contributor of co-authored papers with New Zealand fell from sixth to eighth.

"Researchers in Australia and New Zealand have been increasing their share of publications co-authored with international colleagues," said Jonathan Adams, director of research evaluation at Thomson Reuters. "We've seen a shift in geographic focus of these collaborations. While such countries as Russia and South Africa decrease in importance, there are increases in collaboration with Spain and Switzerland, and more importantly, with China and India."

Other key findings include:

- Australia's share of world research publication output has grown steadily from 2.85 percent in 1999 to 3.18 percent in 2008.
- In the same period, the volume of Australian publications has risen annually by an average of 5 percent -- a growth rate higher than that of world publication averages.
- Computer science, materials science, environment/ecology, and clinical medicine are subject areas where Australia has increased its outputs, consistent with its national research priorities.
- Subject areas that have grown in the volume of outputs in New Zealand are computer sciences, biology and biochemistry, immunology, and neurosciences and behavior, consistent with the country's government research, science and technology agenda.

The study is part of the Global Research Report series from Thomson Reuters that illustrates the changing landscape and dynamics of scientific research around the world and draws on data found in *Web of Science(SM)*, available on the Thomson Reuters *Web of Knowledge(SM)*, platform -- the world's largest citation environment of the highest quality scholarly literature.

For more information, please visit <http://researchanalytics.thomsonreuters.com/grr/>.

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