

# The "Asian" Future of Open Access

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## RECAP: Progresses in Japan(reported at GRC RM, Nov 18, 2013

1. JST ' s open access policy for publications from funded research
2. MEXT ' s mandate for open access to PhD theses online
3. Growth of “grassroot” open access institutional repositories
4. Open access to local language(= Japanese) scholarly publications by way of free open access platforms(CiNii)
5. Support for open access journal publishing by JSPS
6. Japanese scientists ' articles published in open access journals, like PLOS ONE, Scientific Reports *etc.*
7. Contributions to international collaboration, including arXiv, SCOAP3, COAR, SPARC *etc.*

## Granted that

- ▶ open access to research results is good and necessary because research results as knowledge is useful as long as it is accessible by as many people as possible, that
- ▶ open access, either green or gold, or whatever else, is no longer an ideal to pursue but one of the economically feasible ways of making research results accessible, along with subscription to scholarly journals,
  - ▶ as evidenced by non-profit publishing enterprises like PLOS ONE and SCOAP3 as well as for-profits like BioMed Central, Scientific Reports and others
  - ▶ and by open access repositories, preprint archives and free-to-use platforms, and that
- ▶ Open access has confirmably no bearing on journal prices so far

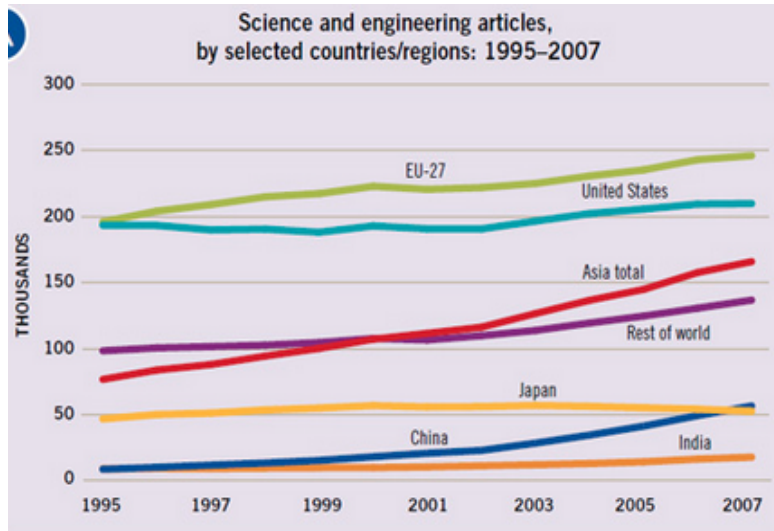
# Topics

- ▶ Asia is growing
- ▶ Spending more on research means publishing more
- ▶ Mainly, advanced countries have paid for subscriptions
- ▶ *I.e.*, Asian countries have not paid enough
- ▶ Given their need for industrial growth, higher education, Asian libraries will not be given much more in future to pay for subscriptions
- ▶ Who, then should, will, and could pay for publication of scientific research from Asia
- ▶ Open access, in whatever type of implementation, seems the only answer

## Growth in spending on research

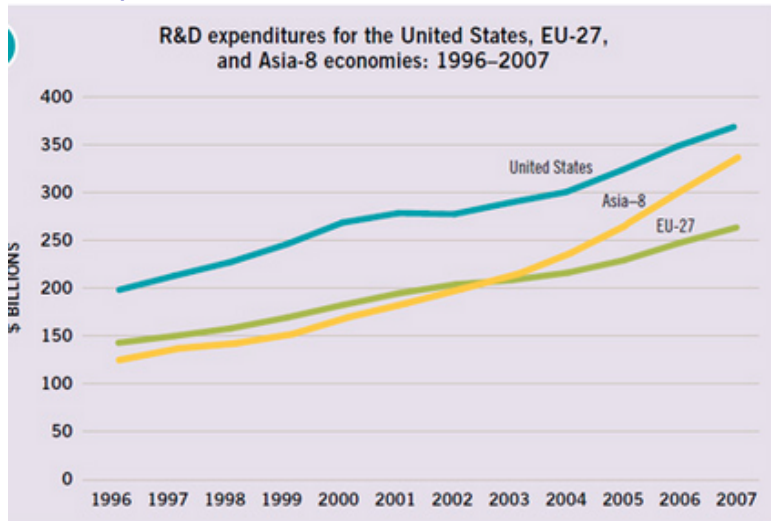
- ▶ Asia-8 ' s R&D expenditure is second only to the US, surpassing the EU-27
  - ▶ One-third of all scientific researchers worldwide are Asian
  - ▶ One-quarter of the world ' s publications are from Asia
  - ▶ China ' s scientific publishing output may overtake the US in 2013  
(AsianScientist, Apr. 3, 2011)
- ▶ The total science spend of China, India, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, and Vietnam rose steadily between 1999 and 2009 to reach **32 per cent of the global share of spending on science**, compared with 31 per cent in the US. (SciDev.net, Jan 19, 2012)

## Growth in publication



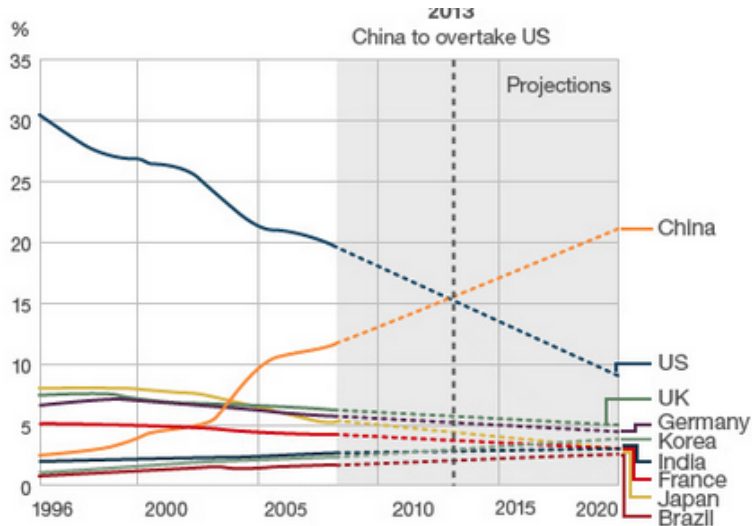
(NSF SEI 2010)

## Growth in expenditure



Asia-8 = China, India, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand  
(NSF SEI 2010)

## Projected growth in expenditure



Royal Society, *Knowledge, Networks and Nations: Global scientific collaboration in the 21st century*



## Case of ACS

	N. Am	S. Am	Europe	Mid E	Asia
Submissions	27.4%	1.9%	35.3%	3%	42.3%
Publications	37.9%	1.4%	29.9%	1.9%	28.9%
Downloads	29.1%	2.3%	22.8%	10.9%	34.8%

Growth in Papers published 77%  
Growth in Pages published 90%  
Growth in Total citations 154%  
Growth in Articles downloaded 699%  
(10 years to 2011)

# ASEAN Higher Education

- ▶ Countries: The Phillipines, Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Cambosia, Thailand, Myanmar to unite(?) as AEC in 2015
- ▶ 600 millon people
- ▶ 6,500 higher education institutions
- ▶ 12 million post-secondary students  $\Rightarrow$  “Common Space of Higher Education”
- ▶ Gross tertiary enrolment rates  $< 50\%$  , though
- ▶ “Except for Singapore, Malaysia and indonesia, innovation is likewise weak for the rest”

# Scholarly publishing in Asia

- ▶ In China, Japan and Korea, scholarly publishing is a language-constrained two-tier industry
  - ▶ Local industry for local circulation of locally produced scholarly results in the local language
  - ▶ “Import business” for “foreign, advanced knowledge” originating in the nineteenth century
- ▶ The local business is in crisis; at least in Japan publishing at large is shrinking from the total sales of 2.7T JPY in 1996 to 1.7T in 2013
- ▶ “Import” business has almost died. “Foreign publishers” sell direct, but libraries have no more money
- ▶ Newly launching titles are destined to be “open access,” or at least “author-pay”
- ▶ World Scientific, Singapore is the only exception

# So scholars have to take care of themselves

- ▶ Asian growth is undeniable, not only China and India but ASEAN countries and many more
- ▶ Spending more on research means publishing more
- ▶ Asian academic libraries will not be able to pay for subscriptions, with exceptions of Hong Kong and Singapore, nor will any other libraries in the rest of the world
- ▶ Scholars and funders will have to pay for the cost of publishing the results of scientific research from Asia
- ▶ That will be the Asian way of “forced” open access
- ▶ Yes, let them do it themselves. No libraries are needed

## A few practical measures we, not me, could take to maximize accessIBILITY to Asian scholarly results

1. Have researchers submit to open access journals, though researchers decide for themselves, but note that submitting to “Western” open access journals is a new form of “import,” paying for service, which we are good at
2. Widen the eligibility for JST’s J-Stage, which supports over 1,400 titles with 2.3 M articles, to accommodate open access journals from Asian countries
3. Redefine open access repositories as open access publishing platforms, but they might fail, though anything could fail
4. Dissociate IR from OA