

Highlights

UNESCO SCIENCE REPORT *Towards 2030*

UNESCO

Published in 2015 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
7, place de Fontenoy, 75352 Paris 07 SP, France

Link: <http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/unesco-science-report-towards-2030-part1.pdf>

© UNESCO, 2015

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly took a historic and visionary step with the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. For the first time at this level, the role of science, technology and innovation has been explicitly recognized as a vital driver of sustainability. For two decades now, the UNESCO Science Report series has been mapping science, technology and innovation (STI) around the world on a regular basis.

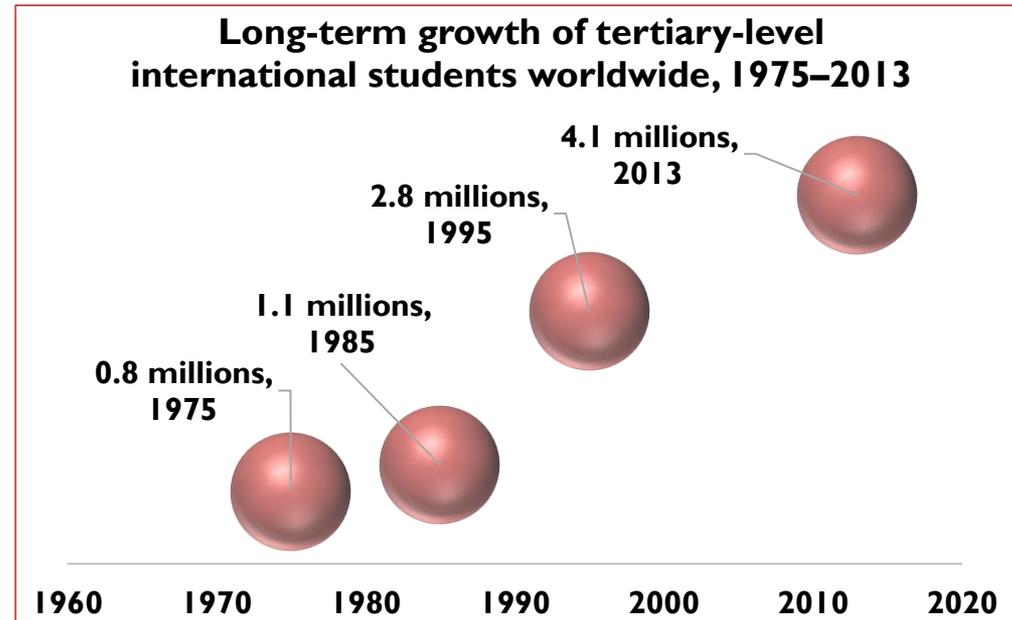
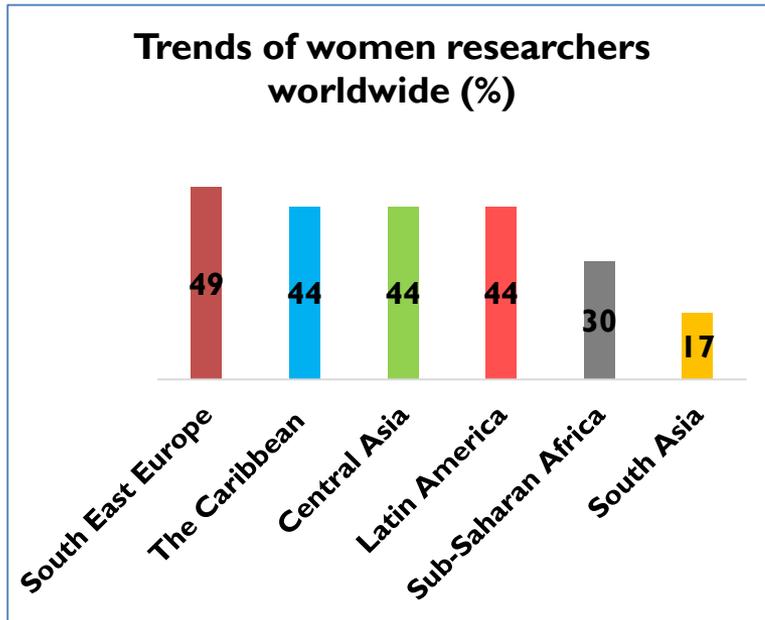
Key influences on STI policy and governance:

- **Geopolitical events have reshaped science in many regions.**
- **Environmental crises raising expectations of science.**
- **Energy has become a major preoccupation**
- **The quest for a growth strategy that works.**

Global trends in R&D expenditure:

- **In 2013, world Gross Domestic Expenditure on Research and Development (GERD) amounted to PPP\$ 1 478 billion, compared to only PPP\$ 1 132 billion in 2007.**
- **Among the BRICS countries, India, business R&D has progressed faster than government commitment to R&D.**
- **In India, universities perform just 4% of GERD.**

Global trends in human capital

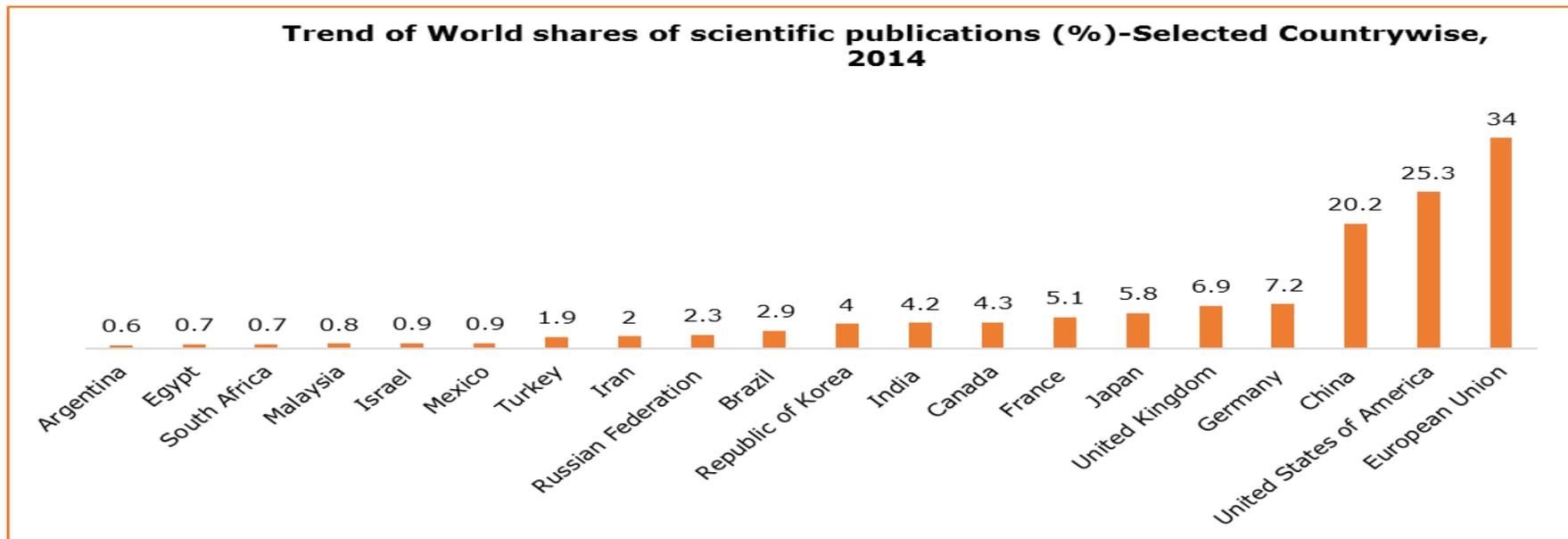


- *Since 2007, the number of researchers has risen by 21%.*
- *The EU remains the world leader for the number of researchers, with a 22.2% share.*

Trends in scientific publications worldwide, 2008 and 2014:

- *Growth in publications with authors from Europe- 13.8 %*
- *Growth in publications with authors from Africa- 60.1 %*
- *Growth in publications with authors from Arab states- 109.6 %*

Trends in knowledge generation:



A closer look at India:

- In India, economic growth has slowed to about 5% per year since the 2008 crisis
- The Indian government elected in 2014 has argued for a new economic model based on export oriented manufacturing to foster job creation.
- The business enterprise sector has become increasingly dynamic: it performed nearly 36% of all R&D in 2011, compared to 29% in 2005.
- There has been strong growth in patents, six out of ten of which were in IT and one out of ten in pharmaceuticals in 2012.

- **Conclusion:**
- **The report reflects the growing acceptance worldwide and, in particular, in the non-OECD world, of STI as a driver of development.**
- **Another striking trend observed in the UNESCO Science Report is the decline in public commitment to R&D observed in many developed countries.**
- **There is a growing belief in the importance of public investment in R&D for knowledge creation and technology adoption in emerging and lower income countries.**
- **Innovation spreading but policy hard to get right.**
- **There is a steep rise in the number of researchers, who now number 7.8 million worldwide. This represents an increase of 21% since 2007.**
- **The focus of scientific discovery has shifted towards problem-solving, in order to tackle pressing developmental challenges.**

Read the full report at the official website:

<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/unesco-science-report-towards-2030-part1.pdf>