

PRESS RELEASE

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Chinese science embraces English in response to international competition

BEIJING—In a historic decision representative of China’s continued opening-up, one of its oldest scientific periodicals has been rebranded in English, dropping the use of Chinese entirely.

Chinese scientists face the same pressure as their international colleagues: publish or perish. This has led to Chinese research being exported to English journals, which are favoured by the Chinese system of academic advancement.

This preoccupation with offshore journals has compromised the quality of all Chinese publications, including both English and Chinese material.

As part of a growing trend, *Acta Zoologica Sinica*, first published in 1935 and the second oldest journal in China, recently adopted the new title *Current Zoology* and decided to publish exclusively in English.

“Chinese scientists and scientific institutions have been left with the embarrassing situation that our best research is being published abroad”, says Anming Meng, editor-in-chief of *Current Zoology*.

The move will not only attract Chinese science back to Chinese-based publishing houses, but should lure a greater number of international submissions, believes Meng.

The Chinese government has high hopes for its scientific sector. Recently, the government called on its elite to achieve scientific dominance by 2020.

“China wants to build an academic platform for scientific exchange between Chinese and international researchers”, says Meng.

Policies such as this, and others aimed at luring not only scientific papers but scientists themselves to China, are contributing to China’s rapid scientific advancement.

In 2008 China was responsible for 11% of all published science, and is second only to the USA in its contribution to global scientific output.

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Notes to editors

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