

## Development from *Journal of Science Society of Thailand* to *ScienceAsia*: An update in progress over fifty years

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*Journal of the Science Society of Thailand (JSST)* was founded in 1975 under the umbrella of the Science Society of Thailand (SST). The journal was renamed *ScienceAsia* in 1999 in the attempt to increase its international outreach. The history of the journal especially in its early years was outlined under the Editorial article written by Yongyuth Yuthavong, the first Editor of *JSST* in this Special issue [1] and in a previous article by Jisnuson Svasti, the second Editor of *JSST*, when the journal reached its 30th year in 2004 [2]. Since 2011 onwards, the National Research Council of Thailand (NRCT) has played a partner role as the co-owner of *ScienceAsia*. The journal has continued to develop in all dimensions over 50 years of its operation.

This Editorial provides a summary of the current status of *ScienceAsia* in relation to its past activities. Internationally recognized, the journal is indexed in various international databases such as Web of Science (SCIE) (member since 1977, indexed 1979–1995; and member since 2008, indexed 2010–present), Scopus (since 1996, from Scopus database), and CAB International (since 2022). The index Impact Factor (ISI database) and the Quartile level (Scopus database) have been increased in the last few years compared to the last 15 years (Table 1 and Fig. 1). In 2022 and 2023, impact factors were 1.2 and 1.0, respectively, the first time in the journal history. In addition, *ScienceAsia* is indexed in the Thai Citation Index (TCI) and the ASEAN Citation Index (ACI) since 2014.

The number of manuscripts submitted during 2009 to 2024 is shown in Fig. 2. A gradual increase in foreign corresponding authors (CA) has been observed since 2012 with a significant jump in 2023 and 2024. The number of Thai CA is rather steady. The proportion of foreign to Thai CA is approximately 4:1, then increases to 10:1 in the last 2 years due to the substantial submissions from China. However, we only can publish a maximum of 140 articles per year due to limitations in manpower, with only two part-time working staff

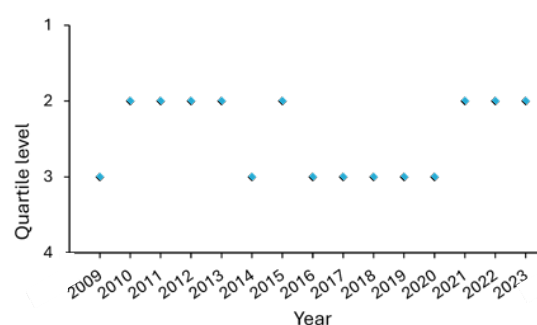


Fig. 1 Scopus Quartile level during 2009–2023.

members. The number of articles published during the 15-year period (2009 to 2023) is illustrated in Fig. 3. The rejection rate is around 75–80% since 2020.

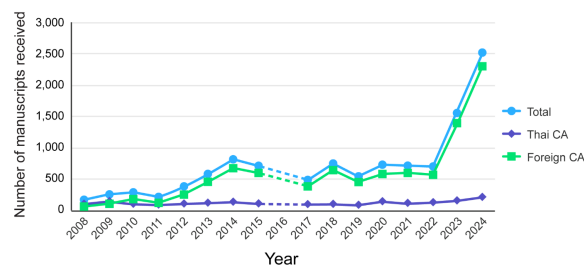


Fig. 2 Number of manuscripts submitted during 2009–2023. The dotted line linking 2015 to 2017 was due to the loss of manuscripts by ransomware virus attack to our website in 2016.

In terms of country of origin of CA publishing with *ScienceAsia*, the data for the same 15-year period show that the top 15 countries have a total number of 1,327 articles published (Fig. 4). The proportion of Thai to Foreign CA is 48 to 52% or about 1:1. Of the Foreign CA, China contributed the most with 26% relative to total number of articles which was particularly increased within the last five years. For other countries of origin, Malaysia, Japan, India, and United States published substantial numbers of papers. The

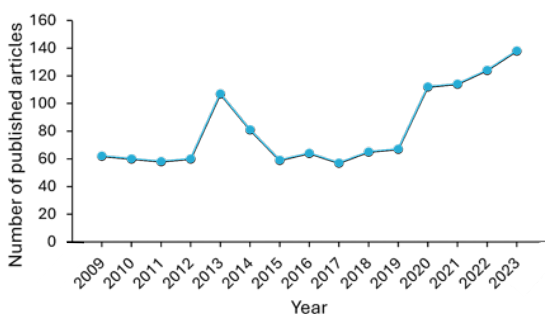
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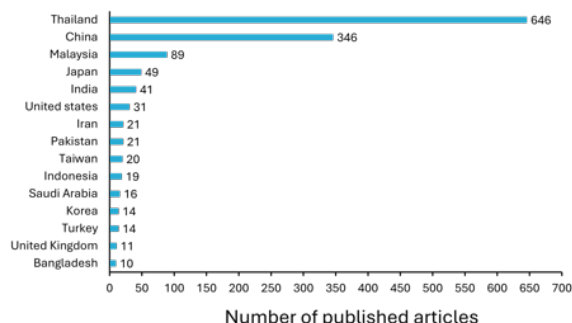
**Table 1** Impact factors in 2009–2023.

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Impact Factor	–	0.176	0.344	0.398	0.347	0.347	0.197	0.343	0.447	0.452	0.425	0.615	0.995	1.2	1.0

– Not yet indexed.

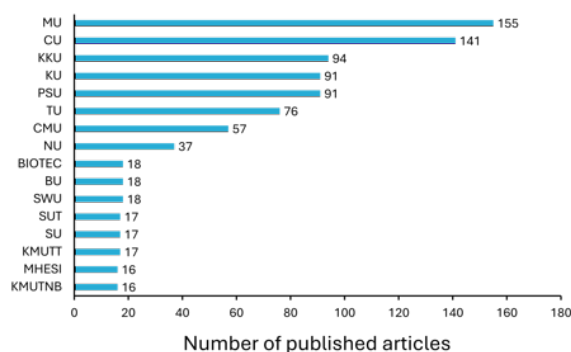
**Fig. 3** Number of published articles by year during 2009–2023 from Scopus database.

number of published articles by institutional affiliation for Thailand, mostly from Thai CA, within the same period are shown in Fig. 5.

**Fig. 4** Number of published articles by country of origin of corresponding authors during 2009–2023 from Scopus database.

*ScienceAsia* is classified as a multidisciplinary international peer-reviewed journal. Biological Science was always the major subject area in the past (44% during 2002–2003 compared to other subjects [2]). Since 2019, four main sections have been categorized in an attempt to maintain suitable proportions and to help readers easily follow their field of interest. These are: Biological Sciences and Biotechnology, Chemistry and Material Sciences, Environmental and Applied Sciences, and Mathematics and Physical Sciences [3]. Still, Biological Sciences and Biotechnology section dominates, amounting to 47% from the data analyzed during 2019–2023 as shown in Table 2.

Since its beginning as JSST until the early phase of *ScienceAsia*, the journal was published as a quar-

**Fig. 5** Number of published articles by Institutional affiliations of corresponding authors in Thailand during 2009–2023 from the Scopus database. MU, Mahidol U; CU, Chulalongkorn U; KKU, Khon Kaen U; KU, Kasetsart U; PSU, Prince of Songkhla U; TU, Thammasat U; CMU, Chiang Mai U; NU, Naresuan U; BIOTEC, Biotec of NSTDA; BU, Burapha U; SWU, Srinakarinwirot U; SUT, Suranaree U of Technology; SU, Silpakorn U; KMUTT, King Mongkut's U of Technology Thonburi; MHESI, Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation; KMUTNB, King Mongkut's U of Technology North Bangkok.**Table 2** Number of articles published in different subject areas during 2019–2023.

Subject area	Number	%
Biological Science and Biotechnology	260	47.3
Chemistry and Material Sciences	96	17.5
Environmental and Applied Sciences	87	15.8
Mathematics and Physical Sciences	107	19.4
Total	550	100

terly journal. In 2013, the journal has changed to a bimonthly publication in the attempt to increase number of published articles. With the development of the website [www.scienceasia.org](http://www.scienceasia.org), online publication started in 2008 to boost up the journal visibility. The journal has been a member of Crossref, and a DOI number has been assigned to each article published for citation benefit. At present, in addition to 6 Regular issues which are published both online and hard copies, Supplement issues from selected International Conferences and Special issues for special occasions are also published online. Notably, as a main memorial event for the journal, this 50th Anniversary Special issue of *ScienceAsia* will be published both online and hard copy.

In terms of management, since 2019 the journal has substantially adjusted its Editorial team and staff. At present, the team comprises of eleven members led by an Editor-in-Chief, with eight Editors responsible for the four sections mentioned above, one Publishing Editor, and two Assistant Editors. The team has one foreign Editor, a Professor from China who is in the Mathematics field. The Editorial Board consists of 25 prominent Professors who are renowned scientists in various fields from different Universities/Institutes with the ratio of local to abroad being about 1:1 (13 Thais and 12 Foreigners). The Editorial Board contributes their advice on all aspects to improve the journal, helps to publicize *ScienceAsia* to qualified researchers to submit good quality manuscripts, helps review some manuscripts (maximum of a few per year) or suggests specialized reviewers. The Board may also contribute as an invited author for a mini-review article. The journal has an Advisory committee comprising of former and present Presidents of SST, a former *ScienceAsia* Editor, and the Executive Director of NRCT. The Editor-in-Chief reports the progress and activities and also financial status of the journal to the committee who play an important role in giving advice and recommendations on policy and administrative aspects of the journal [4]. Details of names and affiliations of Editorial team, Editorial Board, and Advisory committee can be found on the journal website [www.scienceasia.org](http://www.scienceasia.org). Financially, NRCT as a co-owner of *ScienceAsia* since 2011, has provided annual support to the journal. The second source of major income comes from the page charge system which has been adopted since 2013.

The main concern to increase journal quality, apart from adjustment of management through the Editorial team, Editorial Board, and Advisory committee as mentioned above, strategies include tighter screening, and the intense evaluation by invited reviewers who are experts in the field. The ratio of Overseas to Thai reviewers has been around 2:1 to 3:1. To increase visibility and citation, we started the online ahead of print system [4] in 2022 from the issue 48(3), to increase speed for faster publishing. The available online date (citable with DOI registered) is about a few months ahead of the issue date. The Issues in Progress have been posted on our website. And the most recent improvement is the conversion from the page number system to the ID number since 2024 [5]. We hope that *ScienceAsia* will continue to develop, both in terms of Editorial capacity and international authors' contributions to enhance status, so as to ensure that *ScienceAsia* will serve as one of the forefront Asian Science journals for future generations of Thai and overseas scientists.

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