

NUS IS TOP IN THE WORLD FOR INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION RESEARCH



The international construction market is estimated to be worth some US\$10.3 trillion by 2020 at constant 2010 prices. According to the US-based Engineering News Record (ENR), the Top 250 International Contractors had US\$521.55 billion in contracting revenue from projects outside their home countries in 2014. As a group, they also had US\$909.26 billion in revenue from domestic projects in that same year. International construction business is therefore an important segment of the global economy.

In this context, a bibliometric analysis of research in international construction that appears recently in the Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering has placed the National University of Singapore (NUS) top in the world in this field of study. Findings from the bibliometric analysis were reported by Dr Selin Gundes and Dr Guzin Aydogan based in Istanbul, Turkey. The bibliometric analysis spanned a ten-year period from 2003 to 2013 using the Scopus database.

The bibliometric analysis took into account 87 articles that met the selection criteria for keywords in international construction research as at 30th October 2014. These articles were published in the following top six journals: Journal of Construction Engineering and Management (JCEM), Construction Management and Economics (CME), Journal of Management in Engineering (JME), International Journal of Project Management (IJPM), Engineering, Construction and Architectural Management (ECAM), and Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering (CJCE). These articles were then analysed in terms of publication year,

country, author, institution and citation. The analysis covered a total of 73 institutions from around the world.

The bibliometric analysis shows that as far as single-country publications are concerned, NUS ranked first with 12 articles. Single-country articles were published by 15 different countries, with most of these single-country articles originating from Singapore (21%). NUS consistently ranks first in total, single-institute and in the number of first author articles. Professor Low Sui Pheng from the NUS Department of Building contributed to eight papers all of which are single-country publications. 16 papers that have been cited at least 25 times were written by 32 authors from 10 countries. Of these, NUS contributed to the largest number of most cited articles. These most cited articles were authored/co-authored by Professor George Ofori, Professor Florence Ling and Professor Low Sui Pheng, all of whom are from the NUS Department of Building.

More significantly, the bibliometric analysis shows that NUS was the most productive institution during 2003 to 2013. NUS was ranked first on several fronts, including (a) number of total publications, (b) number of single institute articles, and (c) number of first author articles. NUS was also ranked second for the number of inter-institutionally collaborative articles. As the top institution for international construction research, NUS was ranked ahead of 72 other institutions that included, among others, the University of Melbourne, Tsinghua University, Penn State University, Illinois Institute of Technology, University of Hong Kong, Yonsei University, etc.

With this stellar performance, NUS and, more specifically, the Department of Building have therefore won worldwide acclaim in the four core themes for international construction research that were identified to include risk management, performance measurement, general strategy and competitiveness as well as foreign market entry decisions.

Source:

Gundes S and Aydogan G (2016) Bibliometric analysis of research in international construction, Canadian Journal of Civil Engineering (based on a Just-In manuscript that has been accepted for publication prior to copy-editing and page composition).