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Rethinking international education engagement in the Asia Pacific region

Outline

1. Future directions in the knowledge economy
2. Six trends in Asia Pacific international education
3. Rethinking Asia Pacific international educational engagement

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Future directions in the knowledge economy

Future directions in the knowledge economy

- Knowledge Economy - late 20th century, commercialisation of R&D, trade in services
- Virtual Knowledge Economy – 21st century

  - interface between reality and virtual world = a new socialising space, a commercial frontier and virtual university campus

  eg Second Life, Facebook, Google Earth, Virtual Tourism



New directions in the knowledge economy

What does this mean for international education and the professions?

Students driving change for more flexible educational delivery platforms – not the Universities

New jobs will be more dependent on research skills than knowledge

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Six trends in international higher education in the region

Trend 1: Technology in education

- 2010 - electronic libraries, podcast lectures, submit assignments and consult lecturers via email, participate in social chat rooms
- 2015 – download lectures onto smart phones, online chat room style tutorials, enrol at virtual university campuses

Trend 2: Emerging education hubs

- Old hubs
  - Australia - 280,000 overseas students ($10b)
  - United Kingdom - 270,000 o/s
  - United States - 565,000
- New hubs
  - China - 140,000 o/s
  - Japan – 100,000 o/s
  - Singapore - 50,000 o/s
  - Malaysia - 45,000 o/s



Trend 3: Demographic change

Aging of academics in ‘old education hubs’

Australia:

- majority of academics aged over 45 years
- predicted that one third of academics will retire during the next decade
- labour shortage: need to recruit students and staff overseas, not sustainable in the long term

Trend 3: Demographic change

New hubs

China:

- Unsatisfied demand for education moderated by future impact of one child policy

Japan

- Slowed birth rate – excess education capacity, labour shortages

Singapore

- Export of education industry and commercialisation of R & D outputs

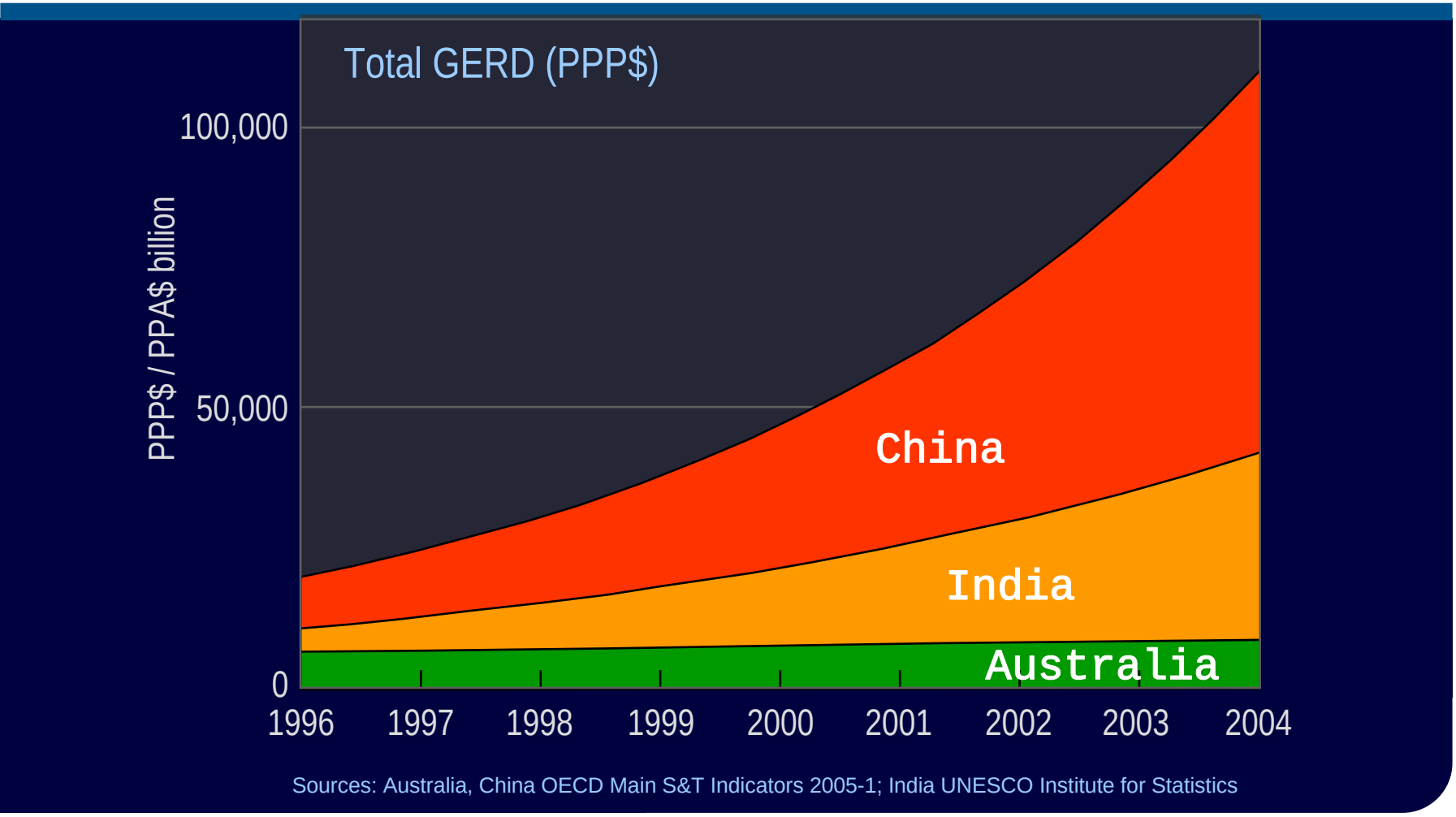
Trend 4: Investment in R & D

- China's strategy for development:

  "*The practice of the world's scientific and technological development shows that only with strong capacity of innovation, can a country win that initiative in the international competition*". President Hu Jintao, January 2006

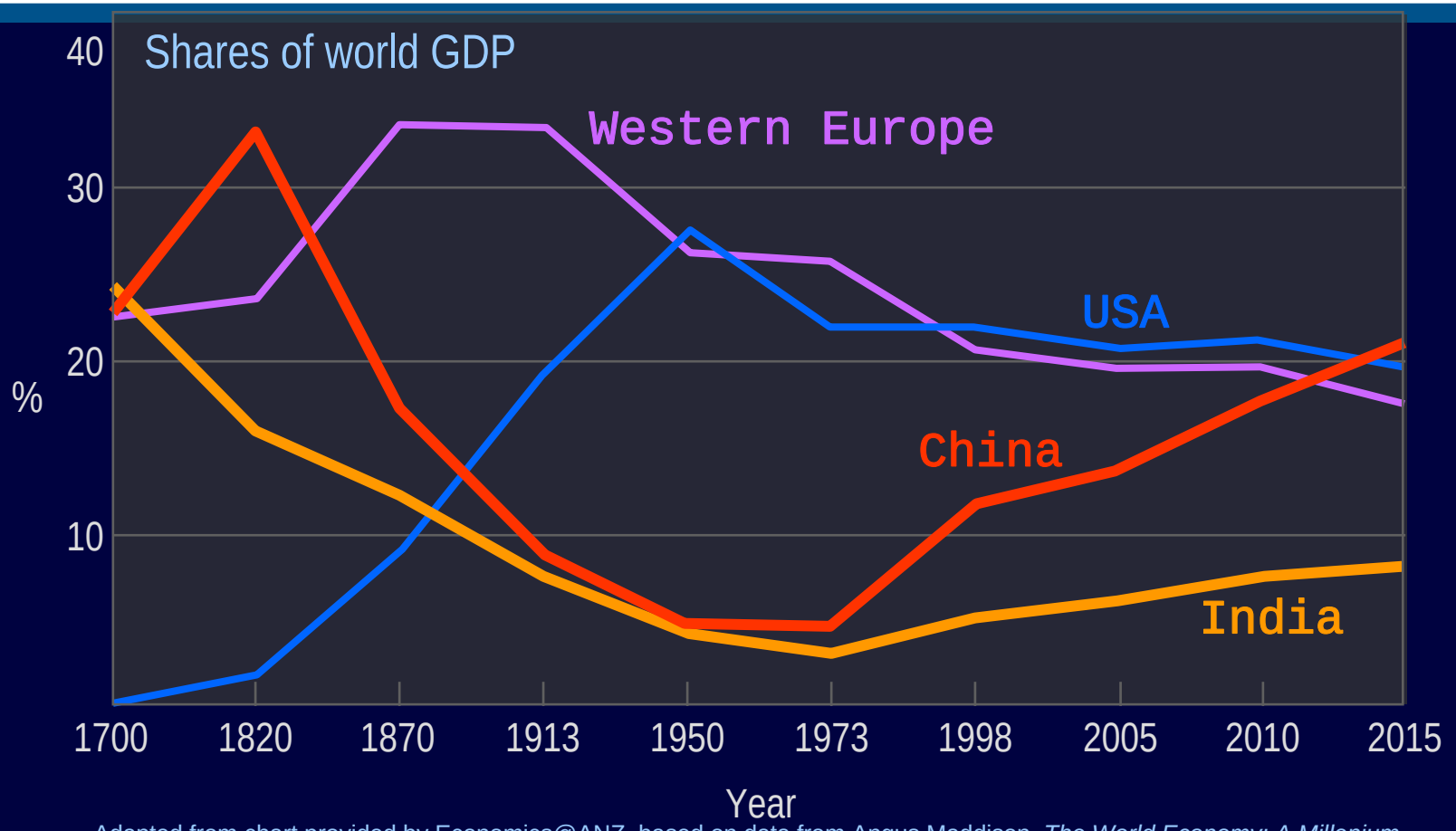
- India's strategies for development: "*Science and technology must pervade our psyche, our way of thinking and our way of working*". Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, January 2005

Investment in R & D



Sources: Australia, China OECD Main S&T Indicators 2005-1; India UNESCO Institute for Statistics

A new world order?



Adapted from chart provided by Economics@ANZ, based on data from Angus Maddison, *The World Economy: A Millenium Perspective,* OECD Development Centre, 2001; IMF, *World Economic Outlook Database,* September 2005; Consensus Economics, *Consensus Forecasts,* October 2005.

Trend 5: Internationalising experience

Demand for international experience for students

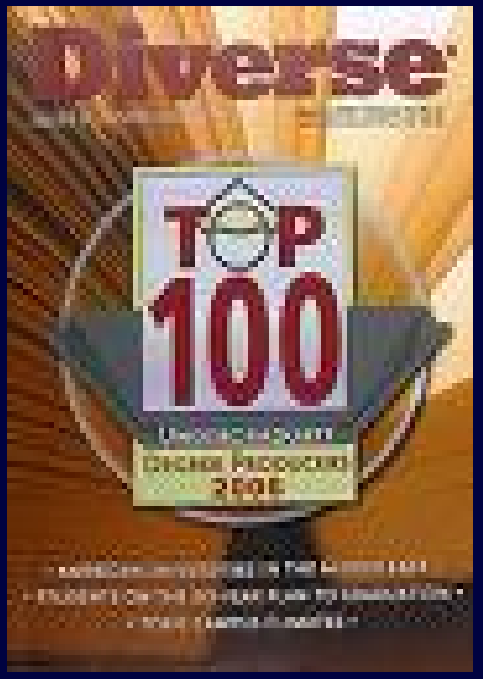
- UG - Study Abroad and Student Exchange

- PhD - international research scholarships and study abroad

- transnational e-tutorials

Trend 6: International education rankings

- Shanghai Jiaotong Index
- Times Higher Education Supplement



Here to stay

Fierce competition in research

Creating an international talent war

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Rethinking Asia Pacific international higher educational engagement

International education in Asia Pacific

Drivers for international education for the 'old education hubs':

- 1960s onward - strengthen regional relations through scholarships (eg Colombo Plan)
- 1990s – scholarships **PLUS** export for commercial gain

Mechanisms:

- Recruitment of international students from developing to developed countries
- 2yrs + 2yrs undergraduate courses
- Overseas campuses
- Distance education – paper and CD-Rom based

Rethinking international education

New and diverse drivers for international education for the ‘new education hubs’:

- Increase quantum of skilled labour force
- Increased R & D outputs for industry
- Develop new export of education industry
- To absorb excess domestic educational capacity

Rethinking international education

Changed regional education landscape:

1. Increased competition due to increased supply of high quality educational providers
2. Reduced demand from fee paying international students with the increase of high quality domestic educational providers
3. Demand from students for greater flexibility in time and distance – the virtual world

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Potential collaboration in international education within the Asia Pacific region

Rethinking international education for the Asia Pacific region

Mobility: creating opportunities for staff and student mobility

Mechanisms:

- Joint academic appointments between partner universities
- Standardised degree structures
- Mutual recognition of degrees and units within degrees
- Asia-Pacific style Bologna Accord?

Collaboration: forging new and sustainable partnership based on collaboration and mutual respect to create win-win outcomes

Mechanisms:

- Joint research projects and joint research academies
- Dual badged PhDs – co-supervision across borders
- Global UG degrees – semesters offered by universities in different countries for one degree either via student mobility or virtually
- Greater collaboration with industry in R&D, curriculum design and delivery, internships and scholarships

Contribution: More than equipping next generation of leaders with global skills and values – education for purposes beyond monetary gain

Making a contribution to global well-being

- Climate change
- International security
- Economic inequality

Leading the way

Universities have a social responsibility for making the future a better place for our children