

ATN CONFERENCE

7 – 9 FEBRUARY 2007

Impact – the weight of tradition versus future potential

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ABSTRACT

ACADEMIC RANKING OF WORLD UNIVERSITIES – METHODOLOGIES, PROBLEMS AND IMPACT

In order to find out the gap between Chinese universities and world-class universities, the Institute of Higher Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University has tried to rank research universities in the world by their academic or research performance based on internationally comparable data that everyone could check. Ranking indicators include the alumni and staff winning major international awards, highly cited researchers in major research fields, articles published in selected top journals, articles indexed by major citation indexes, and performance per capita. Methodological problems discussed include quantitative versus qualitative evaluation, evaluation of research versus education, variety of institutions, language of publications, selection of awards, and studying or working experience of award winners. Technical problems such as definition of institutions, name expression of institutions, merging and splitting of institutions, searching and attribution of publications are discussed. The impact of ranking will also be discussed.
