



# **The UK and China – Perfect Partners in Research**

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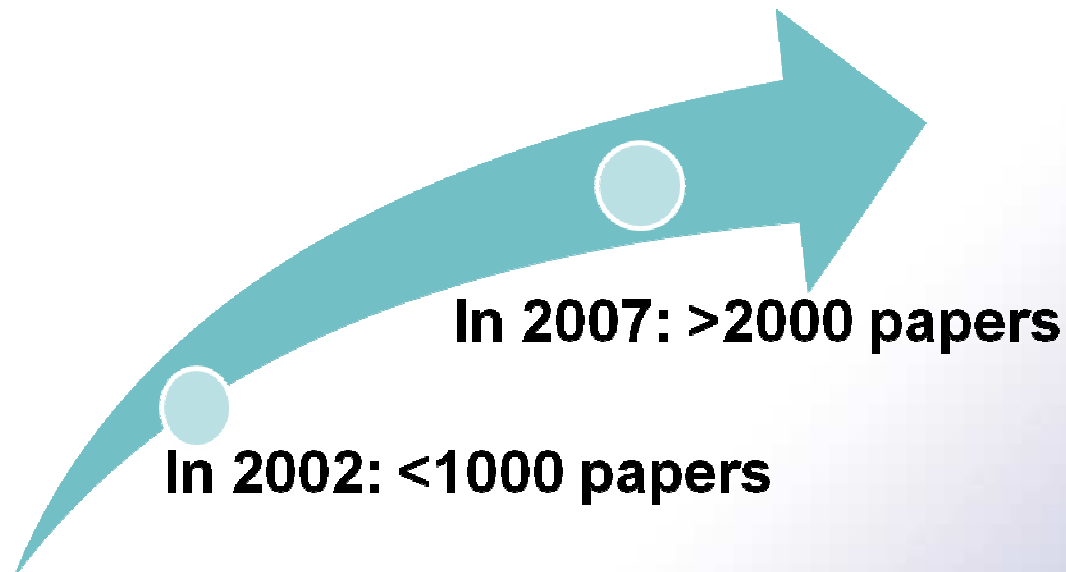
**International Agri-Science Forum  
Yangling, November 2008**

# 1. UK-China Agri-Science

- “Impact of Climate Change on Chinese Agriculture”  
[www.china-climate-adapt.org](http://www.china-climate-adapt.org)
- **SAIN** – Sustainable Agriculture Innovation network
- “Advanced Wheat Breeding” RCUK Summer School
- “Translational Plant Science” RCUK Summer School
- “Wild Plant Germ Plasm Bank” – CAS Kunming/Kew
- **Rothamstead Research** – long term links with China, incl. Joint Lab with Huazhong UST
- Big potential for UK-China **multi-disciplinary research** on sustainable agriculture

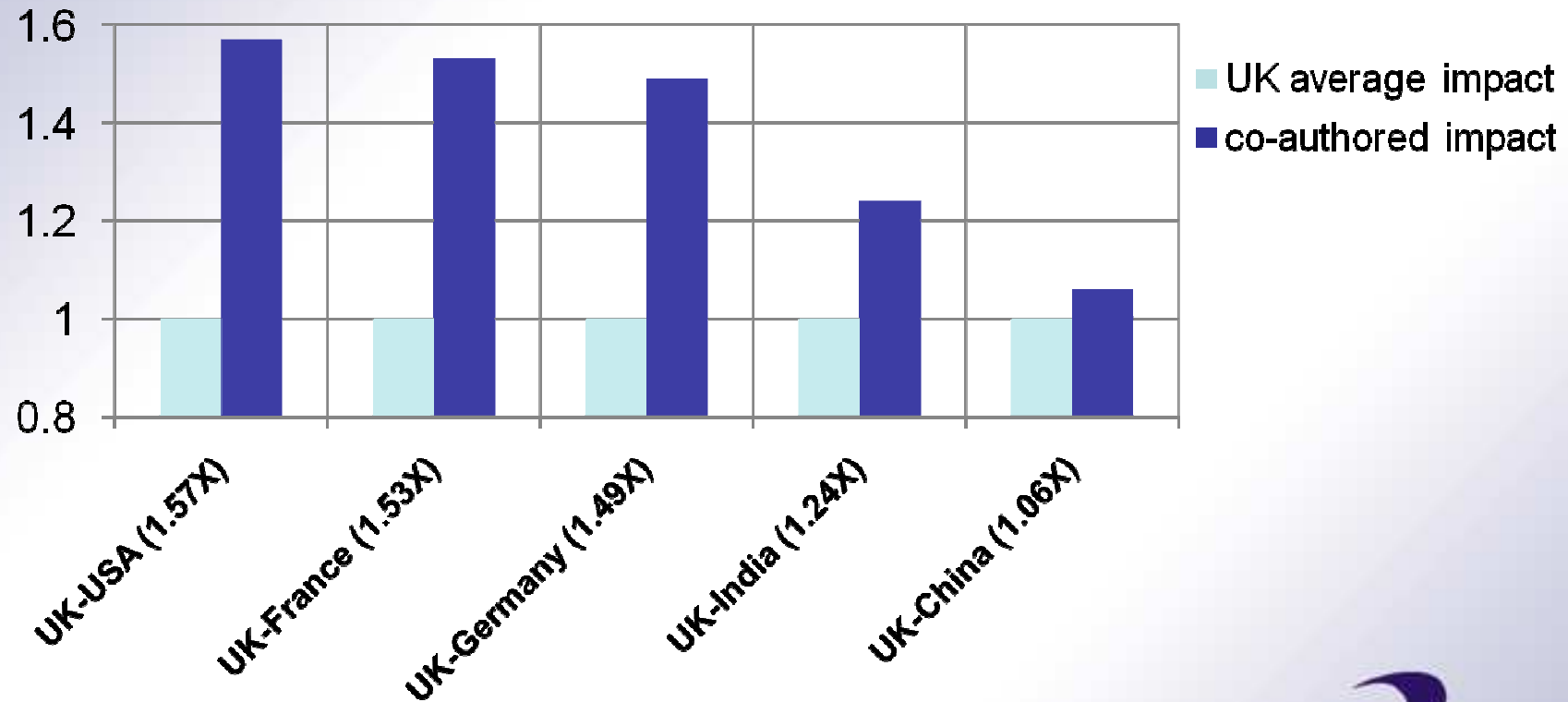
## 2. UK-China collaboration is growing

- International research collaboration is increasing globally
- 44.6% of UK papers have a non-UK co-author
- China is the UK's fastest-growing partner:
- UK is China's biggest partner in Europe



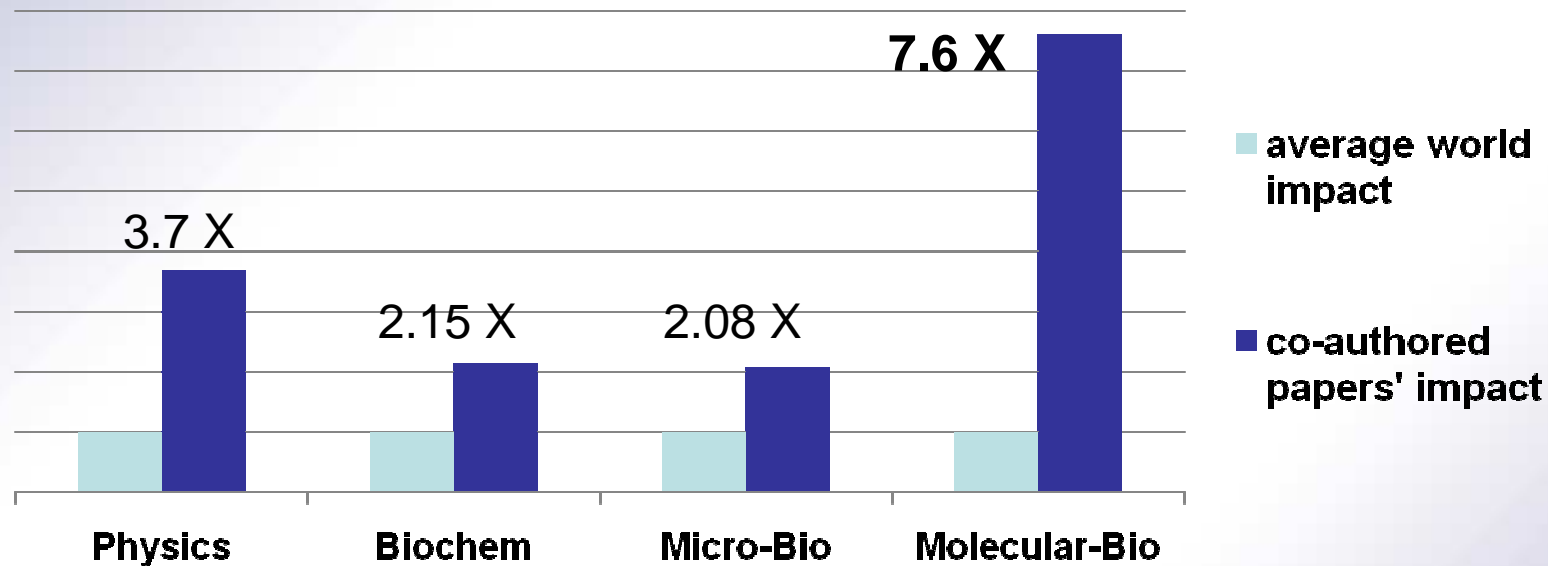
### 3. Collaboration adds impact

Impact of UK co-authored papers 2002-06



## 4. Some notable UK-China impacts

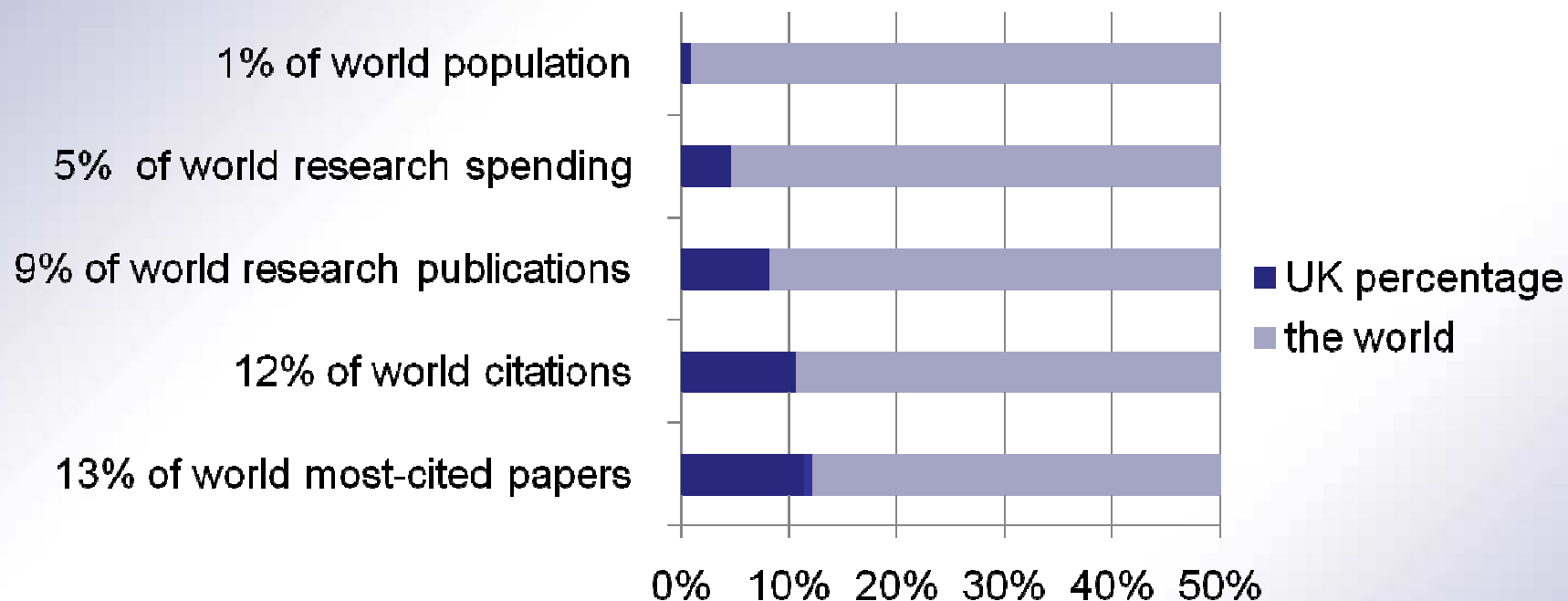
### UK-China co-authored papers' impact in 2002-06



Of 20 subjects with >100 items each:

- 18 exceeded world average impact
- 13 exceeded UK-only average impact

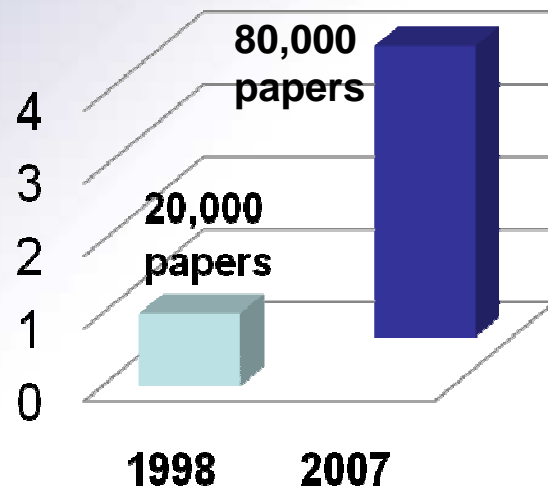
## 5. UK – world's most productive research nation!



- UK has **broadly-based** strengths: citation share is world #2 in many areas.
- UK is **maintaining** its position as new science nations arise.

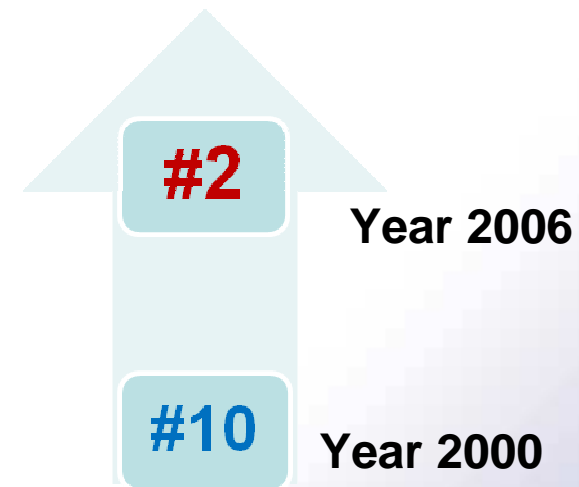
## 6. China – fastest rising research nation in history!

China's output of scientific publications



citations also have nearly 4-fold increase

China's world ranking for scientific publications



- China now matching G8 performance in *Physical Sciences and Engineering*.
- China has overtaken Japan in citations per gross spend on R&D

# 7. The UK Research System



Science & Technology  
Facilities Council

科学和技术设施理事会



Arts & Humanities  
Research Council

艺术和人文科学研究理事会



医学研究理事会



英国研究理事会



生物技术和生物科学研究理事会



自然环境研究理事会



工程和自然科学研究理事会



经济与社会科学研究理事会



## 8. Core Values of Research Councils

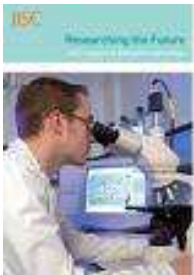
- **Independence –**
  - Funding decisions are made by researchers, not politicians or civil servants (*Haldane Principle* 1919).
- **Excellence –**
  - Funding decisions emerge from *competitions* using *open peer review*.



# 9. Shaping a Strong Science Base

The Research Councils:

- **Challenge researchers** to rise above “comfort zone”
- Shape **new agendas** to meet **new research needs**
- Encourage research **across discipline boundaries**
- Promote new research **tools, skills, methodologies**
- Support high quality **postgraduate training**



## 10. RCUK in China



- First RCUK office outside Europe.
- Work with **all relevant partner agencies** in China
- Work closely with UK Embassy Science & Innovation Network, but located separately.



# 11. RCUK in China



Government agreements

GAP at the Agency level

Many contacts of individual researchers and institutes

*Support agencies must work better together so that*

- Top Level Government agreements more easily lead to visible action;
- Bottom Level individual contacts more easily lead to substantive joint research.

## 12. RCUK China Strategy

- Make collaborations more **visible**.
- Develop a **coherent** and **sustainable** package of support -
  - *individual travel funding*
  - *young researcher links*
  - *'best with best' research group links*
  - *joint research projects supported by both sides*
- Make UK/China support systems **more user-friendly!**



# 13. RCUK China Activities

- Annual **Summer Schools** competition
- **Science Workshops** – around 10 a year
- **Joint Competitions** with NSFC
- “**China strands**” in interdisciplinary multi-funder initiatives incl. *Environmental Change; Food security...*
- New **Agreements framework** with MOST and other Ministries to support bilateral activity



UK-China Summer School

英中暑期学校

Chemical Modelling for  
a Sustainable Environment

化学模拟及可持续发展环境

The international conference [Theory and Applications of Computational Chemistry \(TACC\)](#) is to be held in Shanghai, China, from September 23<sup>rd</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Within its auspices the [University of Nottingham](#) and [Shanghai Jiao Tong University](#) are organizing a Summer School entitled *Chemical Modelling for a Sustainable Environment*.

The University of Nottingham  
School of the Built Environment

清华大学  
School of Architecture

8th - 15th October 08, School of Architecture  
Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

RESEARCH COUNCILS UK  
英国研究理事会

**BIOCLIMATIC ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN WORKSHOP**  
An Integrated Environmental Design Approach

RESEARCH  
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