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Asia Pacific's Science and Technology Cooperation Potentials

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The diversification of partner countries for science and technology cooperation constitutes an important pillar of Germany's new "China Strategy." Within the Asian Pacific region, numerous countries have made significant progress in S&T development. Our performance monitoring of this region shows how attractive some of these countries have become as cooperation partners for Germany, China aside.

- In addition to the European Research Era (ERA), the Asia Pacific Research Area (APRA) has developed very dynamically over the last 15 years, making the region increasingly attractive for German S&T cooperation.
- The APRA monitoring team designed its own cohesion index that demonstrates the growing intensity of scientific cooperation among the countries of the APRA region.
- China has overtaken Japan as the driver of science and innovation development in the APRA region, becoming the major cooperation partner for most of its neighbouring countries. In tandem, South Korea and India have become important catch-up states in S&T.
- The successful rise of APRA countries (especially China, Japan, South Korea, and India) not only relates to traditional fields and technologies but also to key and future technologies, too.
- Germany cooperates primarily with those APRA countries that are comparable and complementary partners. Due to geopolitical conflicts and shifting security interests, Germany's cooperation with China has become more difficult.

Policy Implications

China aside, numerous other countries in the APRA region have the potential to become S&T cooperation partners for Germany. To increase its visibility in the region, the intensification of S&T engagement with catch-up states would be in Germany's own interest. Nevertheless, as one of the most important science powers, working with China will remain indispensable for coping with global challenges.

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