

# Global Perspectives and Strategies of Asia-Pacific Research Universities\*

**Simon Marginson**

Professor

Centre for the Study of Higher Education (CSHE)  
University of Melbourne

## **Abstract**

The article reports on research on the global perspectives and strategies of Asia-Pacific research universities, funded by the Australian Research Council Discovery Grant program: specifically, interviews with university presidents/rectors/vice-Chancellors and a small number of other executive leaders in 12 different countries. The presidents are all from leading national research universities, and with two exceptions the institutions are among the top two research universities in their respective countries. They have broadly similar readings of the international higher education setting, though their strategic circumstances and resources vary considerably according to national factors. All without exception are closely focused on the global standing and effectiveness of their institutions, and all but two see university rankings as of primary strategic importance. Among the most interesting data are the presidents' discussion of how they visual and interpret the global higher education environment, and the main issues they take into account when developing and implementing strategies. The Internet is playing an ever-increasing role as a zone of strategic imagining; and most presidents emphasize the intelligence gleaned from each other in

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email: s.marginson@unimelb.edu.au

collaborative networks. Both competition and collaboration are important aspects of global strategy for all the universities.

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