ACCESS TO HEALTH INFORMATION IN ASIA-PACIFIC:
CURRENT STATUS AND FUTURE DIRECTION

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MOTIVATION

WHO Collaborating Center for Health Information and Library Services

<u>Term of Reference 2:</u>

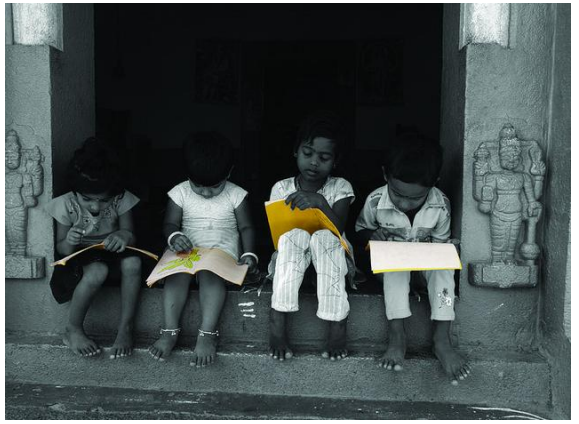
To collaborate with the WHO Western Pacific Regional Office (WPRO) Library to support Western Pacific Country Offices (WPCOs) in setting up basic library services.

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Health Information Access:

- Importance
- Status
- Future Direction

IMPORTANCE OF HEALTH INFORMATION



"The extension to all peoples of the benefits of medical, psychological and related knowledge is essential to the fullest attainment of health." [1]

-WHO Constitution, 1947

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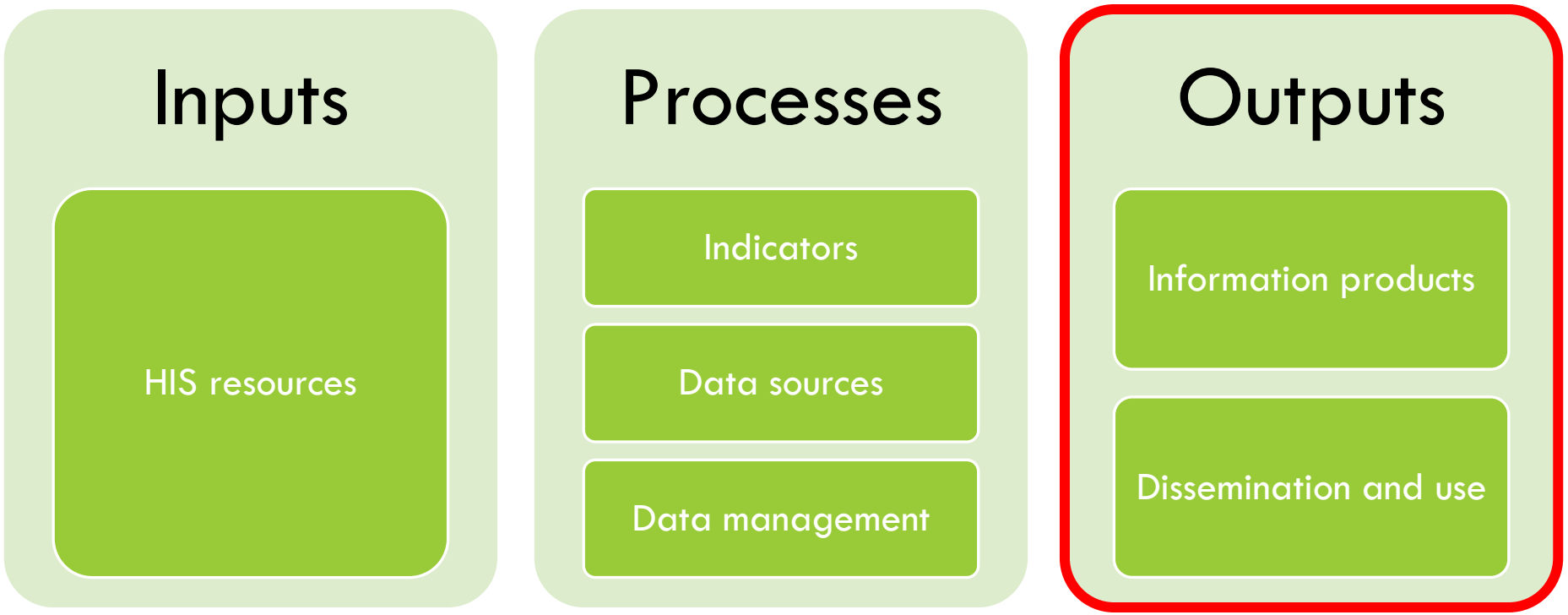
CURRENT STATUS

- In India, 40% of children with diarrhea receive less to drink than normal [2]
- In East Asia and the Pacific, 76% of young women do not have comprehensive knowledge about HIV [3]
- In Indonesia, 59% of women in the 3rd stage of labor are mismanaged [4]
- In a study of lesser-developed countries including Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines, 72% of doctors at the district hospitals have inadequate knowledge about assessing and managing pediatric pneumonia and malnutrition [5]
- In India, over 90% of prescriptions for tuberculosis are incorrect [6]

HEALTH INFORMATION



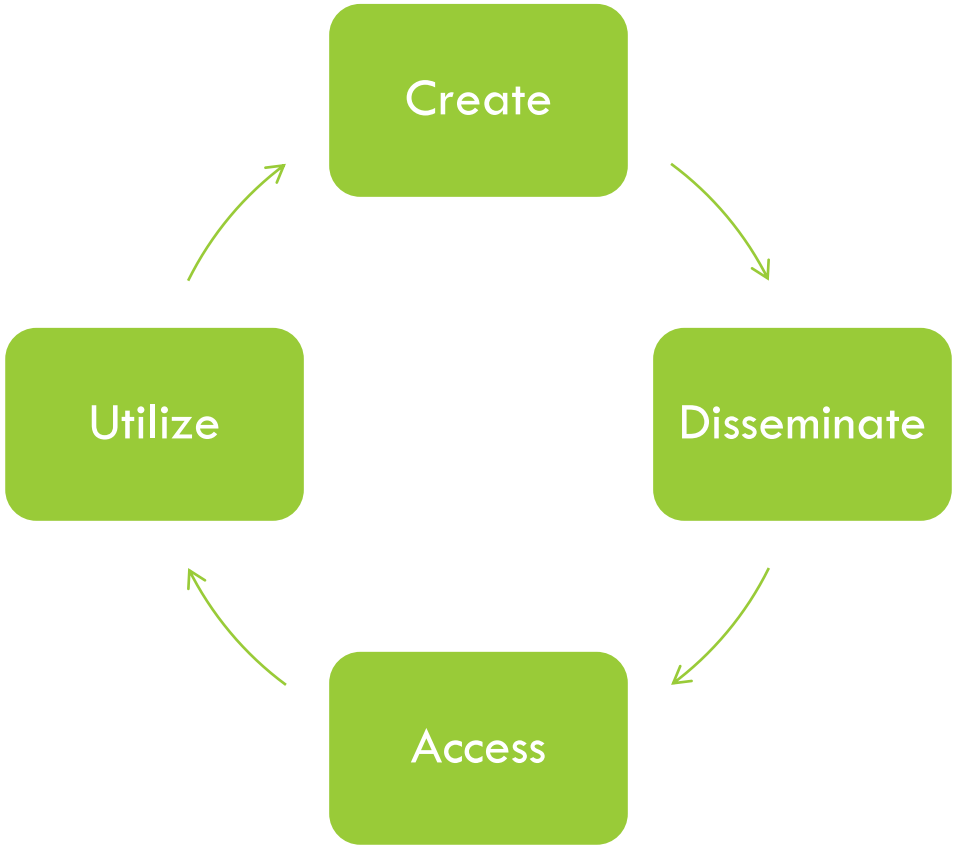
Reference 7 and 8

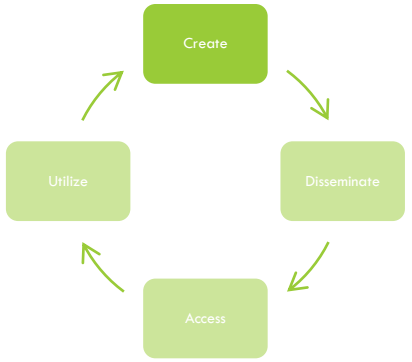
PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Health Information Access:

- Importance
- Status
- Future Direction

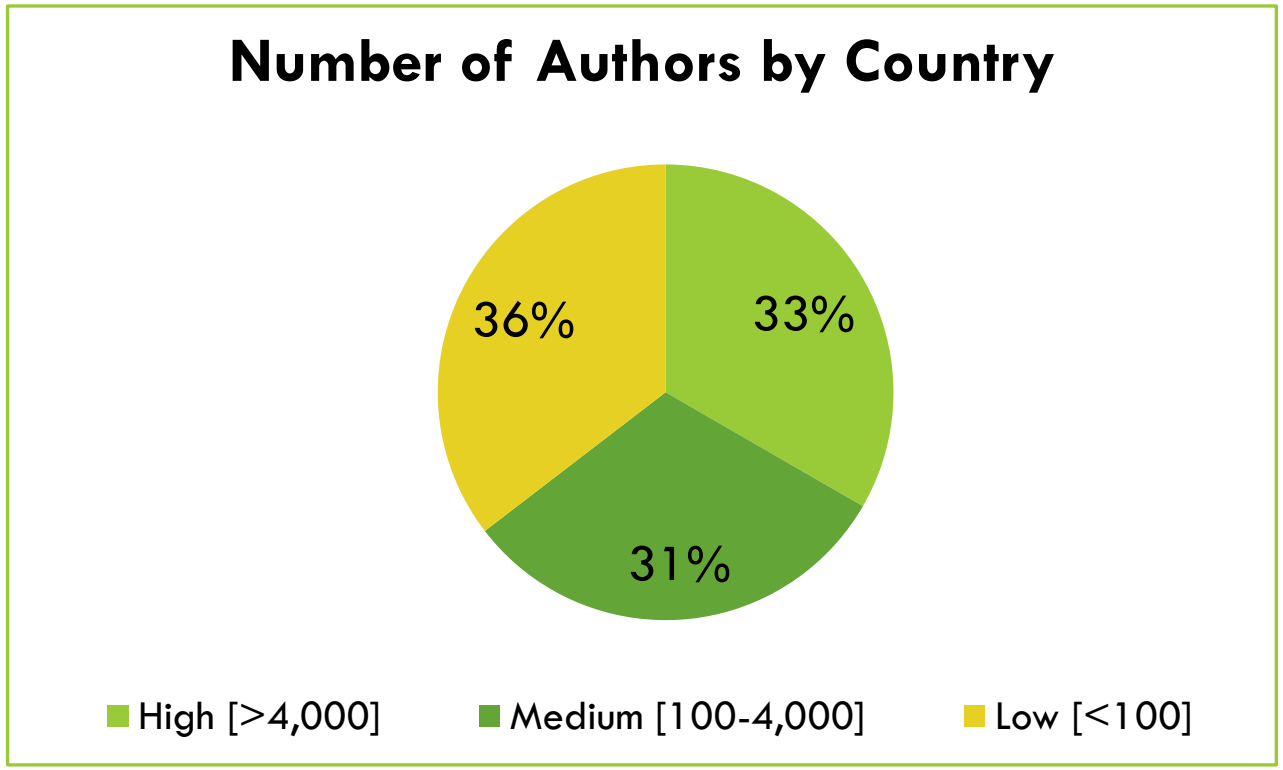
HEALTH INFORMATION OUTPUT





CREATE

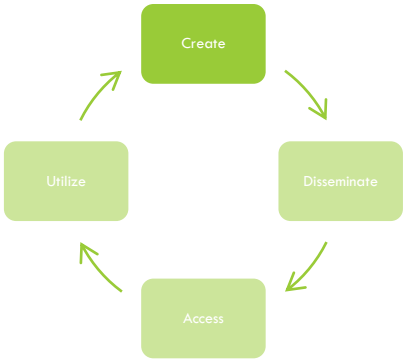
Do countries have people to create new information?



Data Source

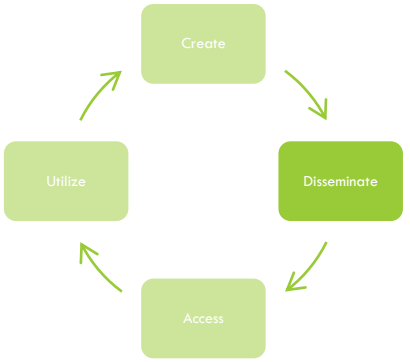
- **Database:** "Web of Science Core Collection"
- **Search Criteria:**
  - "Address" [Country Name]
  - "Time Span" [2004-2014]
  - "Author"

Reference 9



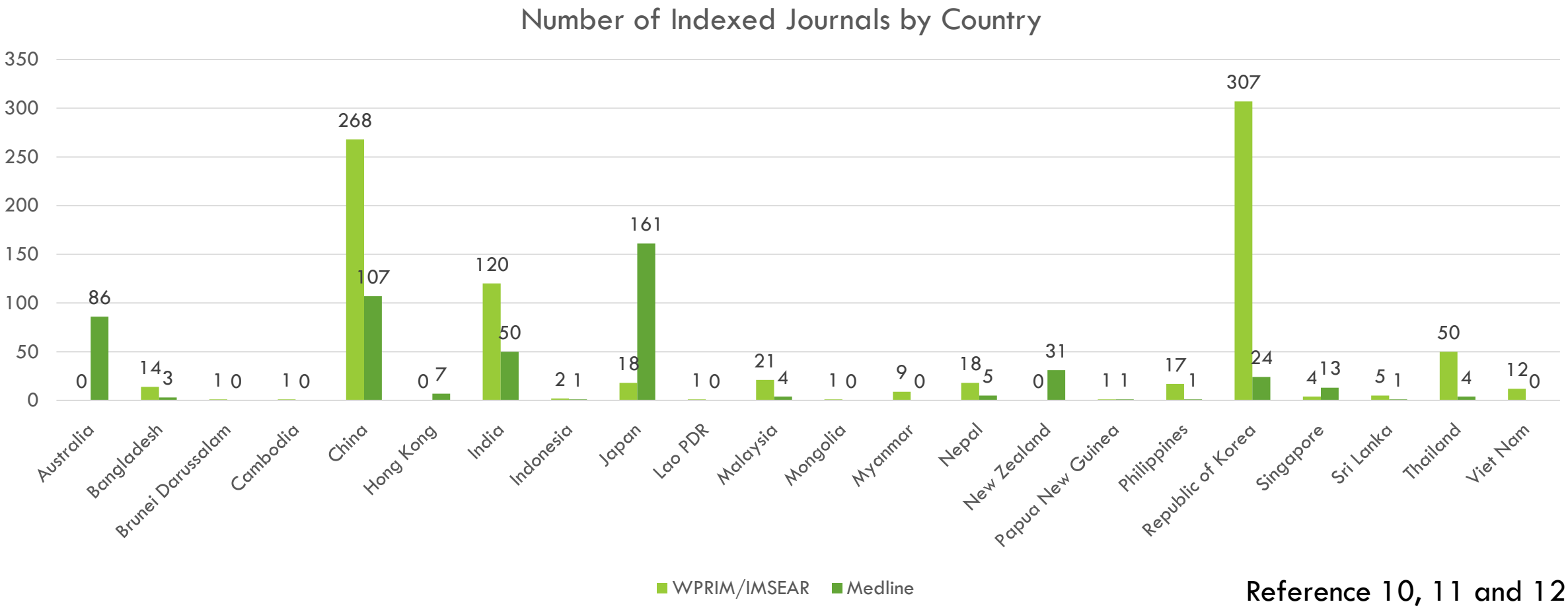
AUTHORS BY COUNTRY

High	Middle	Low
Australia [>100,000]	Cambodia [2,066]	Samoa [90]
China [>100,000]	Macao [1,232]	Tonga [73]
India [>100,000]	New Caledonia [1,226]	American Samoa [54]
Japan [>100,000]	Papua New Guinea [790]	Marshall Islands [53]
Republic of Korea [>100,000]	Fiji [747]	Cook Islands [43]
New Zealand [59,334]	Myanmar [680]	Maldives [41]
Singapore [51,249]	Guam [572]	Micronesia [41]
Hong Kong [44,139]	Brunei Darussalam [291]	Kiribati [40]
Thailand [43,957]	Palau [206]	French Polynesia [31]
Malaysia [34,642]	Vanuatu [203]	Timor-Leste [29]
Viet Nam [13,806]	Bhutan [202]	Tuvalu [26]
Philippines [9,951]	Solomon Islands [195]	Niue [22]
Indonesia [11,647]	DPRK [176]	Wallis and Futuna [6]
Bangladesh [7,642]	Lao PDR [174]	Nauru [0]
Sri Lanka [6,917]		Northern Mariana Islands [0]
Mongolia [4,697]		Pitcairn Islands [0]
Nepal [3,629]		Tokelau [0]

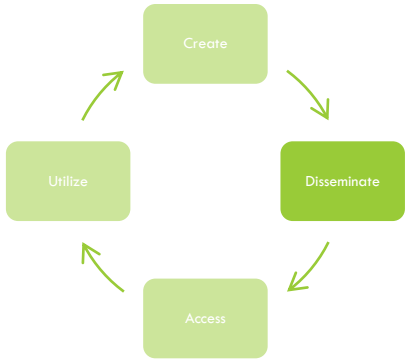


DISSEMINATE

Do countries have a mechanism to disseminate new information?



Reference 10, 11 and 12



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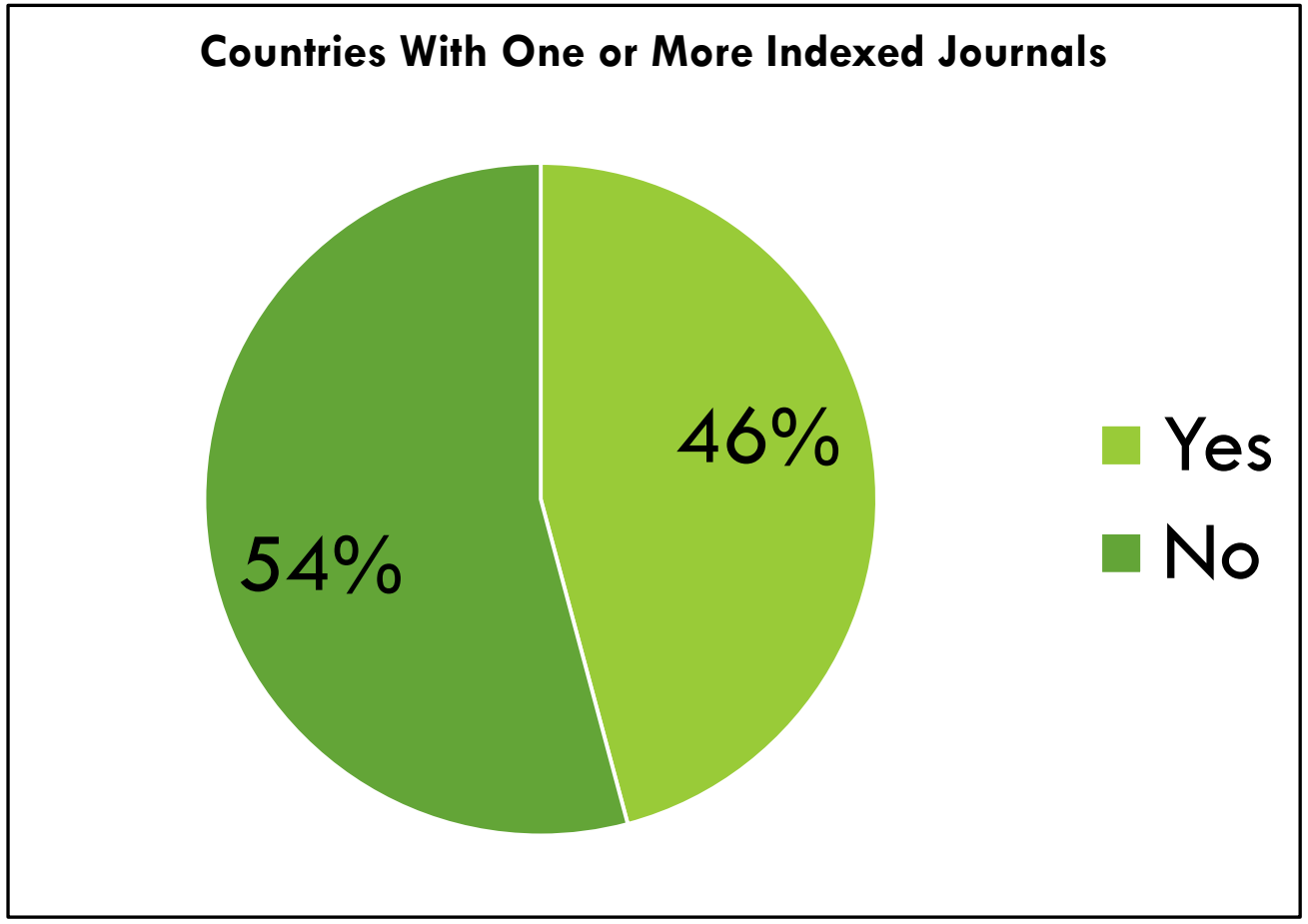

Countries with no indexed journals	
American Samoa	New Caledonia
Bhutan	Niue
Cook Islands	N. Mariana Islands
DPRK	Palau
Fiji	Pitcairn Islands
French Polynesia	Samoa
Guam	Solomon Islands
Kiribati	Timor-Leste
Macao	Tokelau
Maldives	Tonga
Marshall Islands	Tuvalu
Micronesia	Vanuatu
Nauru	Wallis and Futuna

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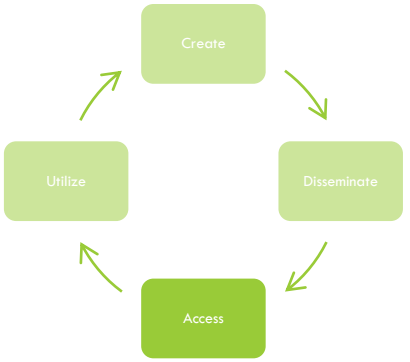
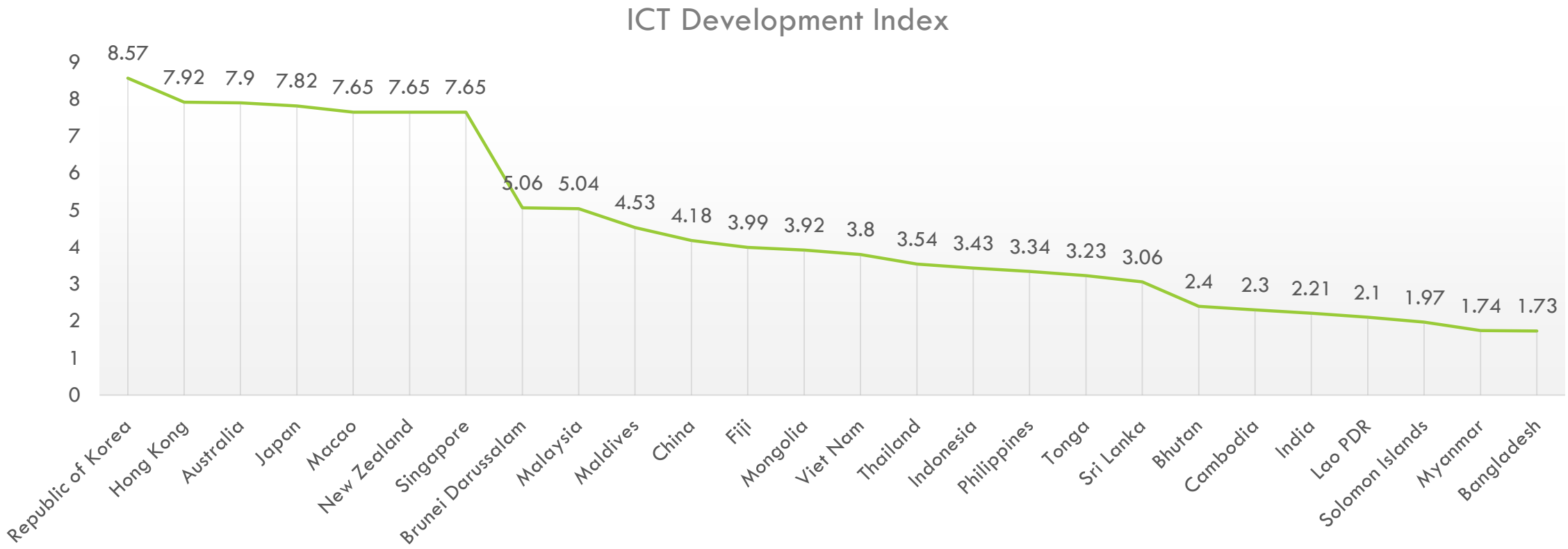
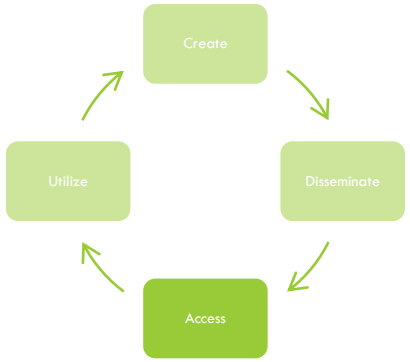


ACCESS

Do countries have sufficient connectivity for people to access new information?



Reference 13

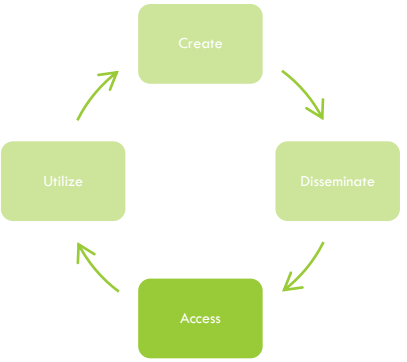


ACCESS

Do countries have sufficient connectivity for people to access new information?

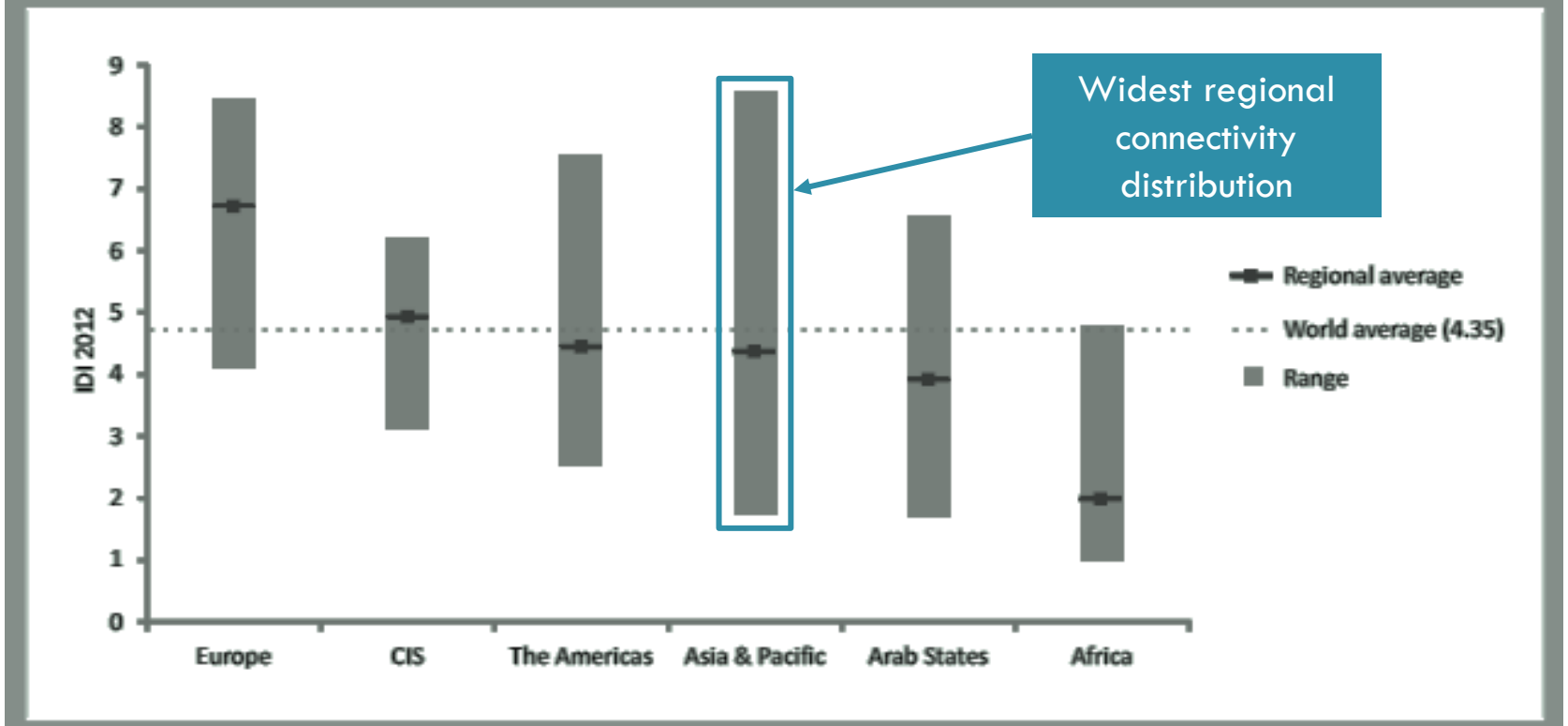
High	Upper	Medium	Low
Republic of Korea	Brunei Darussalam	Fiji	Cambodia
Hong Kong	Malaysia	Mongolia	India
Australia	Maldives	Viet Nam	Lao PDR
Japan	China	Thailand	Solomon Islands
Macao		Indonesia	Myanmar
New Zealand		Philippines	Bangladesh
Singapore		Tonga	
		Sri Lanka	
		Bhutan	

The following countries were not included in the ICT Development Index: American Samoa, Cook Islands, DPRK, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Nepal, New Caledonia, Niue, Northern Mariana, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna.



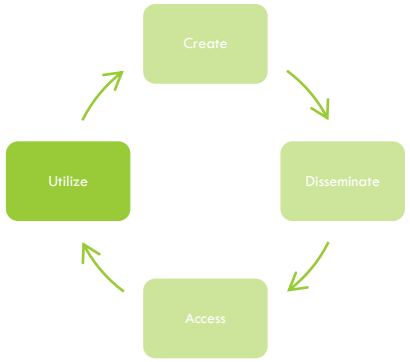
ACCESS

Chart 2.2: IDI ranges and averages, by region, 2012



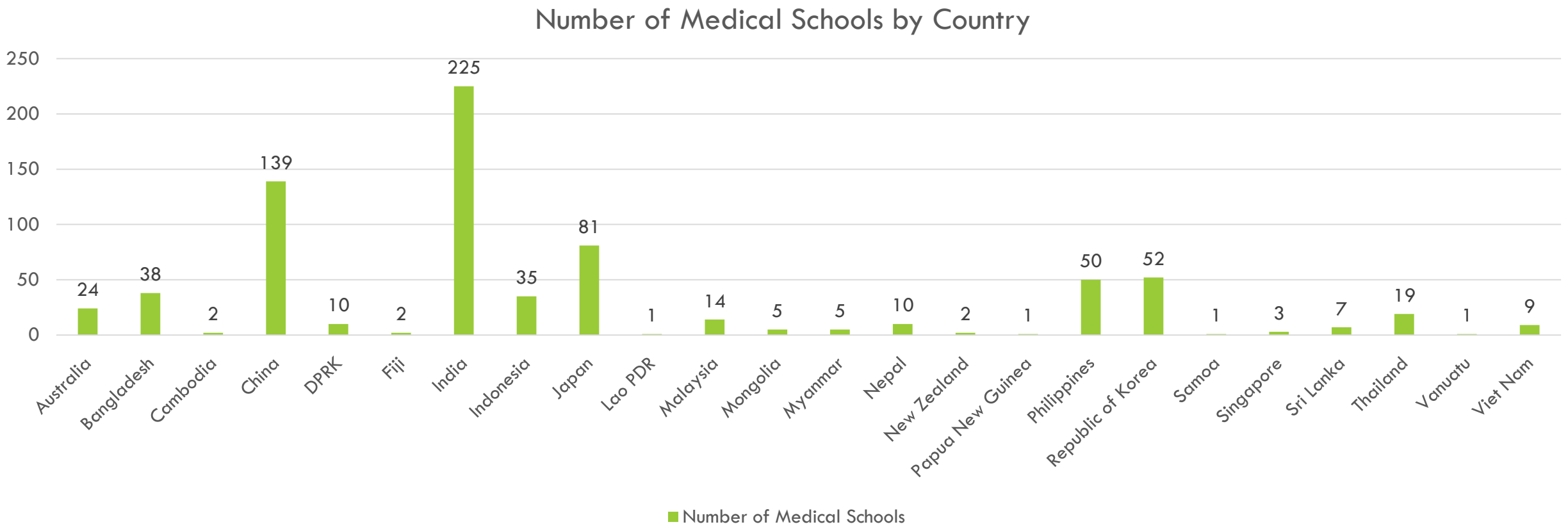
Note: Simple averages.
Source: ITU.

Reference 13



UTILIZE

Do countries have people who can understand and use new information?



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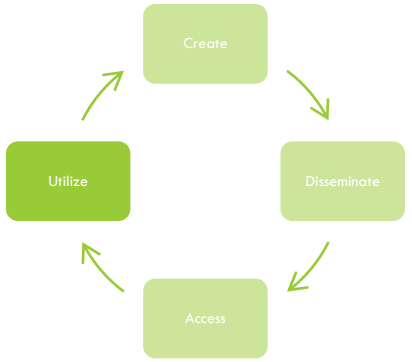

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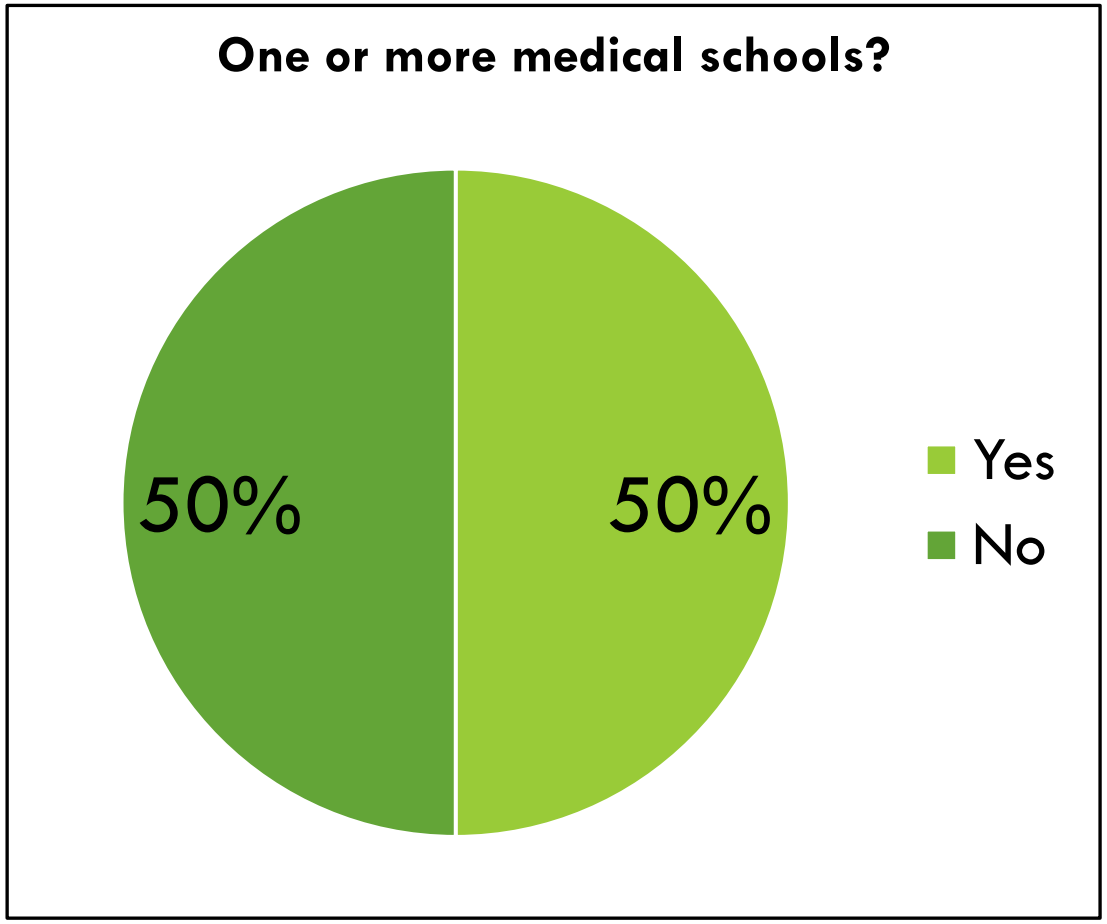

Countries with no medical schools	
American Samoa	Nauru
Bhutan	New Caledonia
Brunei Darussalam	Niue
Cook Islands	Northern Mariana Islands
French Polynesia	Palau
Guam	Pitcairn Islands
Hong Kong	Solomon Islands
Kiribati	Timor-Leste
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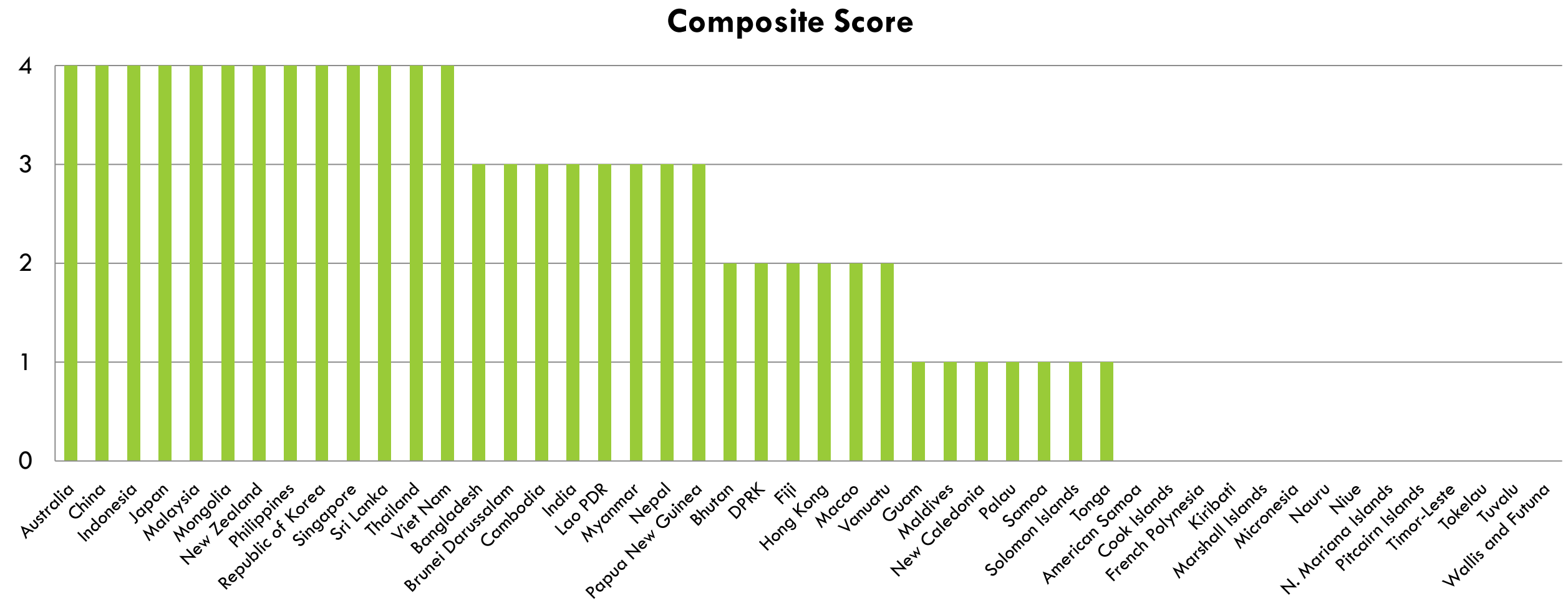
Reference 14

COMPOSITE SCORE



OUTCOME

Summary Level of Information Access

	Score Range	Countries
High	**3-4**	Australia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, India, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea
Medium	**1-2**	Bhutan, DPRK, Fiji, Hong Kong, Macao, Vanuatu, Guam, Maldives, New Caledonia, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga
Low	**0**	American Samoa, Cook Islands, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Northern Mariana Islands, Pitcairn Islands, Timor-Leste, Tokelau, Tuvalu, Wallis and Futuna

LIMITATIONS

- Add additional indicators
- Confirm the relevancy of the indicators

PRESENTATION OUTLINE

Health Information Access:

- Importance
- Status
- Future Direction

PROGRAMS TO IMPROVE ACCESS

Current Programs Include:

- Asia Pacific Association of Medical Journal Editors (APAME)
- HINARI Access to Research in Health Programme
- Western Pacific Region Index Medicus and Index Medicus for South-East Asia Region
- Institutional Repository for Information Sharing (IRIS)

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Questions?

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