



TTCSP

THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

Launch of the 2013 Global Go To Think Tank Index helps highlight the important role think tanks play in civil societies and governments around the world.

Report On Global Cities Launch Events

Acknowledgements

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Background

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania released its seventh annual 2013 Global Go To Think Tanks Report (GGTTI) on Wednesday January 22, 2014, at a morning press conference in Washington DC, hosted by the World Bank. On the same day, the 2013 GGTTI was also launched in 24 cities around the world. These programs were intended to highlight the leading think tanks in each region, illustrate the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the world and share the findings of the 2013 Global Go To Rankings Report.

Since its inception in 2006, the ongoing goal for the GGTTI report has been to gain an understanding of the role think tanks play in governments and civil societies. In this pursuit, the report has become the most comprehensive ranking of the world's top think tanks. Its rigorous research helps to identify and recognize the leading centers of excellence in public policy research around the world. Indeed, the Index has become a gold standard, often cited by governments, donors, journals, academics, and policy makers.

The cities around the world that helped launch the Index in 2014 had tremendous results and feedback. Dr. McGann, Director of the Think Tank and Civil Society Program at the University of Pennsylvania, provided a video message featured in all of the global launches that helped explain the value of the Index and its growing significance.



In Canberra, The Australian Institute of International Affairs held a launch that featured approximately 90 attendees from the diplomatic corps, government departments, media and academia amongst interested public. Their panel featured speakers from the Australia Institute and the Australian Strategic Policy Institute.

The AIIA GGTTI launch, 1/22/14 © Copyright
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The Ecologic Institute presented the GGTTI in Berlin with around 20 participants and the editor of the pre-eminent foreign policy and international affairs journal in Germany. The meeting began with a video message from Dr. McGann and moved forward to collect comments from panelists. Pundits from the German Development Institute (DIE), the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) explained how they use the ranking tables, what the rankings mean for them, and how they dealt with certain limitations.



The Ecologic GGTTI Launch 1/22/14 © 1995-2014 Ecologic

The Brussels event, hosted by Egmont – the Royal Institute for International Relations, garnered a balanced mix of think tankers, academics, lobbyists, and officials from EU and Belgian government. They used the gathering as an opportunity to reflect further upon the increasingly significant role of think tanks in the policy-making process and the public sphere

In Tokyo, the Asian Development Bank Institute and the Japan Institute for International Affairs jointly hosted the GGTTI launch. With approximately 45 individuals, consisting of think tanks officials, government officials, private sector businessmen, and the media, the launch came to some interesting conclusions. It was noted that this audience would like to see more think tanks created in Japan. They suggested more cooperation is needed among the existing Japanese think tanks and urged Japanese think tanks to be more assertive with their policy views.



GGTTI Launch in Tokyo Hosted by Asian Development Bank Institute 1/22/14 © 2014 Asian Development



Similarly, the Polish Institute for International Affairs accompanied the launch of the GGTTI with a seminar on the role of think tanks in shaping public policy in Central and Eastern Europe. The seminar concluded that think tanks are co-authors of policy making in Central and Eastern Europe.

GGTTI Launch in Warsaw hosted by Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) 1/22/14, 2005 - 2014 © The Polish Institute of International Affairs

Over in New Delhi, the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses combined their launch of GGTTI with a discussion on the relevance of think tank ranking and possible ways to improve think tank ranking procedure.



Global Launch of GGTTI in New Delhi hosted by Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, 1/22/14 Copyright © 2005 - 2014 IDSA

In Shanghai, the launch of the GGTTI was met with great success as over 80 participants attended and the event received news coverage from over 6 different Chinese media sources.

The Argentinian launch of the GGTTI, hosted by Consejo Argentino Para Los Relaciones Internacionales, was also met with a variety of media coverage from 4 media outlets.

To keep propelling the potential of the project, Dr. McGann has commissioned a specific project analyzing the political impact of “global cities” that are cultural, knowledge, economic, *and* policy hubs. Following with the seminal work of Michele Acuto, McGann believes that cities are key strategic hinges for contemporary politics both in the sense that they are actively passive (in providing the space for think tanks and policy making institutions), while also being directly active (in connecting diplomats and facilitating transnational networks).

The project is compiling an extensive literature review on global cities as policy hubs, identifying seminal authors, tracing the evolution of thought on the subject, and identifying the debates in the literatures. Dr. McGann hopes to publish an article that brings to light the political elements held in the cities that are the foci of global interconnections and generates awareness and debate in global cities literature.

List of Participating Institutions

Global Cities/Policy Hubs Hosting Global Go To Think Tank Index Launch on January 22, 2014

- 1. Argentine Council for International Relations(Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales) (CARI) Buenos Aires, Argentina**
- 2. Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA), Sydney, Australia**
- 3. Egmont- The Royal Institute for International Relations, Brussels, Belgium**
- 4. Getúlio Vargas Foundation (Fundação Getulio Vargas) (FGV), Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
- 5. Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences(SASS), Shanghai, China**
- 6. Institute of International and Strategic Relations (Institut De Relations Internationales Et Strategiques), (IRIS), Paris, France**
- 7. Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Paris, France**
- 8. Ecologic Institute (EI) and German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP), Berlin, Germany**
- 9. Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), Delhi, India**
- 10. Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta, Indonesia**
- 11. Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), Tel Aviv, Israel**
- 12. Institute for International Political Studies (Istituto per gli Studi di Politica Internazionale) (ISPI), Milan, Italy**
- 13. Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)and Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA), Tokyo, Japan**
- 14. Korea Economic Magazine, Seoul, Korea**
- 15. Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) , Warsaw, Poland**
- 16. Carnegie Moscow Center, Moscow, Russia**
- 17. Gulf Research Center (GRC), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and Geneva, Switzerland**

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- 18. Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Singapore**
 - 19. Institute for Security Studies (ISS), Pretoria, South Africa**
 - 20. Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), Barcelona, Spain and Elcano Royal Institute (Real Instituto Elcano)(IEPG), Madrid, Spain**
 - 21. (TESEV) (SETA) (USAK) (EDAM) and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Turkey Office, Istanbul, Turkey**
 - 22. Chatham House, London, United Kingdom**
 - 23. United Nations (UN), New York, USA**
 - 24. World Bank, Washington, DC, USA**
 - 25. African Capacity Building Foundation, Harare, Zimbabwe**

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. TTCSP was established in 1989. The Program maintains a database and network of over 6,600 think tanks in 152 countries. Often referred to as the “think tanks’ think tank,” TTCSP examines the evolving role and character of public policy research organizations. Over the last 25 years, the Program has developed and led a series of global initiatives that have helped bridge the gap between knowledge and policy in critical policy areas such as international peace and security, globalization and governance, international economics, environmental issues, information and society, poverty alleviation, and healthcare/global health.

These international collaborative efforts are designed to establish regional and international networks of policy institutes and communities that improve policy making while strengthening democratic institutions and civil societies around the world. TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs. TTCSP produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index that ranks the world’s leading think tanks in a variety of categories. This is achieved with the help of a panel of over 1,900 peer institutions and experts from the print and electronic media, academia, public and private donor institutions, and governments around the world. TTCSP has strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world and its annual Think Tank Index is used by academics, journalists,

donors and the public to locate and connect with the leading centers of public policy research around the world. TTCSP's goal is to increase the profile and performance of think tanks and raise the public awareness of the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the globe.

Since its inception in 1989 TTCSP has focused on collecting data and conducting research on think tank trends and the role think tanks play as civil society actors in the policymaking process. In 2007 TTCSP developed and launched the global index of think tank which is designed to identify and recognize centers of excellence in all the major areas of public policy research and in every region of the world. To date TTCSP has provided technical assistance and capacity building programs in 81 countries. The TTCSP is now working to create regional and global networks of think tanks in an effort to facilitate collaboration and the production of a modest yet achievable set of global public goods. Our goal is to create lasting institutional and state-level partnerships by engaging and mobilizing think tanks that have demonstrated their ability to produce high quality policy research and shape popular and elite opinion and actions for public good.