2017 Asia Think Tank Summit: Why Think Tanks are More Important Than Ever Before in Asia

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All requests, questions, and comments should be directed to:
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Disciplines
International and Area Studies | Political Science | Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration

Comments
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Think Tanks, Public Policy, and Governance: WHY THINK TANKS ARE MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE IN ASIA

2017 Asia Think Tank Summit
Singapore, November 22-23
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Concept Note

The Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI) at Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKYSSP), National University of Singapore (NUS), along with the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania, and the Asian Development Bank Institute hosted the 2017 Asia Think Tank Summit on "Think Tanks, Public Policy and Governance".

The Summit took place in Singapore, from November 22-23 of 2017, at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Policy and the Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel. Executives from over 50 think tanks in more than 20 countries gathered to discuss the future of policy in Asia and the main challenges and issues faced by think tanks in the region. The Summit emphasized infrastructure development as a key policy issue in the region and highlighted the importance of collaboration between regional think tanks to share best practices on communication, sustainable growth, technology and disseminating research findings.

Format

The 2017 Asia Think Tank Summit was conducted as a series of panels and conferences with the intent of discussing some of the major organizational and policy challenges posed to think tanks in the region. The discussions were conducted in roundtable format, with key speakers addressing relevant topics followed by an open discussion among all participants. The Asia Think Tank Summit followed Chatham House rules.
IN 2017, WHY ARE THINK TANKS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER BEFORE IN ASIA?

The 2017 Asia Think Tank Summit sought to answer this important question, in midst of an increasingly competitive world environment that makes the marketplace of ideas a highly contentious place. More than 70 think tank executives from over 20 countries gathered in Singapore to share how their organizations have been tackling global, regional, and national challenges and to discuss policy changes in the future. The Summit focused on infrastructure and economic competitiveness, two factors that are critical for the social, economic and political success of the Asia Pacific region.

"The candid sharing among think tank leaders about how they see their mission and some of the modes by which they operate to achieve their objectives was important not just to those of us working in think tanks, but also to the broader understanding of policy making processes and influence in the governments and societies in Asia." – Simon Tay (SIA)
Asian think tanks are on the rise, as regional economies grow and become greater innovation hubs. The think tank landscape in the region is diverse and as distinct in size, development stage, and sociopolitical profile as the nations in which they can be found. Nevertheless, they share the important role of formulating, implementing, and refining policy and face common challenges, such as communication. Think tanks have the duty of disseminating research to the public, who often do not have enough knowledge of complex sociopolitical and economic issues, and of serving as ‘watchdogs’ of policy by monitoring policy implementation processes and ensuring government compliance.

In light of a changing political landscape, think tanks in Asia must work together and exchange perspectives on how to confront the region’s social, economic and political challenges. Huiyao Wang noted that “The Asia Think Tank Summit has become a primary vehicle of communication and alliance among growing and fledgling Asian think tanks, which in turn plays a positive role in their development and expanding influence on their governments”. This reaffirms that think tanks are important because they can provide “valuable advice to the legislators to formulate laws and policies in the best interest of the country and its population”, as Pramod Rijal commented.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Infrastructure Investment & Development

As Ms. Fatouma Topure Ibrahima mentioned, infrastructure is about people, and it is an investment. Infrastructure investment is critical to keep economies churning and to bring jobs and decrease costs to workers. Infrastructure allows communities to thrive and can be beneficial to generations to come. As Suthikorn Kingkaew noted, “developing countries tend to put too much emphasis on building physical infrastructure or hardware as a means to accelerate the development of national economy, and they often forget that the most important part is intellectual infrastructure or software that can make a real difference”. Think tanks must remind policymakers to focus not only on building physical infrastructure (i.e. hardware) but also on intellectual infrastructure and policy (i.e. software).

The developing Asian economies are characterized by a notable infrastructure deficit, especially when it comes to hard infrastructure. Inadequate infrastructure has constrained both farmers as well as small and medium enterprises (SMEs) from having meaningful and efficient access to markets in the region. With Public-Private-Partnerships (PPPs) yielding mixed results, low rates of return on infrastructure investments have remained one of the critical reasons why private sector support to finance infrastructure investments has not taken off significantly. Considering the potential spillover effects to the region that could arise from increased infrastructure investments, policy strategies should aim to revitalize PPP models and search for a more robust and sustainable financing strategy to fund infrastructure investments in the region.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

While Asia does suffer from a lack of funding in infrastructure, as Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa from ISIS pointed out, the main issue with infrastructure is not a lack of funds but rather low quality and regulation of laws and policies related to investment. To enhance investment, Jungwook Kim noted that “it is highly recommended to reform the public sector, streamline regulation on PPPs and facilitate market security”. Private investors and funds from multilateral banks can help narrow the gap between infrastructure supply and demand, given that the public sector currently absorbs over 90% of infrastructure investment costs.

Different nations in the region are addressing these challenges with innovative solutions. In countries like Malaysia, Islamic bonds called Sukuk are used to raise funds. Between 2003 and 2010 more than 330 Sukuk were issued valued as US$22.64 billion, of which 74.4% were in Malaysia. Prior to 2013 in China, large public projects were difficult to carry out due to a strict and limited central government budget. In 2014, the Ministry of Finance introduced successful measures that facilitated PPP policy, and since then most PPP projects are carried out by state-owned enterprises.
Harnessing Technology

FOR RESEARCH

Technological advances are proving to be extremely disruptive: both positively and negatively. On the bright side, the Internet allows users to access information from different points of view, in different parts of the world. Social media has the potential of influencing and educating users, as a study by Pew Research Center shows that 2 out of 3 Americans use social media to receive news. Online tools also present immense opportunities for scientists and researchers to form collaborative networks and share data. Notably, digitization offers opportunities for collaboration, participation and transparency, as Katharina Neumann of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung noted:

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<tr>
<td>Co-authorship is prevalent: +90% of MINT subjects are written by several authors</td>
<td>Engage civil society; volunteer through “distributed computing”</td>
<td>Open science: disclose entire scientific process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Publishing raw data: other scientists can check results / compare studies</td>
<td>Example: Leipzig Open Philology – ancient texts translated together (use language skills to help researchers)</td>
<td>Volunteers more willing to engage when information is made public (ex. Wikipedia)</td>
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<td>Carry out research in different disciplines from same data sets</td>
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However, these advances pose tremendous challenges for knowledge and information, in terms of its veracity, incentives of production, and time dedicated by readers. For example, the rise of fake news had tangible impacts in the 2016 United States presidential election, as social media users clicked on fake news over 760 million times which could have led to polarization among voters. This poses a tremendous issue for the veracity of information, as people struggle to determine what sources of information are real – or do not care to check at all. In terms of incentives, too, there is a major setback, especially in the scientific community.
Collecting data is costly and there often lack enough funds to carry out comprehensive studies. Researchers face the issue of lack of remuneration or acknowledgement when their work is posted online for open use. Lastly, people are less attentive. Microsoft found that people's attention span decreased from 12 seconds in 2000 to 8 in 2016. This directly impacts purveyors of information, who must relay content quickly and effectively.

These tendencies present serious challenges for think tanks, who must establish their voice as providers of impartial information amidst the sea of fake news and governmental restrictions and relay information quickly and efficiently. This can be a great opportunity to engage with the public and drive change, given that the internet allows citizens to be more involved in global governance – and think tanks can react to this. As Syed Munir Khasru from IPAG noted, "Think tanks that can anticipate and harness changing social uses of technology for meaningful engagement with societal challenges will be more resilient in the future". To do so, think tanks must deliver information more effectively and employ more attention-grabbing methods, such as audio visuals, briefings and infographics, to complement long reports and large chunks of information that the public perceives as inaccessible.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

FOR COMMUNICATION

Think tanks must be increasingly strategic and mindful of how they communicate with policymakers and the wider public. As Lydia Ruddy from ERIA noted, "Communications experts know that you cannot just load books and research reports onto a website and think 'job done.'" Different audiences demand different types of information and some are more willing to dedicate time and effort to absorbing information than others. While some researchers and policymakers may be incentivized to read in-depth research reports, policy briefs or discussion papers, younger generations and busy politicians may be more inclined to look at infographics, read tweets, watch videos or listen to podcasts.

Technology can be used as an ally in the quest of reaching audience and provide a ‘communication continuum’, breaking down major publications into smaller pieces until targeted populations are reached with specific findings. However, this is not an easy task: it is time consuming and requires a significant allocation of resources to think tanks’ communication budgets. Most think tanks are small and cannot afford a comprehensive multimedia communications strategy, so organizations must identify plausible target audiences and focus on delivering content to the stakeholders that matter most.
KEY TAKEAWAYS

Disruptive Labor Market Trends

The Asia Pacific region is facing unprecedented labor market challenges, as the population ages and GDP growth decrease. Since the 1950s, global GDP has been powered by population growth but, by 2040, one in four people in China and the advanced economies will be over the age of 65. However, disruptive market trends provide a unique opportunity for nations to boost their productivity, develop a more skilled workforce, and reduce the risks associated with the aging population. Think tanks have an important role to play in this process, as they can provide public policy recommendations to improve K-12 and higher education, promote economic inclusion of women, migrants, and freelance workers, and collaborate with other regional organizations to share knowledge on how to tackle the region's economic challenges.

DISRUPTIVE TRENDS

AUTOMATION
Automation will impact both high- and low-wage occupations, as 60% of all occupations can be automatized by at least 30%. Nevertheless, automation will create demand for different types of jobs.

INDEPENDENT WORK
The rise of independent work will also disrupt labor market trends. In the US and EU, around 27% of workers do some form of independent work and, of those, 70% do so because they choose to. These workers report higher levels of satisfaction and use of digital platforms.

WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE
Women's role in the workforce will be disruptive due to their untapped economic value. Women contribute between 14-41% to national GDP in different Asia Pacific countries, which is less than they should. By addressing the gender gap, MGI research suggests that world GDP could rise by 11%. Women's labor must progress in terms of labor force participation rate, hours worked, and sector mix.

MIGRATION
Cross-border migration presents an opportunity for countries who face a shrinking labor force. By improving migrant integration of the approximately 247 million displaced people, GDP could increase by up to $1 trillion. Migrant integration must occur along social, economic and civic lines.
Economic Growth & Sustainability

SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

If Indonesia continues to grow at 5% annually, by 2045 it will have a GDP per capita of $19,000. Dr. Bambang Brodinegoro, Minister for National Development Planning of Indonesia, noted that this would qualify his country as high-income. Maintaining that growth, however, will be the challenge: it requires sustainable and steady policies and a lot of determination. The same case applies to other Asian countries. To obtain sustainable growth, Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance of the Republic of Singapore, suggested that infrastructure is the key pillar. Infrastructure can “attract investment, create good jobs, and create a quality living environment for the people”, as Tan Khee Glap noted from the Minister's remarks. Infrastructure should focus on sustainability, inclusivity and innovation, rather than building for the sake of building. This will encourage sustainable growth and attract foreign investment in the region. Infrastructure development should be carried out in an environmentally-friendly manner and encourage cooperation across the region to ensure more harmony, both social and environmentally, in Asia in the future. Lastly, the aging
population should be taken into consideration when developing sustainable policies. Aging populations will affect economic performance as well as fiscal and monetary policies, as their effectiveness weakens when the proportion of retirees in a population increases. As Dr. Yoshino commented, in Japan this phenomenon explains why the Japanese economy cannot be lifted from stagnation with monetary policies. Non-monetary policies must be incorporated into policy strategies for sustainable growth.

HUMAN CAPITAL

Human capital accumulation is a prime driver of the growth of labor productivity and household income, which in turn provides the basis for poverty reduction and inclusive growth in Asia. Despite its importance, research on the determinants and optimal levels of such investments are still scant. Financial literacy is a particular kind of human capital which has been receiving increasing attention. As economies develop, households increase their holdings of real and financial assets, but also face an increasing diversity of financial products and need to plan for longer periods of retirement. Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) also need to increase their capacity for financial planning and record-keeping to improve their ability to invest and receive financing. Many countries are still in the early stages of developing national strategies for financial education.
POLICY DIRECTIONS

Policymakers can promote human development in Asia – and think tanks can incentivize policymakers to do so. A study by ADBI, using data on financial literacy from the Bank of Japan, revealed that education, income, age and occupation are positively related to financial literacy. Higher levels of education can significantly contribute to saving and financial inclusion, which suggests that policymakers can improve financial literacy by proposing reforms to existing education policies.

PROMOTING SMALL & MEDIUM SIZED ENTERPRISES (SMEs)

Despite the rising significance of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to the growth of Asian economies, SMEs still suffer from significant constraints pertaining to access to finance, information and new technologies. SMEs do not have the resources to hire skilled professionals and they also lack a good training system for their employees. Start-up businesses struggle even more to get financial support from banks and tend to borrow money from local lenders at high interest rates. Big data analysis of SMEs will make it possible for banks and money lenders to evaluate SMEs. Hometown investment trust funds can support venture businesses in the region.
POLICY DIRECTIONS

Dr. Nemoto discussed the effect of using bank account information that has not been integrated completely into internal rating systems, showing that the accuracy of default prediction increases when financial statement-based conventional models are mixed with dynamic bank account information. The findings on Dr. Nemoto's paper, "Innovations in SME finance using bank account information" suggest that dynamic bank account information models could improve the financials and creditworthiness of smaller firms, which could in turn enable banks to increase loans to SMEs. As the Asian Development Bank Institute noted, "in most of Asian emerging countries including Thailand, Indonesia, and China, banks' SME lending is constrained due to a low quality of SMEs' financial statements and unavailability of credit data under an absence of the established database." New methods of financing will significantly improve the quality and availability of loans to SMEs, and think tanks can further studies to promote the expansion of these new technologies.

OTHER ECONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS

The Summit also discussed the importance of debt sustainability and foreign direct investment. Essentially, it was established that think tanks are important because they can advance policy in both economic and non-economic sectors, which is crucial for nations to develop. How active think tanks are in a can be an indicator of a nation's developmental progress, as noted by Kasan Muhr. Think tanks can provide much needed economic research to governments where politicians do not come from an academic background and have little technical knowledge on issues of development and economics.
Climate Change

The 2015 Paris Accord represents a significant step forward in the global fight against climate change. The commitments made by signatories now need to be translated into concrete action. Due to its expected strong economic growth, Asia is predicted to become the largest emitter of CO2 by 2035. The region therefore needs to think urgently about how to achieve economic growth that is environmentally sustainable. Achieving green growth requires improvements in energy efficiency, the promotion of low carbon technologies and well as an elimination of carbon-intensive practices. This transition will be costly and new financing mechanisms will be needed. One new and potentially transformative idea on how to finance mitigation efforts is through local finance schemes.
PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, 22 NOVEMBER 2017
Venue: Lobby, Cei Tiong Ham Building, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore

13:30–14:50  **Arrival/Registration.** *Lunch sponsored by KAS Political Dialogue Asia*

15:00–15:20  **Welcome Remarks by Authorities and Organizers:**
Associate Professor Tan Khee Giap, Co-Director, ACI-LKYSPP NUS
Dr. James McGann, Senior Lecturer, Lauder Institute & Director, TTCSP
Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean, LKYSPP, NUS

15:20–16:20  **Think Tank Presidents’ Panel: Making a Difference to Policymakers & the Public**
**Panelists:** Mr. Huiyao Wang, Founder & President, Center for China and Globalization (People's Republic of China)
Mr. Simon Tran, Chairman, Singapore Institute of International Affairs (Singapore)
Dr. Ooi Koo Kakakhol, Chairman, Sustainable Development Policy Institute (Pakistan)
Dr. Kamalrwee Pinipuvadol, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development (Thailand)
**Moderator:** Mr. Christian Echle, Director, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Political Dialogue Asia

16:20–17:20  **Peace and Prosperity or Conflict or Chaos: The Role of Think Tanks in Shaping the Future of Asia**
**Panelists:** Mr. Yasutaka Miyazawa, Director, Research Coordination, The Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) (Japan)
Dr. Hufang Tian, Deputy Director of Global Governance Department and Senior Research Fellow, Institute of World Economics and Politics, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (People's Republic of China)
Dr. Francoise Nicolas, Senior Research Fellow and Director, Center for Asian Studies, French Institute for International Affairs
Dr. Tae Soo Kang, Senior Research Fellow, Korea Institute of International Economic Policy
**Moderator:** Mr. Nicholas Fang, Executive Director, Singapore Institute for International Affairs

17:20–17:50  **Round Table Discussion**

17:50–18:00  **Closing Remarks**
Dr. James McGann, Senior Lecturer, Lauder Institute & Director, TTCSP
**PROGRAM**

18:30-21:00  
**Welcome Dinner and Talk "Sponsored by McKinsey Global Institute**

**Conditions for Debt Sustainability: Both Private Debt and Public Debt in Asia**

*Distinguished Speaker:* Professor Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute  
*Moderator:* Dr. Jeongmin Seong, Senior Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute

**THURSDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2017**

*Venue: Grand Ballroom, Level 4, Grand Copthorne Waterfront Hotel, Singapore*

08:30-09:00  
**Conference Registration**

09:00-09:20  
**Welcome Remarks**

Professor Bernard Tan, Vice Provost of Undergraduate Education and Student Life, National University of Singapore  
Ms. Fatouma Toure Ibrahima, Acting Director and Operations Adviser, World Bank Infrastructure and Urban Development Hub, World Bank Group

09:20-09:40  
**Conference Opening Remarks by Guest of Honor**

Madame Halimah Yacob, President of the Republic of Singapore

09:40-09:45  
**Guest of Honor ACI-LYKSSP, NUS Book Launch**

"2017 Annual Competitiveness Analysis and Impact of Exchange Rates on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to ASEAN Economies"

"2017 Impact Estimation of Exchange Rate on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows and Annual Update of Competitiveness Analysis for 94 Greater China Economies"

"2017 Annual Competitiveness Analysis and Impact of Exchange Rates on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to Sub-National Economies of India"

"2017 Annual Competitiveness Analysis and Impact of Exchange Rates on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to Sub-National Economies of Indonesia"

"2017 Annual Indices for Expatriates and Ordinary Residents on Cost of Living, Wages and Purchasing Power for World's Major Cities"

"Urban Composite Development Index for 17 Shandong Cities: Ranking and Simulation Analysis Based on China’s Five Development Concepts"

10:30-11:00  
**Keynote Address: “Leverage Government Balance Sheet to Mobilize Private Financing for Infrastructure Development”**

*Speaker:* Dr. Cledan Mandri-Perrott, Head of Infrastructure Finance and PPPs, Infrastructure, PPPs & Guarantees, The World Bank Group  
*Moderator:* Associate Professor Tan Khee Giap, Co-Director, ACI-LKYSPP NUS
PROGRAM

11:00-11:30  Keynote Address: “Disruptive Labor Market Trends and Opportunities”
Speaker: Ms. Ary Madgavkar, Partner, McKinsey Global Institute
Moderator: Dr. Mulya Amri, Research Fellow Deputy Director, ACI-LKYSPP NUS

11:30-12:00  Keynote Address: “Think Tanks and Economic Competitiveness”
Speaker: Dr. James McGann, Senior Lecturer, Lauder Institute, Director, TTCSP
Moderator: Dr. Sasidaran Gopalan, Research Fellow & Deputy Director, ACI-LKYSPP, NUS

12:00-14:00  Conference Luncheon and Talk *Sponsored by Korea Development Institute & Korea Institute for International Economic Policy
Risks and Return of Infrastructure Investment and Financing in Asia
Distinguished Speaker: Professor Terry Marsh, CEO, Quantal International & Emeritus Professor of Finance, UC Berkeley
Moderator: Associate Professor Tan Khee Giep, Co-Director, ACI-LKYSPP NUS

14:00-15:45  Breakout Sessions One (Discussion followed by Q&A)
Session A1: Developing Human Capital
Moderator: Mr. Huiyao Wang, Founder & President, Center for China and Globalization, People’s Republic of China
Lead Discussant: Dr. Peter Morgan, Senior Consulting Economist & Co-Chair, Research Department, Asian Development Bank Institute
Discussants: Professor Philippe Gugler, Director, Center for Competitiveness, University of Fribourg & Chairman, European International Business Academy & Editor-in-Chief, Competitiveness Review
Dr. Kamalime Philpuduval, Executive Director, International Institute for Trade and Development
Mr. Jitendra GC, Director and Founder, Sajha Foundation

Session A2: How to Promote Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs) in the Asian Region
Moderator: Dr. Sasidaran Gopalan, Research Fellow & Deputy Director (Administration), ACI-LYKSSP, NUS
Lead Discussant: Dr. Naoko Neomoto, Financial Economist, Asian Development Bank Institute
Discussants: Dr. Young Kwon Cho, Adjunct Professor, Business School, Chung-Ang University, South Korea
Dr. Shin-Hui Chen, Assistant Research Fellow, Chung-Hua Institution of Economic Research, Taipei, Taiwan, Republic of China
Dr. Luo Hairong, Research Fellow, Institute of World Economy, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, People’s Republic of China
Program

Session A5: Harnessing Technology to Improve Research Capacity, Revenue & Digital Economy

Moderator: Mr. Syed Munir Khaeru, Chairman, The Institute for Policy, Advocacy and Governance, Bangladesh
Lead Discussant: Mr. Kaoru Suzuki, Assistant Director, Japan International Cooperation Agency
Discussants: Ms. Melissa Conley Tyler, National Executive Director, Australia Institute of International Affairs, Australia
Ms. Katharina Naumann, Program Manager, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Regional Programme Political Dialogue Asia
Dr. Nicola Missaglia, Research Fellow, Italian Institute for International Political Studies

Session A6: Water Security
*Hosted by the Institute of Water Policy (IWP), LKYSSP NUS, Singapore

Moderator: Dr. Olivia Jensen, Senior Research Fellow, IWP-LKYSSP, NUS
Discussants: Mr. Pheak Savy, Senior Advisor for WASH and Partnerships, Asia P3 Hub
Dr. Leong Ching, Co-Director and Assistant Professor, IWP-LKYSSP
Dr. Ishani Mukherjee, Practice Lead (Sustainability), Global Counsel

16:15-18:00

Breakout Sessions Two (Discussion followed by Q&A)

Session A3: How to Finance Infrastructure Investments in Asia

Moderator: Mr. Jungwook Kim, Director & VP, Department of Competition Policy, Korea Development Institute
Lead Discussant: Tan Sri Rastam Mohd Isa, Chairman & Chief Executive, Institute of Strategic and International Studies, Malaysia
Discussants: Dr. Wang Huitong, Research Fellow, Institute for Finance and Economics Research, Central University of Finance and Economics, People’s Republic of China
Dr. Cledan Mandri-Perott, Head of Infrastructure Finance and PPPs, Infrastructure, PPPs & Gurantees, World Bank Group

Session A4: Fighting Against Climate Change

Moderator: Dr. Mulya Amri, Research Fellow & Deputy Director, ACI-LKYSSP
Lead Discussant: Dr. Sun Jitting, Professor, Shandong Marine Economic and Culture Research Institute, Shandong Academy of Social Sciences, People’s Republic of China
Discussants: Dr. Nguyen Manh Hai, Director, Public Service Policy Department, Central Institute for Economic Management, Socialist Republic of Vietnam
Dr. James McGann, Senior Lecturer, Lauder Institute & Director, TTCSP
Dr. Kieth Rethy Chhem, Cambodian Development Resource Institute, Cambodia
Session A7: China’s Economic Transformation after the 19th CPC National Congress and its Impacts on the Global Economy
*Co-hosted by the Singapore National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation (SINCEPEC) and the East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (NUS)

**Moderator:** Dr. Zhao Litao, Senior Research Fellow, EAI, NUS
**Lead Discussant:** Dr. Lance L.P. Gore, Senior Research Fellow, EAI, NUS
**Discussants:** Professor Tan Kong Yam, Co-Director, ACI-LKYSP, NUS
Dr. Tong Yueting, Senior Research Fellow, EAI
Dr. Shan Wei, Research Fellow, EAI, NUS

Session A8: Is Anyone Listening? Strategic Communications and Marketing for Think Tanks

**Moderator:** Dr. Constantino Xavier, Fellow, Carnegie India
**Lead Discussant:** Ms. Cynthia Wu, Executive VP, Shinkong Life Insurance Co. & Executive Director, Shinkong Life Foundation, Taiwan, Republic of China
**Discussants:** Ms. Cathy Yiqian Gui, Head, Asia External Communications, McKinsey Global Institute
Ms. Angela Mo, Senior Manager, Policy Advocacy & Engagement, Our Hong Kong Foundation
Ms. Lydia Ruddy, Director for Communication, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN (ERIA)

18:00-18:30  Cocktail Reception *Sponsored by Asian Development Bank Institute

18:30-21:00  Ministerial Forum and Dinner: Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth, Environmental and Social Harmony in Asia

**Panelists:** Dr. Bambang Brodjonegoro, Minister, National Development Planning Agency (BAPPENAS), Republic of Indonesia
Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, Republic of Singapore
**Moderator:** Associate Professor Tan Khee Giap, Co-Director, ACI-LKYSP NUS
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<td>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung</td>
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<td>Angela Mo</td>
<td>Senior Manager, Policy Advocacy &amp; Engagement</td>
<td>Our Hong Kong Foundation</td>
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<td>Anu Madgavkar Bambang Brodjonegoro</td>
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<td>Chayodom Chen Lee</td>
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THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) of the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania conducts research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world. 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 TTCSP 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 and 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. The TTCSP works with leading scholars and practitioners from think tanks and universities in a variety of collaborative efforts and programs, and 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. We have strong relationships with leading think tanks around the world, and our 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.
Our 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, the 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, the TTCSP developed and launched the global index of think tanks, 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. We are 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.

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capacity for think tanks around the world...
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comprehensive database of over
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All requests, questions, and comments should be directed to

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Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

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The Fifth Estate: Think Tanks Public Policy and Governance (Brookings, 2016) [https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/chapter-one_-_the-fifth-estate.pdf]


How Think Tanks Shape Development Policies (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2014) [http://www.upenn.edu/pennpress/book/15244.html]


Global Think Tanks, Policy Networks and Governance (Routledge, 2010) [https://www.routledge.com/Global-Think-Tanks-Policy-Networks-and-Governance/McGann-Sabatini/p/book/9780415779791]