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JUNE 18, 2020

This copy reflects corrections and edits as of 6.18.2020

PUBLISHED IN JANUARY 2020

THINK TANKS & CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
THE LAUDER INSTITUTE
THE UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
“Helping to bridge the gap between knowledge and policy”

Researching the trends and challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, and policy-oriented civil society groups. Sustaining, strengthening and building capacity for think tanks around the world. Maintaining the largest, most comprehensive database of over 8,000 think tanks.

All requests, questions and comments should be directed to:

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2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report¹

Abstract

Background on the 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 29 years, 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 policymaking 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 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 1,796 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, 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 2006, TTCSP developed and launched a pilot project named the global index of think tanks, 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 85 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.

¹Follow this and additional works at: https://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks
Disciplines

International and Area Studies | Social and Behavioral Sciences

Comments

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2019 edition of the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report marks the 14th edition of the report. I want to thank all the interns, peers and experts who have helped make the report a valuable resource for policymakers, policy-oriented civil society organizations and the public. The Go To Index is now used to identify and recognize centers of excellence in policy research, forge knowledge and policy partnerships and create a global think tank village. I want to express my deep appreciation to the 3,974 plus university faculty and administrators, journalists, policymakers, think tank scholars and executives, and donors from every region of the world that participated in the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI). I would like to thank the functional area and regional specialists who served as expert panelists and provided valuable insights and assistance as I compiled the report. Thank you also to my research interns for their help in compiling and analyzing the data for the 2019 Index. They, in conjunction with the regional research intern team, put in long hours to help improve the quality and appearance of the Index. A special thanks to the director and staff of the Lauder Institute for their help and support. Finally, I want to thank the more than 300 hosts, planning-committee members and partner institutions around the world that have agreed to host think tank events in approximately 130 cities, hosted by 152 organizations and over 600 partners in 125 cities involving 1000s of individuals in a discussion of Why Think Tanks Matter. Once again, thank you for helping TTCSP highlight the important role think tanks play in civil societies and governments around the world. Last but not least, thank you to Martine Haas, Director of the Joseph H. Lauder Institute, for his support and to the dedicated group of TTCSP research interns who help make the Global Go To Think Tank Index possible.

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Lauder Institute, University of Pennsylvania
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Introduction

The 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI) marks the fourteenth year of continued efforts by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania to acknowledge the important contributions and emerging global trends of think tanks worldwide. Our initial effort to generate a ranking of the world’s leading think tanks in 2006 was a response to a series of requests from donors, government officials, journalists and scholars to produce regional and international rankings of the world’s preeminent think tanks. Since its inception, our ongoing objective for the GGTTI report is to gain an understanding of the role think tanks play in governments and civil societies. Using this knowledge, we hope to assist in improving the capacity and performance of think tanks around the world.

Since 2006, the ranking process has been refined and streamlined, and the number and scope of the institutions and individuals involved has steadily grown. The process, as in past years, relies on a shared definition of public policy research, analysis, and engagement organizations, a detailed set of selection criteria, and an increasingly open and transparent nomination and selection process. As part of the nominations process, all 8,248 think tanks catalogued in TTCSP’s Global Think Tank Database were contacted and encouraged to participate in the nomination and ranking process. In addition to over 68,191 journalists, policymakers, public and private donors, and functional and regional area specialists on TTCSP listserv were invited to participate and over 3,974 fully or partially completed the nomination and ranking surveys. Finally, a group of peers and experts was asked to help rank and review the list of public policy research centers of distinction for 2019.

To refine and validate the generated ranking lists, TTCSP assembled Expert Panels comprised of hundreds of members from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines. Additionally, new media—the website and social media presence—helped us communicate and disseminate information about criteria for this year’s Index to a wider audience (please see “Methodology and Timeline” for the complete set of nomination and ranking criteria, and “Appendices” for a detailed explication of the ranking process). Given the rigor and scope of the nomination and selection processes, the rankings produced thus far have been described as the insider’s guide to the global marketplace of ideas.

As a final note, we would like to remind you that the data collection, research, and analysis for this project, as in previous years, were conducted without the benefit of field research, a budget or staff. Despite these limitations, we are confident of the quality and integrity of the findings given the number of peers and experts from around the world who have taken the time to participate in the process.

We are confident that the peer nomination and selection process, as well as the work of the international Expert Panels, have enabled us to create the most authoritative list of high-performance think tanks in the world. Still, efforts to streamline and perfect the process are ongoing. We are continually seeking ways to enhance the process and welcome your comments and suggestions. We further encourage you to provide the names and contact information for prospective expert panelists for functional and regional areas covered by the Index. Thank you for your continued support of TTCSP and of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index. We hope our efforts to highlight the important contributions and emerging global trends of think tanks worldwide will foster insightful discussions and debates on the present and future roles of these vital institutions.
Global Go To Think Tank Index and Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program by the Numbers

- On the University of Pennsylvania ScholarlyCommons site alone, TTCSP’s 2018 Global Think Tank Index Report has been downloaded 161,604 times (from 177 countries and by thousands of individuals and organizations) from January 2019 to January 2020. It is currently the number-one downloaded research paper on the site.

- Over 69,000 individuals and institutions are on the full TTCSP listserv, following the Go To Indexing Process and its findings, and 45,969 individuals and institutions were invited to complete the Global Go To Think Tank Index Survey.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2019 Global Go To Index Survey Participants</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Invited Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Europe</td>
<td>4,095</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central Asia</td>
<td>1,120</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Middle East &amp; North Africa</td>
<td>1,228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Central &amp; Eastern Europe</td>
<td>1,253</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mexico and Canada</td>
<td>97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Africa</td>
<td>4,418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia</td>
<td>2,893</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Latin America</td>
<td>1,420</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>2,881</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,514</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>China</td>
<td>1,689</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category of Institutions</th>
<th>Number of Invited Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Policy</td>
<td>7,775</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Policy</td>
<td>405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Policy</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Security</td>
<td>1,262</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environment</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy and Resource Policy</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Development</td>
<td>382</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Economics</td>
<td>590</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Close to 4,000 individuals participated in the 2019 Global Go To Rankings Process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Specific Targeted Groups</th>
<th>Number of Invited Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Domestic Economics</td>
<td>528</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Government-Affiliated</td>
<td>152</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>University-Affiliated</td>
<td>179</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundation</td>
<td>227</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global Summits</td>
<td>685</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Open Source Survey</th>
<th>Number of Invited Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think Tank Staff and Scholars</td>
<td>109</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Global Think Tank Presidents</td>
<td>1,295</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expert Panel Members</td>
<td>4,890</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TTCSP Interns</td>
<td>1,865</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rankings</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nominations</td>
<td>836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>45,969</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• Thousands of think tank scholars and executives have participated in the national, global and regional think tank summits organized by TTCSP in partnership with think tanks around the world.
What is a Think Tank?

Think tanks are public-policy research analysis and engagement organizations that generate policy-oriented research, analysis and advice on domestic and international issues, thereby enabling policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy. Think tanks may be affiliated or independent institutions that are structured as permanent bodies, not ad-hoc commissions. These institutions often act as a bridge between the academic and policymaking communities and between states and civil society, serving in the public interest as an independent voice that translates applied and basic research into a language that is understandable, reliable and accessible for policymakers and the public (Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US, Routledge 2007 and in The Fifth Estate: Think Tanks, Public Policy, and Governance, Brookings Institution Press 2016).

In an effort to bridge these conceptual problems and create a typology that takes into consideration the comparative differences in political systems and civil societies, we have developed a number of categories for think tanks. Think tanks may perform many roles in their host societies; there is, in fact, wide variation among think tanks in the work they do and the extent to which they do it. Over the last 90 years, several distinct organizational forms of think tanks have emerged that differentiate themselves in terms of their operating styles, patterns of recruitment and aspirations to academic standards of objectivity and completeness in research. It should be noted that alternate typologies of think tanks have been offered by other analysts.¹ In the global context, most think tanks tend to fall into the broad categories outlined below.
### Figure 1: Categories of Think Tank Affiliations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CATEGORY</th>
<th>DEFINITION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AUTONOMOUS AND INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>Significant independence from any one interest group or donor, and autonomous in its operation and funding from government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUASI-INDEPENDENT</td>
<td>Autonomous from government but controlled by an interest group, donor or contracting agency that provides a majority of the funding and has significant influence over operations of the think tank.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GOVERNMENT-AFFILIATED</td>
<td>A part of the formal structure of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QUASI-GOVERNMENTAL</td>
<td>Funded exclusively by government grants and contracts but not a part of the formal structure of government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNIVERSITY-AFFILIATED(^2)</td>
<td>A policy research center at a university.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLITICAL-PARTY AFFILIATED</td>
<td>Formally affiliated with a political party.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CORPORATE (FOR-PROFIT)</td>
<td>A for-profit public policy research organization, affiliated with a corporation or merely operating on a for-profit basis.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North America and Europe

- There are 2,058 think tanks in North America (Mexico, Canada and the United States) of which 1,872 are in the United States. There are 2,219 think tanks in Europe.
- Over 51 percent of all think tanks are in North America and Europe, a decrease from last year.
- The number of think tanks in the United States has more than doubled since 1980.
- The end of Post-WWII consensus and challenge to the welfare state contributed to the growth of think tanks on the left and the right of the political spectrum.
- Most of the think tanks that have come into existence in the United States since the 1970s are specialized for a particular regional or functional area.
- About one quarter of US-based think tanks are located in Washington, DC.
- The rate of establishment of think tanks has declined over the last 12 years in the United States and Europe.

Asia, Latin America, Africa and the Middle East

- Asia, Latin America, Africa, the Middle East and North Africa continue to see an expansion in the number and type of think tanks established.
- Asia has experienced a dramatic growth in think tanks since the mid-2000s.
- Many think tanks in these regions continue to be dependent on government funding along with gifts, grants and contracts from international public and private donors.
- University- or government-affiliated or funded think tanks remain the dominant model for think tanks in these regions.
- There is increasing diversity among think tanks in these regions with independent, political party affiliated, and corporate or business sector think tanks that are being created with greater frequency.
- In an effort to diversify their funding base, think tanks have targeted businesses and wealthy individuals to support their core operations and programs.
Reasons for the Growth of Think Tanks in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries

- Information and technological revolution.
- End of national governments’ monopoly on information.
- Increasing complexity and technical nature of policy problems.
- Increasing size of government.
- Crisis of confidence in governments and elected officials.
- Globalization and the growth of state and non-state actors.
- Need for timely and concise information and analysis that is “in the right form, in the right hands, at the right time.”

Reasons for the Recent Decline in Number of Think Tanks Established Worldwide

- Political and regulatory environment growing hostile to think tanks and NGOs in many countries.
- Decreasing funding for policy research by public and private donors.
- Public and private donor tendency toward short-term, project-specific funding instead of investing in ideas and institutions.
- Underdeveloped institutional capacity and the inability to adapt to change.
- Increased competition from advocacy organizations, for-profit consulting firms, law firms and 24/7 electronic media.
- Institutions having served their purpose and discontinued their operations.

When I helped organize the first international meeting of think tanks, one of the major debates at the meeting was the contention that the term “think tank” doesn’t travel well across borders and cultures. That is clearly no longer the case, as the term is now widely accepted around the globe to describe “public-policy research analysis and engagement organizations that generate policy-oriented research, analysis, and advice on domestic and international issues, which enable policymakers and the public to make informed decisions about public policy issues.”

And, increasingly, think tanks are a global phenomenon because they play a critical role for governments and civil societies around the world by acting as bridges between knowledge (academia) and power (politicians and policymakers).

Governments and individual policymakers, throughout the developed and developing world, face the common problem of bringing expert knowledge to bear in government decision-making. Policymakers need understandable, reliable, accessible and useful information about the societies they govern. They also need to know how current policies are working, as well as how to set out possible alternatives and their likely costs and consequences. This expanding need has fostered the growth of independent public policy research organization: the think tank community, as we know it.
Think tanks have increased in number; the scope and impact of their work have also expanded dramatically. Still, the potential of think tanks to support and sustain democratic governments and civil societies around the world is far from exhausted. The challenge for the new millennium is to harness the vast reservoir of knowledge, information and associational energy that exist in public policy research organizations so that it supports self-sustaining economic, social and political progress in every region of the world for public good.

Part of the goal of this report is to raise some of the critical threats and opportunities that face the think tank community globally. These threats are best expressed by what I call the “four mores”:

- More Issues
- More Actors
- More Competition
- More Conflict

These threats create a set of challenges that confront all think tanks:

- Competitive challenges
- Resource challenges
- Technological challenges

To effectively respond to the threats and opportunities posed by this new and challenging environment, think tanks need to focus on the “four M’s”:

- Mission
- Market
- Manpower
- Money

In a global marketplace of ideas, think tanks need to develop national, regional and global partnerships while creating new and innovative platforms to deliver their products and services to an ever-expanding audience of citizens, policymakers and businesses around the world.

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3 McGann, 2007
Trends and Transitions in Think Tanks and Policy Advice

TTCSP is dedicated to understanding the key trends and challenges facing think tanks around the world. All of our research, publications, and regional and global think tank summits are focused on the organizational challenges confronting the think tank community and the policy challenges facing think tanks, policymakers and the public. This issue, we have decided to highlight the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and emerging technologies on think tanks, analyzing AI’s radical transformations and providing an assessment of the state of the field. This is followed by a new list that TTCSP is introducing to the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index: “Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Think Tanks.” These are organizations that are on the cutting-edge of emerging technology trends and the issues they generate.

Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

Lauder Institute

University of Pennsylvania

*James G. McGann with special thanks to Laura Whelan for assistance writing and preparing this article.*
Think Tanks and Emerging Technologies: On the Front Lines or on the Side Lines?4

As accelerating advances in disruptive technologies transform politics and increase the velocity of information and policy flows worldwide, think tanks, policymakers and the public are being confronted with changes that may move faster than they can comprehend. Global economies are being altered by the fourth industrial revolution in a way that will fundamentally alter the meaning and purpose of work, education and life itself. This is occurring at the same time that the post-Cold War world order is being challenged and transformed. These two paradigmatic shifts are raising fundamental questions about the value and purpose of national, regional and global governance. We are in an age of uncertainty and insecurity where everything around us is in a state of flux. These twin, coincident transformational changes require think tanks to be on the front lines, raising the difficult questions and encouraging policymakers and the public to understand both the costs and benefits of these new technologies, in addition to the tactical and strategic implications of the new world order.

Think tanks need to be analyzing and communicating the issues associated with these changes and contribute to shaping the new order of things. Specifically, this requires think tanks to transform their organizations so that they can: (1) provide analysis of major changes unleashed by modern science, technological advancements and the fourth industrial revolution; (2) harness the speed, accuracy and power of emerging technologies in their policy research, public engagement and fundraising; and (3) help policymakers and the public understand the impact that these technologies will have on our economies, legal and political systems and way of life. Simply put, emerging technologies have the potential to revolutionize and enhance the world of research or to marginalize think tanks. More importantly, they have the potential to enhance democratic institutions and the rule of law or to undermine them.

The unfortunate reality is that policymakers has often failed to keep up with advances in science and technology. The rate of change that will be unleashed by Artificial Intelligence and other emerging technologies requires that think tanks understand both the risks and the rewards of the fourth industrial revolution and propose policies that maximize the benefits while minimizing the costs. This article will explore these radical transformations and provide an assessment of the state of the field, followed by a list of organizations that are on the cutting edge of these trends and the issues they generate.

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4 This piece is an adapted excerpt of “Chapter 4: Impact of Emerging Technologies on Global Think Tanks and Global Governance” from the upcoming book by James G McGann and Laura Whelan, “Global Think Tanks: Policy Networks and Governance (Second Edition)” (Routledge, Spring 2020).
The new arms race: Artificial Intelligence

The United States, Europe and their allies must confront an uncomfortable truth: they have fallen behind China in AI. Unaware of the extent to which Chinese systems are embedded in global technologies and emerging 5G systems, these nations must now face how compromised their nations’ security and economic apparatuses are by China. Advancements in warfare AI are likely to be the next battleground arms race. With the world heedless to their power, an emerging technology ‘Trojan Horse’ is already embedded. Emerging before us is a new Cold War: China versus the United States; Cisco vs Huawei. What will it take for recognition of the power that these companies hold? Will it take a Pearl Harbor?

This is the policy issue of the future as it is going to transform, shape and determine domestic, economic, education, work and security policy, in addition to society itself. Calls to not ‘over-hype’ the peril of AI masks not only the potential dangers of AI but also the need to react and mobilize. In the United States and Europe, there is a lack of the necessary mobilization of resources to respond to these challenges, setting them at an economic and security disadvantage. Think tanks have a responsibility to emphasize and address these challenges, and to find the funding to do so. Policy always lags behind science and technology; however, with AI, the main differential is that AI moves at warp speed. In this way, this fourth industrial revolution is incomparable to the first, second and third. In this fourth revolution, whereas government has previously been the principle funder of science and technology, government is retreating. Who is going to fund this pursuit if think tanks are to at least compete? How can think tanks most effectively confront these challenges?

Below, we dive into potential means for think tanks to utilize emerging technologies in data collection, analysis and communication, and we highlight those who are leaders in the field, particularly the Urban Institute (in data science) and the Brookings Institution (in studying the effects of emerging technologies). A full list of think tanks that TTCSP Global Go To Index has identified as Artificial Intelligence think tank leaders is included at the end of this piece.

Broader methods for data collection

Utilizing advanced data collection methods will be one avenue that allows think tanks to be increasingly relevant as it allows them to involve new and wider populations. With data collection tools such as mobile surveys, individuals can self-report from remote locations in
real time, and with little impact on the quality of responses.\textsuperscript{5,6} In regards to global governance and the global rise of populism, mobile survey tools and the use of machine learning to process the results in real time\textsuperscript{7} means that it is now possible to reach populations which were previously unreachable, to hear voices that were previously unheard, and to leverage advanced technologies in order to improve lives globally and strengthen global governance.\textsuperscript{8}

Think tanks now also have the opportunity to utilize technology for global governance by unlocking new untraditional data sources. A lack of advancement in this area leaves global think tanks vulnerable to becoming outdated, overtaken by global technology companies. Tools such as web scraping\textsuperscript{9} and natural language processing (1) allow think tanks to keep a thumb on the heartbeat of global changes in sentiment on democracy, global governance and other key trends; (2) help research to be quicker, more accurate and broader in the topics covered; and (3) have a direct impact in the local communities that think tanks are nestled within.

Social media in particular is a new data source to be utilized. As much as social media has become a powerful dissemination tool for think tanks,\textsuperscript{10} social media also provides a goldmine of data in regard to the sentiment of populations. This data source is increasingly global,

\textsuperscript{5} Take, for example, the mobile survey tool designed by the Center for Public Health & Human Rights at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. The mobile survey tool is designed to track incidents of attacks on health care facilities, personnel, transports, and patients in circumstances of conflict. The tool has been adapted for a mobile platform (Magpi), which is usable on a phone, tablet or laptop and has security, database, and report-generating features. The tool was developed in Burma and is currently being tested by the Syrian American Medical Society. Christopher Antoun, Mick P. Couper and Frederick G. Conrad, “Effects of Mobile versus PC Web on Survey Response Quality,” \textit{Public Opinion Quarterly} 81, no.S1 (2017): 280–306.

\textsuperscript{6} For a brief but thorough review of the literature on this subject, see Richard Pankomera and Darelle Van Greunen, “A Model for Implementing Sustainable mHealth Applications in a Resource-constrained Setting: A Case of Malawi,” \textit{The Electronic Journal of Information Systems in Developing Countries} 84, no.2 (March 2018).

\textsuperscript{7} For a powerful example of this, see the FoodAPS-2 study being conducted in the United States by Westat, a domestic statistical survey nonprofit. To better understand what foods Americans acquire and have access to, the US Department of Agriculture’s Economic Research Service sponsored the FoodAPS-2 study, for launch in 2021. Respondents will use a smartphone app designed to reduce respondent burden and increase data quality in order to provide information on their food acquisitions. In-person interviews will be conducted via computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI), and participants will be able to upload their receipts, take pictures of food items, and scan barcodes with smartphones or a barcode scanner connected to a computer or tablet. Multiple databases will support this system, allowing scanned food items to be recognized and registered in real time.

\textsuperscript{8} Such mHealth transformations are particularly concentrated in Sub-Saharan Africa. For a discussion on the scale and sustainability of mHealth approaches in Sub-Saharan Africa, see Johanna Brinkel et al., “Mobile Phone-Based mHealth Approaches for Public Health Surveillance in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Systematic Review,” \textit{International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health} 11, no.11 (November 2014): 11559–11582.

\textsuperscript{9} “Web scraping” or “scraping” is an automated data collection technique employed to extract large amounts of data from websites whereby the data is extracted and saved in table (spreadsheet) format.

though adoption varies widely across countries, and as such it provides an incredible opportunity to research populations across borders at minimal cost, anticipating trends and attitudes across nations. Scraping and analyzing tweets, has especially become an increasingly common and effective entry point for global think tanks to have access to a wealth of global information. However, the role of web scraping and natural language processing extends well past social media. Natural language processing has been proposed as a new evaluation technique to measure innovation, identify media bias in news articles and predict the rehospitalization risk of patients, among much more. Utilizing emerging technologies also has another benefit for think tanks and their work: it would combat the scrutiny that think tanks often face for being perceived to be disconnected from the day-to-day realities of local populations and improve relationships between think tanks and their local governments.


12 The Urban Institute is particularly cognizant and advanced among think tanks in regard to its data science capabilities. One example of its numerous projects utilizing social media includes using a sample of geocoded Twitter data for the metropolitan area of Chicago to address: (1) whether spatial mobility patterns of Twitter users and their tweets are similar to the patterns of physical segregation along the lines of race, income, and education; and (2) whether Twitter users’ friend networks are related to the demographic characteristics of the neighborhoods in which they reside. Joan Wang, Graham MacDonald and Solomon Greene, “Connecting Digital and Physical Segregation: Do Online Activity and Social Networks Mirror Residential Patterns?,” The Urban Institute (2018): 1-28.


16 A powerful example of the possibilities for these tools to have a direct, tangible impact, in addition to their research potential, is the Sex Trafficking Operations Portal (STOP), created and operated by NORC at the University of Chicago. The portal gathers adult escort ads from various websites, parses and analyzes the information within those sites, and displays the information back to end users to assist law enforcement officers in identifying and helping victims. Using a cloud server, the application first scrapes HTML data from a series of targeted webpages. It then extracts, parses, and analyzes the resulting data for patterns likely to represent information of interest to law enforcement including the title of the ad, the date when the ad was posted, the location of the ad (typically given as a city/state), the age of the escort, links to any images associated with the ad, and the text of the ad itself. Since phone numbers and email addresses in escort ads are obfuscated to avoid detection, NORC wrote custom software and algorithms to detect, interpret, and standardize that information. STOP is deployed in the cloud to construct a three-tiered system comprising a web server, mass storage system, and a database. NORC also built a user interface for STOP using the Django web framework for Python. David A. Herda and Glen Szczypka, “Sex Trafficking Operations Portal (STOP),” NORC at the University of Chicago, www.norc.org/Research/Projects/Pages/sex-trafficking-operations-portal-stop.aspx.
Advancing analytics

Advances in AI are transformative for the quality and gravitas of global governance decision making. Machine learning for predictive analysis, for example, allows researchers to greatly speed up the process of their policy research and expand the number of variables that can be considered. Again, the use of such tools is wide; for instance, they are being used to predict global health epidemics and predict the preferences of television viewers in order to inform interactive television. Perhaps most pertinent to think tanks are the prospects of cloud-powered microsimulations: computer programs that mimic the operation of government programs and demographic processes on individual (“micro”) members of a population, such as people, households or businesses. Microsimulation models such as that of the Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center allow researchers to test “what if” on thousands of variations of a policy proposals, instead of for two to three, as has been common practice due to the time-intensity of such pursuits. This allows for a higher quality of decision making, which is a crucial capability within a time of increased information flows and disruptive technology.

As think tanks struggle to find their niche in the global marketplace of ideas and to balance conflicting agendas, advanced microsimulation models provide an attractive solution, regardless of competition. Crucially, due to the power of such microsimulations and the ease they create for policymakers, these advancements pose a threat to think tanks that are not evolving and utilizing cloud-powered microsimulations while others are. Through their focus on data and capacity for so many iterations, cloud-powered microsimulations are a tool that can appeal to conflicting agendas while maintaining quality and independence.

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19 The Urban Institute serves as an interesting case study in this area as it has been leading think tanks in the development of this technology and has developed and maintained four microsimulation models, the most advanced of which is the Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model. Utilizing the cloud to be able to expand its processing capabilities, the Urban Institute ran thousands of separate tax plans, allowing it to rapidly analyze the United States’ recently passed Tax Cuts and Jobs Act’s trade-off and alternatives. Analyzing over 9,000 plans, each with different changes to several core individual income tax law elements that are affected by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the Urban Institute was able to calculate the change in revenue for the federal government and the change in taxpayers’ after-tax income for each iteration. Such a tool allows policymakers to choose their desired outcomes (outputs) and work backwards towards what the required policy specifications (inputs) would be, instead of charting out the effects two or three policy options. Urban Institute, *Microsimulation*, www.urban.org/research/data-methods/data-analysis/quantitative-data-analysis/microsimulation.

20 These include: (1) A Primer on the Dynamic Simulation of Income Model (DYNASIM3); (2) The Health Insurance Reform Simulation Model (HIRSM): Methodological Detail and Prototypical Simulation Results; (3) Transfer Income Model, version 3 (TRIM3); and (4) The Urban-Brookings Tax Policy Center Microsimulation Model.
Conveying data through strategic communication

Beyond the increasing back-end power of think tanks to produce research, advances in application programming interfaces and data visualizations provide critical new ways for think tanks to put data in the hands of the public and combat the global increase in fake news and disinformation. The simplest reason to use emerging technologies for strategic communication is that it is effective. Creative, innovative, well-designed and interactive multimedia promotes readership and memorability within a crowded global marketplace of ideas.

Think tanks are lagging behind other policy research organizations that are developing user-friendly interactive data portals, virtual reality applications and videos, and video games for their data and analyses. Think tanks must be agile and thoughtful with regard to their choice of dissemination techniques. In an increasingly populist world, where think tanks are increasingly distrusted and where disinformation is on the rise, it is both in the self-interest of think tanks and in the public good for think tanks to utilize the improved tools that are available to them, even if it requires stepping out of a think tank’s comfort zone and expanding its expertise.

New competitors for think tanks

As a whole, think tanks have not been agile enough in utilizing emerging technologies. An analysis of top think tanks, as ranked by the 2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index, revealed that well-respected and highly-ranked think tanks have placed a much larger emphasis on studying cyber and AI policy than on using it. While such work is clearly crucial, the lack of utilization of advanced data science by think tanks raises the question of whether think tanks have human capital with enough technological expertise to make informed recommendations and policy; and

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22 Many policy research centers have data explorers and portals; one of the most frequently used is the General Social Survey (GSS) Data Explorer, used by over 400,000 students in class per year. NORC at the University of Chicago, the explorer’s creator, claims that the features include the most sophisticated and intuitive interface of any data dissemination tool in current use and robust support through tutorials, FAQs, and a helpdesk. It also includes public and private collaboration spaces that, among other things, allow teachers to use the GSS Data Explorer as a virtual classroom. The portal allows users to search for variables (with more than 5,000 options), analyze the data, view trends (with their visualization feature), extract data, and save projects.


24 In 2016, the Serious Games Initiative at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Brookings Institute launched a game, The Fiscal Ship, to provide an accessible space for both the public and policymakers to learn and appreciate the complex process of putting the budget on a sustainable course. See Wilson Center, “‘Fiscal Ship’ Game Puts Players in Charge of the Federal Budget,” www.wilsoncenter.org/article/fiscal-ship-game-puts-players-charge-the-federal-budget/.
(2) whether they will be able to keep up with the pace of the technological advancements themselves.

However, while think tanks face “stickiness” institutionally, our analysis revealed that academic think tanks are on the rise in the emerging technology space due to (1) the interdisciplinary capabilities of universities, and (2) the wealth of financial resources available at universities. In the realm of technology and policy, academic think tanks flourish from the accessibility of engineering (and design) schools. Whereas the promise of interdisciplinary research from traditional think tanks was largely unrealized, academic think tanks have resources within arm’s reach to pursue research in the inherently interdisciplinary field that is technology policy.

Not only do universities have the knowledge resources that are prerequisites of creating smart technology policy, but they also have the financial backing. Compared to the larger landscape of think tanks pinched for funds, as detailed earlier in this report, universities have deep pockets to fund technology-oriented think tanks with. These deep pockets make exclusive, expensive datasets within the reach of academic think tanks, giving an advantage to these policy institutions. Larger budgets also mean that academic think tanks have the ability to scout for competitive talent and leaders in relevant fields. Combined with the massive talent pool at the university itself, which comes at a relatively inexpensive cost, academic think tanks have a large human capital potential. Universities, because of these factors, are logical centers for technology policy research and the utilization of AI for policy. The implication for think tanks is that universities are valuable partners in the technology and policy space.

Bias within data: Risks of emerging technologies for think tanks

The rise of emerging technologies has been accompanied by a growing literature on the bias perpetuated through AI. In other words, it is now widely understood that using limited data sets in machine learning models can unintentionally perpetuate the existing bias that already exists in society. Without such safeguards, AI has the potential to harm global governance to an even greater degree.

As think tanks work to improve global governance through data-driven research and to improve the speed and accuracy of doing so using AI, safeguards are vital to ensure that the “improved accuracy” in research is an accuracy free from, limited in or—at the very least—aware of, and responsive to, bias. In addition to the standard bias detection tools, which typically analyze the data set and outputs of an algorithm to determine whether there is over-, under- or misrepresentation of any group, think tanks must think beyond bias detection into mitigation

25 Established leaders in the field who are situated within universities include: NORC at the University of Chicago; Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA) at Stanford; and the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University.

26 One such example of this is the Center for Data Science and Public Policy at the University of Chicago’s “Bias and Fairness Audit Toolkit,” an open-source bias audit toolkit for machine learning developers, analysts, and policymakers to audit machine learning models for discrimination and bias, and “make
and other negative impacts of AI research. This is particularly relevant in regards to securing sensitive data.

While the use of emerging technologies and AI is crucial for think tanks to remain relevant and impactful, it also has the potential to degrade a think tank’s reputation if done poorly or without the safeguards in place to securely manage sensitive data. Awareness of these issues is also critical for think tanks which are aiming to inform technology policy. Indeed, using AI and experiencing the pitfalls firsthand may very well make a think tank better suited to make smart technology policy recommendations.

As global think tanks navigate the hazards of emerging technologies, the need for a diverse workplace and leadership also increases. There is a large body of literature supporting the benefits of diversity in the workplace, but here, crucially, diversity becomes indispensable, for diversity in itself acts as a tool to safeguard against discrimination and bias within AI.

This quote from Tracy Chou, an American software engineer and prominent diversity advocate in the field, eloquently summarizes the predicament:

> Products tend to be built to solve the problems of the people building them, and that’s not a bad thing, necessarily. But it means that in the Valley lots of energy and attention goes into solving the problems of young urban men with lots of disposable income, and that much less attention goes to solving the problems of women, older people, children, and so on.

As so many different populations are impacted by the work of think tanks, it is crucial to ensure that a diverse set of voices are contributing to a diverse set of research agendas and watching out for stakeholder groups in potential AI discrimination. Global governance must have global inclusivity. Recent US tech company diversity data disclosures were dismal: only between 10 and 20 percent of workers in technology positions were women, and one study found that

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27 As a timid example of this, the Urban Institute, with the knowledge that web scraping can slow down the host site’s response time, developed SiteMonitor to allow web collection programs to be responsive to the host site, calculating whether a search is slowing down the host site’s response time and adapting appropriately. Jeffrey Levy and Graham MacDonald, “SiteMonitor: A Tool for Responsible Web Scraping,” Data@Urban Blog (16 April 2019).


45 percent of Silicon Valley companies did not have a single female executive.\textsuperscript{31} Think tanks cannot make the same mistake. The opportunities for greater reach, impact and sustainability are available and waiting.

\section*{Conclusion}

The fourth industrial revolution has begun, and think tanks are currently behind. As the global speed of change increases at an unprecedented rate, fueled by technological advancements, the acceleration of disruptions is already clear; a new arms race is upon us as China races ahead while the United States and Europe are locked in relative competition with each other. The world is facing a series of unprecedented challenges and opportunities. Truth itself is being questioned. Crucially, as these disruptions unfold, the distinction between studying AI and utilizing it is fast disappearing. Recent technological advancements have the potential to revolutionize, accelerate and increase the impact of the work that think tanks do. To do so, there is a serious business model evolution that think tanks must undergo. Think tanks must utilize that which they also observe.

Civil society will not be effective in their mission to ensure that governments are guided by informed and intelligent policy if they cannot keep abreast of the sea of change. It is imperative for think tanks to keep pace with increasingly frequent global disruptors that have the capability of removing the freedom and livelihood from populations around the world. To collect data and analyze it fast enough to keep up with the increasing pace of change within society, think tanks must utilize big data, machine learning for predictive analysis and other emerging technology tools. This requires investment in developing skill sets and data capabilities. As think tanks do so, it is concurrently imperative for think tanks to marry their technological skills and ambition with diversity and bias awareness, or else risk becoming a perpetrator rather than an arbitrator.

As TTCSP is dedicated to understanding the key trends and challenges facing think tanks around the world, all of our research, publications and regional and global think tank summits are focused on the organizational challenges confronting the think tank community and the policy challenges facing think tanks, policymakers and the public. Given the profound impact of AI and other emerging technologies, TTCSP has served as a catalyst for ideas and action and has approached this issue through a variety of research and forums. This report and its subsequent new AI Think Tanks List is the next step.

In 2019, TTCSP was asked to identify and convene a group of think tanks to explore the implications of AI on think tanks, governance and society. In preparation for this meeting (the AI Think Tank Forum\textsuperscript{32}, held in Silicon Valley, CA, USA in March 2019), TTCSP conducted extensive research and identified the think tanks that have been working on the issue and currently utilize the tools themselves. This report found that while the 20 institutions that participated in the

\textsuperscript{31} Tracy Chou has also worked at Pinterest and Quora and interned at RocketFuel, Google and Facebook. She is now a co-founder of the non-profit \textit{Project Include}, which works with tech startups on diversity and inclusion.

\textsuperscript{32} The AI Summit Forum Report can be found on TTCSP’s scholarly commons page.
forum were excelling in the study of policy, security and the ethical aspects of AI, almost none had meaningfully integrated AI and big data to enhance their own research, save for the Urban Institute. The goal of the AI Forum was to produce new insight and creative approaches for framing and contextualizing AI research, in addition to mobilizing resources and forging partnerships with think tanks, government, technology entrepreneurs and technology companies.

TTCSP followed up the AI Think Tank Forum with a subsequent High-Level Policy Dialogue in July 2019, hosted in Florence, Italy, that sought to bring together experts from diverse think tanks and the private sector in Europe and North America to specifically examine “Democracy in the Age of Artificial Intelligence.” The Policy Dialogue examined current trends, potential dangers and future perspectives for a better society, revealing the differing emphasis that the United States and the European Union place on AI: the United States views AI as a national security concern, while the European Union views AI as a regulation and ethical concern. As one participant noted, “This is not a time for business as usual. We need to get serious about this is we want to sustain our democracy.” Al knows no national boundaries, and as such it requires collaboration.

In order for TTCSP and the Global Go To Think Tank Index to continue to recognize the drastic changes that think tanks must adapt to and to continue to serve as a catalyst for ideas and action, we have decided to highlight this issue in the 2019 Global Go To Index Report by including a new list: “Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Think Tanks.” As per the Global Go To Think Tank Index’s methodology, the list is currently alphabetical and will transition into a ranked list next year.

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### Best Artificial Intelligence (AI) Think Tanks 2019

(Alphabetical Listing, Not Ranked)

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33 The High-Level Policy Dialogue was held under the Chatham House Rule, and the full report can be found on TTCSP’s scholarly commons page.
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Overview of Modifications and Enhancements to the Global Go To Think Tanks Index

Each year, we attempt to respond systematically to comments and suggestions to improve the nomination and ranking process for the Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTI). Since the inaugural report in 2006, the nomination and selection processes have changed significantly. While TTCSP continually seeks to improve the nomination and selection process, several things should be kept in mind. First, although we do our best to catch and eliminate as many mistakes as possible, we do not claim that the annual rankings are error-free. As with many ranking systems, the GGTTI has its fair share of limitations, which we continually seek to overcome. Second, critiques highlighting the rankings’ comprehensiveness fail to understand our commitment to studying the contributions and impact of think tanks worldwide. The Index’s aim is to produce an inclusive and far-reaching report of international think tanks. Moreover, we hope to extend the Index to include even more think tanks around the world.

Recent Years’ Modifications

TTCSP is committed to increasing the quality and representativeness of the Index every year we conduct the survey. Since 2010, hundreds of expert panelists have participated in an evaluation of the ranking criteria and nominations and indexing processes. As a result, the Index has undergone a number of major changes designed to limit bias, expand the rankings’ representativeness, and improve the overall quality and integrity of the nomination process. The following modifications have been made to the Index over the last several years:

**2010**

- In 2010, a ranking list for think tanks with an annual budget of less than five million U.S. dollars was created. This category helps to recognize the work of smaller think tanks that produce influential research but might otherwise be edged out in the rankings by think tanks with larger budgets and greater manpower.

- American think tanks were removed from the global ranking in an effort to improve the visibility of global organizations and recognize the inherent advantages of American think tanks.

- The methodology was revamped to encompass an open nominations process in which all 6,480 think tanks identified by TTCSP at that time were invited to submit nominations. This replaced a system where the Expert Panels developed the initial slate of institutions. The change dramatically increased the levels of participation and greatly improved the quality and representativeness of nominated institutions.

- An outreach effort was launched in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) to improve the Index’s inclusivity.

**2011**

- The Latin America category was restructured into two categories: “Top Think Tanks in Mexico, Canada, and the Caribbean” and “Top Think Tanks in Central and South America.”
2012

• The Latin America categories were further refined into “Top Think Tanks in Mexico and Canada” and “Top Think Tanks in Central and South America.”

• The Asia category underwent revisions in order to prevent the group’s domination by China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. The Asia section was divided into two categories: “Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea” and “Top Think Tanks in Asia (excluding China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea).”

• Five new special achievement categories were created: “Best Advocacy Campaign,” “Best Policy Produced by a Think Tank 2011-2012,” “Best For-Profit Think Tanks,” “Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tank,” and “Top Education Policy Think Tanks.” These categories recognize both special achievements and excellence in particular areas of study. This expansion aimed to better recognize the diverse range of issues think tanks address and the new organizational types that have emerged over the past five years.

• The “Best New Think Tanks” category examined organizations founded over the past 24 months instead of the past 18.

2013

• To increase inclusivity, the Asia categories were further subdivided into three categories: “Top Think Tanks in Asia and the Pacific (Excluding China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea),” “Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea,” and “Top Think Tanks in Central Asia.”

• The “Top Security and International Affairs Think Tanks” category was divided into “Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks” and “Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks.”

• Eight new special achievement categories were added: “Think Tank to Watch,” “Best Use of Social Networks,” “Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks,” “Best Think Tank Network,” “Best Think Tank Conference,” “Best Managed Think Tank,” “Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank” and “Best Transdisciplinary Research Program at a Think Tank.”

2014

• In order to amend anomalies present in the 2013 Global Go To Index, some of the regional categories were reorganized according to countries geographic location. The Central Asia category underwent revisions and will consist only of think tanks from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Turkish think tanks will remain in the Middle East and North Africa category, as will Cypriot ones, despite Cyprus’ status as an EU member state. Think tanks from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Nepal and Pakistan will be ranked in the Asia and the Pacific category. The Central and Eastern Europe category will include Russian think tanks and think tanks from those countries that lie between Turkey and Russia in the east and
Sweden, Germany, Austria, and Italy in the west.

- The “Top Health Policy Think Tanks” category was subdivided into the “Top Global Health Policy Think Tanks” and “Top Domestic Health Policy Think Tanks” categories so as to better reflect the fact that there are two distinct areas of focus in the field of health policy.

2015
- Three new categories were added to the 2015 Global Go To Index: “Best Regional Studies Policy Research Think Tank (University Affiliated)”, “Best Regional Studies Policy Research Center (Free Standing, Not University Affiliated)” and “Think Tank with the Best Practices (Policies and Procedures) to Assure the Quality, Independence and Integrity of its Policy Research.”

2016
- In an effort to simplify and streamline the nominations and rankings process, we did not require those institutions that were not ranked in the 2015 Global Go To Index to be re-nominated in 2016 nominations phase of the Global Go To Indexing process.

2017
- Two new categories were added to the 2017 Global Go To Think Tank Index: “Water Security” and “Food Security”.

2018
- An audit has been conducted on our Global Think Tank Database that involved comparative analysis of the data and fact- and cross-checking the data. Updated numbers are presented in the 2018 Go To Index Report.

- A section was added to each section of the survey that allowed respondents to report gross omissions or errors from previous years that required corrections or editing. Over 650 comments and suggestions were submitted and we have done our best to correct them.

2019
- A new category was added to the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index: “Think Tank On Cutting Edge of Artificial Intelligence Research”.

- A change to the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index rankings is that any think tank that has been ranked as the top think tank (#1) in a category for 3 consecutive years will be recognized as a Center of Excellence and will not be included in the rankings for that category for the next 3 years. It will be recognized as a Center of Excellence for achieving this level of distinction as a Think Tank Center of Excellence.
2019 Process and Methodology

Each year, our best efforts have gone into generating a rigorous, inclusive and objective process. However, we recognize the impossibility of entirely ridding the Index from bias. Inevitably, personal, ideological, disciplinary and regional biases of those consulted throughout the process may have influenced the rankings. While some have suggested that we move to a small group or panel of experts and journalists to make the selections, we are unwavering in our commitment to an open and democratic process. Given the safeguards in place—the transparent process, the provisions set by the detailed nomination and selection criteria and the annually increasing participation of think tanks and experts from every region of the world—we are confident in the quality and integrity of the Index. Additionally, with the growing involvement of the expert panelists, the nomination and ranking process has also been dramatically improved. Together, we believe these measures insulate the nomination and selection process from any significant charges of bias and misrepresentation.

We would like to underscore that the GGTTI is but one measure of a think tank’s performance and impact and has been designed for use in conjunction with other metrics to help identify and evaluate public policy research organizations around the world. An organization’s inclusion within the Index does not indicate a seal of approval or endorsement for the institution, its publications, or its programs by TTCSP. Conversely, an organization’s exclusion from the rankings does not necessarily indicate poor quality, effectiveness, or performance. There are 8,162 think tanks around the world completing exceptional work to help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy. This report is only one effort to highlight some of the world’s leading think tanks.

Methodology and Timeline

Before beginning the 2019 nomination and selection process, the team conducted extensive research in order to update and verify TTCSP’s Global Think Tank Database. Through this process, many additional think tanks were identified for possible inclusion in this year’s study. A month in advance of the 2019 nomination and selection process launch, a letter announcing the commencement of the 2019 GGTTI was sent to individuals and organizations in our database. Think tanks were asked to make recommendations for improving the nomination and selection process, in addition to potential Expert Panel nominees. A letter requesting evaluations of the efficacy and validity of the 2018 Rankings criteria, and nomination and selection process, was also sent to expert panelists from previous years.
Timeline of the Nomination and Ranking Process

Call for Expert Panel Members and Update of TTCSP Think Tank Database:

March 30, 2019-April 30, 2019

In preparation for the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Indexing process, a call for nominations was issued for qualified individuals to serve on the Regional, Functional and Special Areas of Distinction Panels. In addition, we asked for comments, suggestions and recommendations for how we might improve the Index. In addition, 60 summer research interns help update TTCSP Global Think Tank Database to make sure all known think tanks are included in the Survey.

Round I: Nominations – May 18, 2019-July 30, 2019

A call for Nominations was sent to over 8,100 think tanks and approximately 12,800 journalists, public and private donors, and policymakers from around the world. These nominations were tabulated and institutes with 10 or more nominations were included in the next step of the 2019 Think Tank Indexing process. All of the top-ranked think tanks from 2018 were automatically included in the 2019 ranking ballot.


Think tanks with 10 or more nominations were placed in an electronic ranking survey. A letter announcing the second round was emailed to all the think tanks, journalists, public and private donors, and policymaker groups who agreed to participate in the process. The rankings were tabulated, and the list of finalists was generated for the Expert Panel to review and make final selections. Regional and Functional Expert Panels were used for every category. These specialists were consulted to help assure the quality and accuracy of the nominations before they were placed on the final rankings survey.


The members of the Expert Panel received information packets by email in order to facilitate the final selection process. Individuals who served on last year’s Expert Panel as well as those who were nominated this year were invited to serve on the 2019 Expert Panel. Experts from every region and functional area were represented on the Expert Panel. Panelists submitted their rankings and recommendations during the month December 2019.

2019 Global Go-To Think Tank Index Nomination and Ranking Criteria

The peers and experts who participated in the indexing process were encouraged to employ the following criteria when considering nominations and rankings. The 2019 GGTTI Nomination and Ranking Criteria include, but are not limited to, the following criteria:

- The quality and commitment of the think tank’s leadership (chief executive and governing body). This involves effectively managing the mission and programs of the think tank, mobilizing the financial and human resources necessary to fulfill the mission and monitoring the quality, independence and impact of the think tank;

- The quality and reputation of the think tank’s staff. Ability to assemble a critical mass of highly skilled, experienced and productive scholars and analysts who are recognized as either emerging or established experts in their respective area of research;

- The quality and reputation of the research and analysis produced. The ability to produce high quality, rigorous, policy-oriented research that is accessible to policymakers, media and the public;

- Ability to recruit and retain elite scholars and analysts;

- Academic performance and reputation. This involves the academic rigor associated with the research conducted. This includes formal accreditation of a think tank’s scholars and analysts, and the number and type of scholarly publications produced such as: books, journals and conference papers, the number of presentations delivered at scholarly and other professional meetings and the number and type of citations of the think tanks scholars’ research in scholarly publications produced by other scholars;

- The quality, number and reach of its publications;

- The impact of a think tank’s research and programs on policymakers and other policy actors. Policy recommendations considered or actually adopted by policymakers, civil society or policy actors;
• Reputation with policymakers (name recognition associated with specific issues or programs, number of briefings and official appointments, number of policy briefs and white papers produced, and legislative testimony delivered);

• A demonstrated commitment to producing independent research and analysis. This involves standards and policies for producing rigorous evidence-based research and analysis that are posted and monitored by the organization, research teams and individual researchers. This includes disclosure of conflict of interest (financial, institutional or personal) and a commitment to nonpartisanship and established professional standards for research in the social sciences;

• Access to key institutions. The ability to reach and connect with key audiences and personnel such as government officials (elected and appointed), civil society, traditional and new media, and academia;

• Ability to convene key policy actors and to develop effective networks and partnerships with other think tanks and policy actors;

• Overall output of the organization (policy proposals, web visits, briefings, publications, interviews, conferences and staff nominated to official posts);

• Utilization of research, policy proposal and other products. The effective transmission and utilization of policy briefs, reports, policy recommendations and other products by policymakers and the policy community, number of current and former staff serving in advisory roles to policymakers, advisory commissions and awards given to scholars for scholarly achievement or public service;

• Usefulness of organization’s information in public engagement, advocacy work, preparing legislation or testimony, preparing academic papers or presentations and conducting research or teaching;

• Ability to use electronic, print and new media to communicate research and reach key audiences;

• Media reputation (number of media appearances, interviews and citations);

• Ability to use the Internet including social media tools, to engage with policymakers, journalists and the public;
• Website and digital presence. The quality, accessibility and effective maintenance of the organization’s web presence, as well as the quality and level of digital traffic and engagement (quality, accessibility and navigability of website, number of website visitors, page views, time spent on pages and “likes” or followers);

• Level, diversity and stability of funding. The ability of an organization to mobilize the necessary financial resources to support and sustain the think tank over time (endowment, membership fees, annual donations, government and private contracts, and earned income);

• Effective management and allocation of financial and human resources. The ability of a think tank to effectively manage its money and people so that they produce high quality outputs that achieve maximum impact;

• Ability of the organization to effectively fulfill the terms of the gifts, grants and contracts from government(s), individuals, corporations and foundations who have provided financial support to the think tank (financial stewardship);

• The organization’s ability to produce new knowledge, innovative policy proposals or alternative ideas on policy;

• Ability to bridge the gap between the academic and policymaking communities;

• Ability to bridge the gap between policymakers and the public;

• Ability to include new voices in the policymaking process;

• Ability of organization to be inscribed within issue and policy networks;

• Success in challenging the traditional wisdom of policymakers and in generating innovative policy ideas and programs; and

• The impact on society. Direct relationship between the organization’s efforts in a particular area to a positive change in societal values such as significant changes in the quality of life within respective country (amounts of goods and services available to citizens, state of physical and mental health, quality of environment, quality of political rights and access to institutions).
Think Tank Impact Assessment Tool

Clearly, assessing the impact of think tanks is not an easy endeavor to undertake given the various and conflicting actors, events and politics involved in the policymaking process. Despite the significant challenges in establishing a causal relationship between knowledge and policy, it is necessary for think tanks to understand and effectively respond to the growing chorus of questions being raised by donors, journalists and the public about the role and influence of think tanks in civil societies and governments around the world.

Think tanks can employ a variety of metrics to assess their impact, including such measures as increasing the research and analysis they produce as well as accounting for their contributions to the policymaking environment and civil society. Dr. McGann’s recent research (2008) has focused on developing a comprehensive assessment tool for evaluating a think tank’s impact. The impetus for this research, in part, was the apparent confusion that exists about the differences between outputs and impacts. In various studies and surveys that Dr. McGann has conducted over the years, researchers and think tanks responded curiously when asked about the impact on public policy and how they measure it. The overwhelming response was to provide a list of research outputs (number of books published, conference held, web hits, media appearances, etc.). Outputs, however, are not the only way to measure impact.

The metric provided below is designed to serve as a catalyst for a discussion on how to effectively measure the impact of think tanks. It is provided here as background for the think tank ranking process in the hopes that it will help clarify the distinction between outputs and impacts. We ask that you consider the following indicators when contemplating the impact of think tanks:

- **Resource indicators:** Ability to recruit and retain leading scholars and analysts; the level, quality and stability of financial support; proximity and access to decision-makers and other policy elites; a staff with the ability to conduct rigorous research and produce timely and incisive analysis; institutional currency; quality and reliability of networks; and key contacts in the policy academic communities and the media.

- **Utilization indicators:** Reputation as a “go-to” organization by media and policy elites in the country; quantity and quality of media appearances and citations, web hits, testimony before legislative and executive bodies; briefings, official appointments, consultation by officials or departments and agencies; books sold; reports distributed; references made to research and analysis in scholarly and popular publications; and attendees at conferences and seminars organized.

- **Output indicators:** Number and quality of policy proposals and ideas generated; publications produced (books, journal articles, policy briefs, etc.); news interviews conducted; briefings, conferences and seminars organized; and staff who are nominated to advisory and government posts.
Impact indicators: Recommendations considered or adopted by policymakers and civil society organizations; issue network centrality; advisory role to political parties, candidates and transition teams; awards granted; publication within or citation of publications in academic journals, public testimony and the media that influences the policy debate and decision-making; listserv and website dominance; and success in challenging the conventional wisdom and standard operating procedures of bureaucrats and elected officials in the country.

Beyond this qualitative assessment, an effective evaluation of impact should also involve NGOs, as well as members of the government and policymaking community, to ascertain the degree to which they have utilized the grantee’s research output. This participation can be obtained through interviews, surveys, questionnaires and focus group meetings, utilizing the outcome mapping technique which “moves away from assessing the products of an activity or a program to focus on changes in behaviors and relationships (outcomes) which can lead to changes.” Impact can be viewed as positive if it “changes the behavior, relationships, activities, or actions of the people, groups, and organizations with whom a program works directly.”

Although this qualitative assessment is essential because it recognizes that policy impact can be successfully achieved even if policy prescriptions are not directly translated into actual policy, we recommend that this assessment should be translated into numerical rankings, thereby allowing comparisons with baseline data for effective monitoring and evaluation in the future.
2019 Think Tank Statistics

Global Distribution of Think Tanks by Region and Number of Think Tanks in the World 2019

This chart reflects the number of think tanks in 2019 based on data collected as of December 2018 (NOTE: FOR THIS REASON, THESE NUMBERS ARE THE SAME AS THE 2018 GLOBAL GO TO THINK TANK INDEX).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGION</th>
<th>NUMBER OF THINK TANKS</th>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTH AMERICA</td>
<td>2058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASIA</td>
<td>1829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SOUTH &amp; CENTRAL AMERICA</td>
<td>1023</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA</td>
<td>612</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIDDLE EAST &amp; NORTH AFRICA</td>
<td>507</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>8,248</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

25.0%
### Countries with the Largest Number of Think Tanks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RANK</th>
<th>COUNTRY</th>
<th>NUMBER OF THINK TANKS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>India</td>
<td>509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>China</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<td>Argentina</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>France</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-14</td>
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<tr>
<td>T-22</td>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
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</table>
# Global Distribution of Think Tanks by Country

## Sub-Saharan Africa

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Think Tanks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Angola</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democratic Republic of Congo</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Madagascar</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seychelles</td>
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<td>Benin</td>
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<td>Botswana</td>
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<td>Ethiopia</td>
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<td>Mali</td>
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<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burkina Faso</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Gabon</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Mauritania</td>
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<td>South Africa</td>
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<td>Burundi</td>
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<td>Sudan</td>
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<td>Guinea</td>
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<td>Senegal</td>
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<td>Zimbabwe</td>
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## Asia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Think Tanks</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
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<td>Georgia</td>
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## CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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## WESTERN EUROPE

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## CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

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<td>MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA</td>
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## U.S. Think Tanks by State

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2019 Ranking Categories

Top Think Tanks in the World

- Think Tank of the Year 2019 – Top Think Tank in the World
- Top Think Tanks Worldwide – (Non-US)
- Top Think Tanks Worldwide – (US and non-US)

Top Think Tanks by Region

- Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa
- Top Think Tanks in Canada and Mexico
- Top Think Tanks in Central and South America
- Top Think Tanks in the United States
- Top Think Tanks in Central Asia
- Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea
- Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- Top Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe
- Top Think Tanks in Western Europe
- Top Think Tanks in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Top Think Tanks by Area of Research

- Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks
- Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks
- Top Education Policy Think Tanks
- Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks
- Top Environment Think Tanks
• Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks
• Top Domestic Health Policy Think Tanks
• Top Global Health Policy Think Tanks
• Top International Development Think Tanks
• Top International Economic Policy Think Tanks
• Top Science and Technology Think Tanks
• Top Social Policy Think Tanks
• Top Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks
• Top Food and Water Security Think Tanks

**Top Think Tanks by Special Achievement**

• Best Advocacy Campaign
• Best For-Profit Think Tanks
• Best Government-Affiliated Think Tanks
• Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks
• Best Managed Think Tank
• Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank
• Best New Think Tanks (Unranked)
• Best Independent Think Tank
• Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank
• Best Think Tank Conference
• Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank
• Best Think Tank Network
• Best Think Tanks with Political Party Affiliation
• Best Transdisciplinary Research Program at a Think Tank
• Best University-Affiliated Think Tanks
• Best Use of Social Networks
• Think Tank to Watch
• Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/Public Engagement Programs
• Think Tanks with the Best Use of the Internet
• Think Tanks with the Best Use of the Media (Print or Electronic)
• Think Tanks with the Most Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals
• Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy
• Think Tanks with Outstanding Policy-Oriented Public Programs
• Top Think Tanks with Annual Operating Budgets of Less Than $5 Million USD
• Think Tank with the Best Practices (Policies and Procedures) to Assure the Quality, Independence and Integrity of its Policy Research
2019 Categorical Definitions

By Region

Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa: This category is dedicated to the leading institutions in the region south of the Sahara Desert. The term is used to contrast the countries that are included in the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) category. Sudan, although geographically located south of the Sahara Desert, it is not considered a Sub-Saharan country. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Think Tanks in Central and South America: This category is dedicated to the leading institutions in the Central and South part of the American continent, including the Caribbean states. The definition excludes the three North American countries of Canada, Mexico and the United States. These think tanks excel in research, analysis, and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Think Tanks in the United States: This category is dedicated to the leading institutions in the United States. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in the United States.

Top Think Tanks in Asia: This category is dedicated to the leading institutions in Central Asia and the Caucasus region, namely Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Russia, although possessing territory in Central Asia, is not considered part of the region for this definition. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea: The Asia category underwent revisions in order to prevent the group’s total domination by China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea. As such, we divided a single category for “Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea.”

Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific: This category includes think tanks in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Nepal, North Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Top Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe: Russia presents perhaps the thorniest case of
all, since geographically it could conceivably belong to the Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, and Asia and the Pacific categories. In order to avoid confusion and to respect the fact that the majority of Russian think tanks lie in the extreme west of the country, Russia will remain in the Central and Eastern Europe category. The Central and Eastern Europe category will include Russian think tanks and also think tanks from those countries that lie between Turkey and Russia in the east and Sweden, Germany, Austria, and Italy in the west. Thus, this category will include think tank in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Kosovo, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

Top Think Tanks in Western Europe: This category included think tanks in Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and Vatican City.

By Area of Research

Top Transparency and Good Governance Think Tanks: Transparency is a feature that marks the independency of think tanks. There are phantom NGOs and think tanks that actually serve the interest of government or specific individuals and corporations that establish them. A special relationship does exist between funders and thinks tanks that derails the independency and neutral value we believe think tanks should have.

Top Defense and National Security Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading defense and national security institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses of national security, military, and defense policies. These institutions not only strive in developing comprehensive policy initiatives for commercial and government clients, but also offer informative publications readily available to the public. These think tanks excel in research, analysis, and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading domestic economic policy think tanks of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior, innovative research and strategic analyses of domestic economic policy, which covers a wide range of topics such as: the money supply and interest rates, macro and microeconomics, trade and investments, and various other economic areas the government influences. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Education Policy Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading education policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses regarding educational issues to policymakers and the
public. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

**Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks:** This category is dedicated to the leading energy and resource policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analysis on a wide set of issues such as: energy development, production, distribution and various resource and energy issues significant to the global community. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

**Top Environment Think Tanks:** This category is dedicated to the leading environmental policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on various environmental issues that are of significance on a global level. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

**Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks:** This category is dedicated to the leading foreign policy and international affairs institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses pertaining to world affairs, security, political and economic policy on a domestic and international level. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

**Top Domestic Health Policy Think Tanks:** This category is dedicated to the leading domestic health policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics related to domestic health services and goals within the specific country. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

**Top Global Health Policy Think Tanks:** This category is dedicated to the leading global health policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics related to the health issues and challenges the global community faces. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.
Top Water and Food Security Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading global food and water security policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category explicitly state goals or objective of mitigating the effects of insecurity in both areas with the purpose of promoting greater security. These entities are committed toward combating food security and promoting water security by identifying past and present causes of insecurities in these domains through research and analysis in order to develop targeted and effective solutions with the help of programs and services, outreach and policy implementation at the local, national or global scale.

Top International Development Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading international development institutions within the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on developmental challenges and issues facing the international community, such as: agricultural, growth, poverty, inequality, humanitarian and various other topics related to development. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top International Economic Policy Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading international economic policy institutions within the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics pertaining to international economic policy, such as: globalization, international finance, trade, investment, development and various other topics relevant to global economics. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Science and Technology Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading science and technology institutions within the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics ranging from innovation and telecommunications to energy, climate and life sciences. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Social Policy Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading social policy institutions of the global community. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics pertaining to a wide array of social issues and challenges such as: health care, human services, criminal justice, inequality, education, labor crime and justice, immigration, poverty and other various topics relevant to social policy. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.
Top Water Security Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading water security think tanks. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses on topics public policy in the areas of water security which has been defined as "the reliable availability of an acceptable quantity and quality of water for health, livelihoods and production, coupled with an acceptable level of water-related risks." In addition, it is the capacity to assure access to adequate quantities and quality water to sustain livelihoods, proper health and socio-economic development of people around the world. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

Top Food Security Think Tanks: This category is dedicated to the leading food security think tanks. The top think tanks in this category provide superior innovative research and strategic analyses the issue of food security. This includes issues such as the access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and life and the social and economic development communities.

Food security generally focuses on the disruption or unavailability of critical food supplies due to various risk factors such as: droughts, shipping disruptions, fuel shortages, economic instability, and national and sub-national conflicts. These think tanks excel in research, analysis and public engagement on a wide range of policy issues with the aim of advancing debate, facilitating cooperation between relevant actors, maintaining public support and funding, and improving the overall quality of life in one of the relevant countries.

By Special Achievement

Best Advocacy Campaign: Advocacy campaigns are groups of activities or actions that convey the ideas and beliefs of the organizations to the public. That being said, advocacy types of think tanks tend to take strong positions on particular policy issues, which may potentially derail the institute’s objectivity and consistent value. As a continuum of structure and functions, advocacy think tanks at times mirror to public lobbies and interest groups.

Best For-Profit Think Tanks: Also known as corporate think tank tanks, for-profit think tanks are research organizations that operate as for-profit businesses. In most cases, they are affiliated with a corporation that operates on a for-profit basis. As most think tanks may show structural similarities with organizational siblings, for-profit think tanks are mostly close to government research organizations.

Best Government-Affiliated Think Tanks: Government-affiliated think tanks are those that situate in the government and are considered a part of the government body. Think tanks honored in this category are recognized for outstanding policy research.

Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks: Institution that is able to network, mobilize and collaborate with two or more think tanks to produce a modest yet achievable set of global public goods.
**Best Managed Think Tank:** A well-managed think tank should have institutional-level decisions being widely spread among key staff such as organization head, directors and senior fellows to make sure the information is transparent and shared. Also, upward communication from staff to directors during regular meetings is also important, which ensures mutual understanding and common values are identified within the think tank. Nonetheless, the ability to attract senior analysts in completing organization mission and to provide training plans and workshops that keep the continuum of human capital development are key criteria to reflect organizational control over human resource.

**Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank:** The main issue for organizational paradigm is its ability to define the structural design that is appropriate to the fulfillment of functional needs. New idea and paradigm think tanks are ones with solid framework, ways of thinking and methodologies that are specifically developed to meet institutions goals and concerns.

**Best New Think Tanks:** These are think tanks have been established in the last 24 months and are centers of excellence.

**Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank 2018-2019:** Quality study/reports that are able to meet the need of rigorous, policy-oriented research and are accessible to policymakers, media and the public.

**Best Think Tank Conference:** A quality conference should be able to bring together academics, practitioners, and policymakers to evaluate and examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, or inequality in the future as a whole.

**Best Think Tank Network:** Working through a network is a critical factor for a think tank to reach their goals. The ability to expand, mobilize and nurture a network efficiently in an environment where organizations are closely entwined with each other helps to generate momentum for think tanks. Though some think tanks may need more secrecy within networks while others do not base networks on their goal and focus, networking has made the total greater than the sum of all individuals in a comprehensive environment.

**Best Think Tanks with Political Party Affiliation:** Think tanks that are formally affiliated with a political party and ideology. In the US, they are mostly categorized into Democrats, Republicans and Independents. As aggregate data from 2014 shows, 39 percent of think tanks identify as Independents, 32 percent as Democrats and 23 percent as Republicans.

**Best Trans-disciplinary Research Program at a Think Tank:** Transdisciplinary research is a research method in which wide ranges of scholars work jointly with stakeholders. It aims at overcoming the production and demand of knowledge to contribute to solutions of social problems. In other words, it combines scholars of various disciplines together to form new conceptual, theoretical, methodological and translational innovations that move beyond discipline-specific approaches to address a common problem.

**Think Tank to Watch:** Think tanks in this category are honored for their excellent research and innovative advances within the past 24 months.
Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy: Public policy is the means by which a government maintains order or addresses the needs of its citizens through actions defined by its constitution. Public policy is a term used to describe a collection of laws, mandates or regulations established through a political process. Think tanks honored in this category produce research that is impactful and evident in public policy.

Top Think Tanks with Annual Operating Budget of Less Than $5 Million USD: Think tanks in this category are honored for outstanding research practices and significant research output while operating on a budget of less than $5 Million USD.

Best Think Tank with the Best Practices (Policies and Procedures) to assure the Quality, Independence and Integrity of its Policy Research: Think tanks honored in this category adhere to and uphold moral and ethical righteousness in their research practices.

Best Regional Studies Policy Research Think Tank (University-Affiliated): A university-affiliated think tank is a research center dedicated to public policy analysis with the support of a major university, though the degree of this support fluctuates. These think tanks are often part of a specialized school of a university. Alumni networks often function as sources for key contacts in the policymaking community. The degree of affiliation between think tanks and their respective universities can be measured by analyzing the overlap of certain factors. Most are comprised of professors, researchers and fellows hailing from their respective universities, but may also include visiting scholars and visiting fellows. They involve student research through research fellowships and internships as well as undergraduate and graduate programs. While some of these think tanks rely on facilities and staff of their respective universities to conduct research, the majority of them determine the research to be conducted independently. Most of these think tanks raise funds specific to their research through grants from individuals, foundations, organizations and governments, while they may also receive financial support from their respective university. Buildings housing these think tanks tend to be located on their respective universities’ campuses. They also have access to other university facilities, such as libraries and research labs, and many of the organizations also have facilities in additional locations.

Best Regional Studies Policy Research Center (Free-Standing, Not University-Affiliated): Think Tanks honored in this category are independent of government or university affiliation and are self-governing institutions. These institutions are autonomous and produce quality research that is objective and unbiased.
In advance of presenting this year’s results, I would like to stress that the inclusion of an institution in the universe of leading think tanks does not indicate a seal of approval or endorsement of the institution, its publications or its programs on the part of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program.

Likewise, a failure to be nominated does not necessarily indicate a lack of quality and effectiveness or poor performance. There are 8,248 think tanks that are doing exceptional work to help bridge the gap between knowledge and policy. This report is no more than an effort to highlight some of the leading think tanks worldwide.

A change to the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index rankings is that any think tank that has been ranked as the top think tank (#1) in a category for 3 consecutive years will be recognized as a Center of Excellence and will not be included in the rankings for that category for the next 3 years. It will be recognized as a Center of Excellence for achieving this level of distinction as a think tank center of excellence.

With that, it gives me great satisfaction and pleasure to present the results of the 2019 rankings process below.
### THINK TANK OF THE YEAR – TOP THINK TANK IN THE WORLD
Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

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### 2019 THINK TANK OF THE YEAR –
TOP THINK TANK IN THE WORLD

Table 1

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123. EUROPEUM Institute for European Policy (Czech Republic)

124. Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations (India)

125. Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) (Uganda)

126. Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) (Georgia)

127. Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación (Mexico)

128. F.A. Hayek Foundation (Slovakia)

129. Asociación de Investigación y Estudios Sociales (ASIES) (Guatemala)

130. Center for Strategic Studies (CSS) (Jordan)

132. African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) (Ghana)

133. Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) (Canada)

134. Centro de Estudio de la Realidad Económica y Social (CERES) (Uruguay)

135. Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) (Azerbaijan)

136. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) (Afghanistan)

137. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) (Japan)

138. Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) (Malaysia)

139. Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) (New Zealand)

140. PRAXIS Center for Policy Studies (Estonia)

141. Pangoal Institution (China)

142. Hungarian Institute of International Affairs (HIIA) (Hungary)

143. Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) (Ethiopia)
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<td>Wilson Center, FKA Woodrow Wilson</td>
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<td>Center for American Progress (CAP)</td>
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### 2019 Top Think Tanks in Sub-Saharan Africa

**Table 4**

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29. Initiative for Public Policy Analysis (IPPA) (Nigeria)  
30. Centre for Research and Technology Development (RESTECH) (Kenya)  
31. African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) (Kenya)  
32. Centre for Population and Environmental Development (CPED) (Nigeria)  
33. Mo Ibrahim Foundation (MIF) (United Kingdom)  
34. Institute for Development Studies (Ghana)  
35. Institute of Statistical, Social and Economic Research (ISSER) (Ghana)  
36. Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (Namibia)  
37. Makerere Institute of Social Research (MISR) (Uganda)  
38. Group for Research and Applied Analysis for Development (GRAAD) (Burkina Faso)  
39. Rift Valley Institute (RVI) (Kenya)  
40. Institute for Empirical Research in Political Economy (IERPE) (Benin)  
41. Centre for the Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA) (Nigeria)  
42. Centre d’Etudes, de Documentation et de Recherche Economiques et Sociales (CEDRES) (Burkina Faso)  
43. Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) (Tanzania)  
44. Groupe de Recherche en Economie Appliquée et Théorique (GREAT) (Mali)  
45. Inter-Region Economic Network (IREN) (Kenya)  
46. Centre d’Etudes de Politiques pour le Développement (CEPOD) (Senegal)  
47. Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) (Ethiopia)  
48. Consortium de Recherches Economiques et Sociales (CRES) (Senegal)  
49. UONGOZI Institute (Tanzania)  
50. African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) (Tanzania)  
51. Centre d’Etudes Pour L’Action Sociale (CEPAS) (Democratic Republic of the Congo)  
52. Mapungubwe Institute for Strategic Reflection (MISTRA) (South Africa)
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## 2019 Top Think Tanks in Mexico and Canada

**Table 5**

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## 2019 Top Think Tanks in Central and South America

**Table 6**

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<td>Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (ECLAC/CEPAL)</td>
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<td>Instituto Político para la Libertad (IPL)</td>
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<td>Fundación para el Progreso (FPP)</td>
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<td><strong>86.</strong> Libertad y Progreso (Argentina)</td>
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### 2019 Top Think Tanks in United States

#### Table 7

1. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (United States)
2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
3. Heritage Foundation (United States)
4. Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) (United States)
5. Urban Institute (United States)
6. Wilson Center, FKA Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (United States)
7. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States)
8. Atlantic Council (United States)
9. RAND Corporation (United States)
10. Hudson Institute (United States)
11. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) (United States)
12. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States)
13. Cato Institute (United States)
14. Center for a New American Security (CNAS) (United States)
15. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States)
16. Baker Institute for Public Policy (United States)
17. Stimson Center (United States)
18. Human Rights Watch (HRW) (United States)
19. Resources for the Future (RFF) (United States)
20. Freedom House (United States)
21. German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) (United States)
22. Hoover Institution (United States)
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<td>Inter-American Dialogue (United States)</td>
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<td>Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF) (United States)</td>
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<td>Center for Global Development (CGD) (United States)</td>
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<td>Chicago Council on Global Affairs (United States)</td>
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<td>United States Institute of Peace (USIP) (United States)</td>
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<td>Action Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (United States)</td>
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<td>Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) (United States)</td>
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<td>Manhattan Institute for Policy Research (MI) (United States)</td>
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<td>Earth Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>Center for the National Interest (CFTNI), FKA Nixon Center (United States)</td>
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<td>Center for Transatlantic Relations (CTR) (United States)</td>
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<td>52. Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (United States)</td>
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<td>53. Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI) (United States)</td>
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<td>107</td>
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### Central Asia Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) (Azerbaijan)

### 2019 Top Think Tanks in Central Asia

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<td>1. Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS) (Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>2. Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) (Azerbaijan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit (AREU) (Afghanistan)</td>
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<td>4. Caucasus Institute for Peace, Democracy and Development (CIPDD) (Georgia)</td>
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<td>5. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) (Georgia)</td>
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<td>6. Economic Research Institute (Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>7. Aga Khan Foundation (AKF) (Afghanistan)</td>
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<td>8. Armenian Center for National and International Studies (ACNIS) (Armenia)</td>
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<td>9. Asia Foundation - Afghanistan (Afghanistan)</td>
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<td>10. Center for Economic Research (CER) (Uzbekistan)</td>
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<td>11. Analytical Centre on Globalization and Regional Cooperation (ACGRC) (Armenia)</td>
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<td>12. Advanced Social Technologies (AST) (Armenia)</td>
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<td>13. New Economic School (NESG) (Georgia)</td>
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<td>14. Center for Social and Economic Research in Kyrgyzstan (CASE) (Kyrgyzstan)</td>
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<td>15. Strategic Research Center (SRC) (Georgia)</td>
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<td>16. Center for Strategic and Military Research (Kazakhstan)</td>
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<td>17. Free Minds Association (FMA) (Azerbaijan)</td>
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<td>18. Caucasus Research Resource Center (CRRC) (Georgia)</td>
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<td>19. National Institute for Strategic Studies (Kyrgyzstan)</td>
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<td>20. South-Caucasus Institute of Regional Security (SCIRS) (Georgia)</td>
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## China, India, Japan, and the Republic of Korea Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Korea Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea)

## 2019 Top Think Tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea

### Table 9

1. Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) (Japan)
2. Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) (Republic of Korea)
3. Observer Research Foundation (ORF) (India)
4. China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) (China)
5. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDE-JETRO) (Japan)
6. Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA) (India)
7. National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) (Japan)
8. Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC) (China)
10. Delhi Policy Group (DPG) (India)
11. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) (China)
12. China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) (China)
13. Centre for Policy Research (CPR) (India)
14. Asan Institute for Policy Studies (AIPS) (Republic of Korea)
15. Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS) (Republic of Korea)
16. Centre for Civil Society (CCS) (India)
17. Centre for Land Warfare Studies (CLAWS) (India)
18. Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (China)
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<td>Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations (ICRIER) (India)</td>
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<td>Japan Center for International Exchange (JCIE) (Japan)</td>
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<td>Brookings Institution (India)</td>
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<td>East Asia Institute (EAI) (Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Institute of International and Strategic Studies (IISS) (China)</td>
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<td>Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations (India)</td>
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<td>Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS) (Japan)</td>
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<td>Unirule Institute of Economics (China)</td>
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<td>Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S) (India)</td>
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<td>Korea Institute for Defense Analyses (KIDA) (Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>China Finance 40 Forum (CF40) (China)</td>
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<td>Hindu Centre for Politics and Public Policy (India)</td>
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<td>Japan International Cooperation Agency Research Institute (JICA-RI) (Japan)</td>
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### 2019 Top Think Tanks in South and Southeast Asia and the Pacific (excluding India)

**Table 10**

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<th>Country</th>
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### Central and Eastern Europe Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) (Poland)

### 2019 Top Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe

**Table 11**

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2019 Top Think Tanks in Western Europe

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### Middle East and North Africa Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

**Center for Strategic Studies (CSS) (Jordan)**

### 2019 Top Think Tanks in Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

#### Table 13

1. Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) (Israel)
2. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Middle East Center (Lebanon)
3. Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS) (Egypt)
4. Al Jazeera Centre for Studies (AJCS) (Qatar)
5. Brookings Institution (Qatar)
6. Emirates Policy Center (United Arab Emirates)
7. Policy Center for the New South-FNA OCP Policy Center (Morocco)
8. Rasanah: International Institute for Iranian Studies (Saudi Arabia)
9. Israel Democracy Institute (IDI) (Israel)
10. Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) (Turkey)
11. Egyptian Center for Economic Studies (ECES) (Egypt)
12. Centre d’Etudes et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales (CERSS) (Morocco)
13. Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies (Israel)
14. Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR)
15. King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Centre (Saudi Arabia)
16. Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) (Turkey)
17. Association for Liberal Thinking (ALT) (Turkey)
18. Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace (Israel)
19. Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) (Egypt)
20. Dubai Public Policy Research Center (United Arab Emirates)
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<th>Name</th>
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<td>Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (Israel)</td>
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<td>Libyan Organization of Policies and Strategies (Loops) (Libya)</td>
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<td>Economic Research Forum (ERF) (Egypt)</td>
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<td>Reut Institute (Israel)</td>
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<td>Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs (ECFA) (Egypt)</td>
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<td>Emirates Diplomatic Academy (United Arab Emirates)</td>
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<td>Middle East Research Institute (Iraq)</td>
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## Top Think Tanks by Area of Research

### Defense and National Security Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

| Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (United States) |

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### 2019 Top Defense and National Security

**Table 14**

<p>| 1. International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) (United Kingdom) |
| 2. RAND Corporation (United States) |
| 3. Brookings Institution (United States) |
| 4. Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) (United Kingdom) |
| 5. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States) |
| 6. European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) (France) |
| 7. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States) |
| 8. Atlantic Council (United States) |
| 9. National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) (Japan) |
| 10. Center for a New American Security (CNAS) (United States) |
| 11. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) (United States) |
| 12. Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) (Israel) |
| 13. Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) (Australia) |
| 14. Heritage Foundation (United States) |
| 15. Institute for International Strategic Studies (IISS) (China) |</p>
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<td>Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM)</td>
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</table>
## Domestic Economic Policy Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Brookings Institution (United States)

## 2019 Top Domestic Economic Policy Think Tanks

Table 15

1. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (United States)
2. German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) (Germany)
3. Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) (United States)
4. Adam Smith Institute (ASI) (United Kingdom)
5. Heritage Foundation (United States)
6. Bruegel (Belgium)
7. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States)
8. Cato Institute (United States)
9. Korea Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea)
10. Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) (Poland)
11. Urban Institute (United States)
12. Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (United Kingdom)
13. Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) (Brazil)
14. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States)
15. RAND Corporation (United States)
16. Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) (United Kingdom)
17. Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium)
18. Kiel Institute for the World Economy (IfW) (Germany)
19. Fedesarrollo (Colombia)
20. Ifo Institute - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research (Germany)
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<td>97. Economic and Social Research Foundation (ESRF) (Tanzania)</td>
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<td>99. Centro de Investigación de Políticas Públicas (Grupo FARO) (Ecuador)</td>
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<td>102. Centre for Independent Development Research (CIDR) (Cameroon)</td>
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<td>103. Centro de Economía para América Latina (CEPAL) (Chile)</td>
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<td>104. Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) (India)</td>
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<td>105. Centro de Estudos de Integração e Desenvolvimento (CINDES) (Brazil)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>143. Economic Development and Research Center (EDRC) (Armenia)</td>
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</table>
### 2019 Top Education Policy Think Tanks

**Table 16**

<p>| 1. National Institute for Educational Policy Research (NIER) (Japan) |
| 2. Urban Institute (United States) |
| 3. Brookings Institution (United States) |
| 4. RAND Corporation (United States) |
| 5. Center for Education Policy, SRI International (United States) |
| 6. Mathematica Policy Research (MPR) (United States) |
| 7. Center for Education Policy Research (CEPR) (United States) |
| 8. Center for Social and Economic Strategies (CESES) (Czech Republic) |
| 9. Cato Institute (United States) |
| 10. Center for Education Policy Analysis (CEPA) (United States) |
| 11. Center for Educational Policy Analysis (CEPA) (Hungary) |
| 12. Center for Educational Policy Studies, Faculty of Educational Management (Russia) |
| 13. Education Policy and Data Center (EPDC) (United States) |
| 14. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States) |
| 15. Heritage Foundation (United States) |
| 16. Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC) (China) |
| 17. Center for Educational Policy (CEP) (Ukraine) |
| 18. Institute of Education (IOE) (United Kingdom) |
| 19. Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) (Thailand) |
| 20. Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) (United States) |
| 21. Fundación para la Educación Superior y el Desarrollo (Fedesarrollo) (Colombia) |
| 22. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States) |
| 23. Committee for Economic Development (United States) |
| 24. Institute of Public Affairs, Education Policy Program (ISP) (Poland) |
| 25. Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (United Kingdom) |</p>
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<th>Country</th>
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<td>Lithuania</td>
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<td>Centre for Education Policy (CEP)</td>
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<td>Center for Educational Policy Studies (CEPS)</td>
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<td>63.</td>
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<td>67.</td>
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</table>
### 2019 Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks

#### Table 17

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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Think Tank Name</th>
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<td>1.</td>
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<td>4.</td>
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<td>Center for Science of Environment, Resources and Energy (Japan)</td>
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</table>
### 2019 Top Environment Policy Think Tanks

**Table 18**

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# 2019 Top Foreign Policy and International Affairs Think Tanks

## Table 19

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<th>Rank</th>
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### Domestic Health Affairs Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

| Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research (CCHSR) (United Kingdom) |

### 2019 Top Domestic Health Affairs Think Tanks

**Table 20**

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# Global Health Policy Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Cambridge Centre for Health Services Research (CCHSR) (United Kingdom)

## 2019 Top Global Health Policy Think Tanks

**Table 21**

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# International Development Policy Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Korea Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea)

## 2019 Top International Development Policy Think Tanks

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### International Economics Policy Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) (United States)

### 2019 Top International Economics Policy Think Tanks

**Table 23**

1. Bruegel (Belgium)
2. Brookings Institution (United States)
3. Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (WIIW) (Austria)
5. Institute of Developing Economies, Japan External Trade Organization (IDEJETRO) (Japan)
6. Adam Smith Institute (ASI) (United Kingdom)
7. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (United States)
8. RAND Corporation (United States)
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<td>Action Institute (Italy)</td>
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<td>72.</td>
<td>State Grid Energy Research Institute Co. Ltd. (China)</td>
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</table>
### Social Policy Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

**Urban Institute (United States)**

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### 2019 Top Social Policy Think Tanks

**Table 25**

1. **Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) (Poland)**
2. **Brookings Institution (United States)**
3. **Fraser Institute (Canada)**
4. **Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) (Brazil)**
5. **Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States)**
6. **Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI) (Sweden)**
7. **RAND Corporation (United States)**
8. **Heritage Foundation (United States)**
9. **Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) (United States)**
10. **Cato Institute (United States)**
11. **Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) (Canada)**
12. **Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (United States)**
13. **Korea Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea)**
14. **American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States)**
15. **Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) (Argentina)**
16. **Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies (MPIFG) (Germany)**
17. **Bruegel (Belgium)**
18. **Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress (ICSEP) (Israel)**
19. **Russell Sage Foundation (RSF) (United States)**
20. **Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) (United Kingdom)**
21. **Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (United Kingdom)**
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<td>Centre for Liberal Strategies (CLS) (Bulgaria)</td>
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<td>Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) (Germany)</td>
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<td>Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) (Bangladesh)</td>
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<td>Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (United Kingdom)</td>
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### 2019 Top Food Security Think Tanks

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<td>Caribbean Agricultural Research and Development Institute (Trinidad &amp; Tobago)</td>
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<td>United Kingdom</td>
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</table>
### 2019 Top Water Security Think Tanks

**Table 28**

<p>| 1. China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) (China) |
| 2. Center for Water-Energy Efficiency, UC Davis (United States) |
| 3. Australian Rivers Institute, Griffith University (Australia) |
| 4. Asian International Rivers Centre, Yunnan University (China) |
| 5. John Hopkins Water Institute (United States) |
| 6. Circle of Blue (United States) |
| 7. Cabot Institute, University of Bristol, houses Bristol's Water Initiative (United Kingdom) |
| 8. Centre for Ecological Research and Forestry Applications (CREAF) (Spain) |
| 9. Center for Water Economics, Environment and Policy, Crawford School, Australian National University (Australia) |
| 10. Africa Water Issues Research Unit (South Africa) |
| 11. Environmental Change Institute (United Kingdom) |
| 12. African Water Issues Research Unit, University of Pretoria (South Africa) |
| 13. African Centre for Water Research (South Africa) |
| 15. Deltares (Netherlands) |
| 16. East Africa Living Lakes Network (Uganda) |
| 17. Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) (India) |
| 18. Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) (India) |
| 19. Cooperative Research Center for Water Sensitive Cities (CRCWSC) (Australia) |
| 20. Desert Research Foundation of Namibia (Namibia) |
| 21. Cranfield Water Science Institute (United Kingdom) |
| 22. African Water Issues Research Unit (AWIRU) (South Africa) |
| 23. Environment and Development in the Third World (Senegal) |
| 24. Colorado Water and Energy Research Center (CWERC), University of Colorado-Boulder (United States) |</p>
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<th>25. Watercycle Research Institute (KWR) (Netherlands)</th>
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<td>27. Water Center (Bolivia)</td>
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<td>28. Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) (Australia)</td>
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<td>29. Colorado State University Water Center, Colorado State University (United States)</td>
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<td>30. Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) (South Africa)</td>
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<td>31. Water Institute, University of Pretoria (South Africa)</td>
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<td>32. Water Research Centre (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>33. Water Research Commission (South Africa)</td>
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<td>34. Centre for Water Policy and Management, LaTrobe University (Australia)</td>
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<td>35. Centre for Water Law, Policy and Science, University of Dundee (Scotland)</td>
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<td>36. Water Research Centre, University of New South Wales (Australia)</td>
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<td>37. Global Water Institute, University of New South Wales (Australia)</td>
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<td>38. IHE Delft Institute for Water Education (Netherlands)</td>
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<td>39. Global Water Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>40. Water Resources Research Center, University of Arizona (United States)</td>
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<td>41. National Water Research Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>42. Institute of Sahel (Mali)</td>
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<td>43. Water Resources Research Center, UMass-Amherst (United States)</td>
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<td>44. World Resources Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>45. Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (Mauritius)</td>
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<td>46. Institute of Water (Water Aid) (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>47. Water for Food Institute, University of Nebraska (United States)</td>
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<td>48. World Water Council (Brazil)</td>
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<td>49. Geneva Water Hub (Switzerland)</td>
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<td>50. Natural Resources and Environment Center, University of Malawi (Malawi)</td>
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<td>51. International Water Centre, Brisbane (Australia)</td>
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<td>52. Fondation Prince Albert II de Monaco (FPA2) (Switzerland)</td>
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Top Think Tanks by Special Achievement

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<tr>
<td><strong>Table 29</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Human Rights Watch (HRW) (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>2. Heritage Foundation (United States)</td>
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<td>3. Transparency International (TI) (Germany)</td>
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<td>4. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States)</td>
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<td>5. Amnesty International (AI) (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>6. Americans for Tax Reform (ATR) (United States)</td>
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<td>7. Center for Global Development (CGD) (United States)</td>
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<td>8. Advocates Coalition for Development and Environment (ACODE) (Ghana)</td>
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<td>9. Acton Institute for the Study of Religion and Liberty (United States)</td>
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<td>10. International Crisis Group (ICG) (Belgium)</td>
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<td>11. Cato Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>12. Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBS) (Germany)</td>
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<td>13. Pew Research Center (United States)</td>
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<td>14. Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland)</td>
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<td>15. Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) (Norway)</td>
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<td>16. Copenhagen Consensus Center (CCC) (Denmark)</td>
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<td>17. Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA) (Egypt)</td>
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<td>18. TaxPayers' Alliance (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>21. European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>22. Qatar Foundation (QF) (Qatar)</td>
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<td>23. Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI) (Mexico)</td>
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<td>80. Civic Exchange (China)</td>
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<td>81. Centro de Estudios de la Realidad Económica y Social (CERES) (Uruguay)</td>
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<td>93. Woodstock Institute (United States)</td>
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For Profit Center of Excellence for 2016-2018
McKinsey Global Institute (MGI) (United States)

2019 Best For-Profit Think Tanks
Table 30

1. Nomura Research Institute (NRI) (Japan)
2. A.T. Kearney Global Business Policy Council (GBPC) (United States)
3. Boston Consulting Group (BCG) (United States)
4. PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC), Strategy& (United States)
5. Deutsche Bank Research (Germany)
6. Eurasia Group (United States)
7. KPMG (Netherlands)
8. Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) (United Kingdom)
9. Samsung Economic Research Institute (SERI) (Republic of Korea)
10. Stratfor (United States)
11. Oxford Analytica (United States)
12. Altran (France)
13. E.Y., FKA Ernst & Young (United States)
14. Accenture Institute for High Performance (United States)
15. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu (United Kingdom)
16. Aegis (United Kingdom)
17. Kissinger Associates (United States)
18. European House - Ambrosetti (Italy)
19. IBM Institute for Business Value (United States)
20. Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc. (MIRI) (Japan)
21. GovLab, Deloitte (United States)
22. Bain and Company, The Bridgespan Group (United States)
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### 2019 Best Government-Affiliated Think Tanks

#### Table 31

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### 2019 Best Institutional Collaboration Involving Two or More Think Tanks

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### Best Managed Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

**Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) (Brazil)**

### 2019 Best Managed Think Tanks

**Table 33**

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<td><a href="http://www.sandersinstitute.com">www.sandersinstitute.com</a></td>
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<td>Scottish Centre on European Relations (United Kingdom)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.scer.scot">www.scer.scot</a></td>
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<td>Silk Road Case Center (SRCC) (Kazakhstan)</td>
<td><a href="https://narxoz.kz/en/research/silk-road-case-center-srcc/">https://narxoz.kz/en/research/silk-road-case-center-srcc/</a></td>
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<td>Stanford Institute for Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence (HAI) (United States)</td>
<td><a href="https://hai.stanford.edu/">https://hai.stanford.edu/</a></td>
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<td>St Michael Centre for Faith and Action (Barbados)</td>
<td>saintmichaelscathedral.bb</td>
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<td>Strategic Development Center (Uzbekistan)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.strategy.uz">www.strategy.uz</a></td>
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<td>Suomi Sauna Think Tank (Finland)</td>
<td><a href="http://www.ttu.ee/projects/mektory-eng/mektory-center/suomi/">www.ttu.ee/projects/mektory-eng/mektory-center/suomi/</a></td>
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<td>The Falkirk Center for Faith and Liberty (United States)</td>
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<td>Think Tennessee (United States)</td>
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<td>Yangon Centre for Independent Research (Myanmar)</td>
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<td>ZOE Institute for Future-Fit Economies (Germany)</td>
<td><a href="https://zoe-institut.de/">https://zoe-institut.de/</a></td>
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*(Alphabetical Listing; Not Ranked)*

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Perspectives on the Global Economic Order in 2019, **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** (United States)

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Private sector in the Mediterranean countries: Main dysfunctions and opportunities of social entrepreneurship, **Forum Euro Méditerranéen des Instituts de Sciences Economiques (FEMISE)** (France)

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Public housing policies: an evaluation of the "My Home My Life Program", **Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)** (Brazil)

Public Procurement in Kenya: Analysis of the Auditor General’s Reports, **Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA)** (Kenya)

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Report Roll-out: Illicit Trade and the Haiti-Dominican Republic Border, **Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)** (United States)

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Rethinking US-China competition: Next generation perspectives, **Brookings Institution** (United States)

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RIAC Forecast 2019–2024, **Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)** (Russia)

Roadmap of Reforms for 2019-2023, Reanimation Package of Reforms, **Centre for Democracy and Rule of Law** (Ukraine)

Role of Russia in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Strategy or Opportunism?, **Euro-Mediterranean Study Commission (EuroMeSCo)** (Spain)

Russia and China: Anatomy of a Partnership, **Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)** (Italy)
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<td>ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute (Singapore)</td>
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<td>Sudan Economy and Future Prospects for Agricultural Development</td>
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<td>The Data Revolution: How China Can Capture the Digital Trade Opportunity at Home and Abroad</td>
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<td>THE SILK ROAD The Silk Road Economic Belt</td>
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What Was the Impact of the Crisis on Poverty and Income Distribution?, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) (Brazil)
Where Jobs Are Concentrating and Why it Matters to Cities and Regions, Brookings Institution (United States)
Women's Participation in High-level Decision Making, Turkish Economic and Social Studies Foundation (TESEV) (Turkey)
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<td>Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) T20 Conference (Japan)</td>
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<td>39. Centro de Divulgación Conocimiento Económico para la Libertad (CEDICE) (Venezuela)</td>
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<td>40. GLOBSEC Bratislava Forum (Slovakia)</td>
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<td>41. Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS) (France)</td>
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<td>43. Middle East Institute (MEI) (Singapore)</td>
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<td>44. Skoll World Forum on Social Entrepreneurship (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>45. Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) (Argentina)</td>
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<td>47. Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación (Mexico)</td>
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<td>48. Asian Institute for Policy Studies (AIPS) (Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>63.</td>
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<td>65.</td>
<td>State Policy Network (United States)</td>
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</table>
# Best Think Tank Network Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

**Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) (Germany)**

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# 2019 Best Think Tank Network

**Table 38**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Think Tank Name</th>
<th>Country</th>
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23. Bruegel (Belgium)
24. Institute for Research on Public Policy (IRPP) (Canada)
25. Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade (ARTNeT) (Thailand)
27. Center for International Governance Innovation (Canada)
28. México Evalúa, Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas & CIDAC (Mexico)
29. Policy Network (United Kingdom)
30. Elcano Royal Institute (Spain)
31. Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) (Germany)
32. Think Visegrad - V4 Think Tank Platform (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia)
33. Human Rights Watch (United States)
34. Think for Europe Network - TEN (Serbia)
35. Al-Shabaka: The Palestinian Policy Network (Transnational)
36. Linktank (United States)
37. Canadian Policy Research Networks (Canada)
38. Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) (Argentina)
39. Consejo Mexicano de Asuntos Internacionales (COMEXI) (Mexico)
40. Red Iberoamericana de Estudios Internacionales (RIBEI) (Spain)
41. Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)
42. Chula Global Network (CGN) (Thailand)
43. Heartland Institute (United States)
44. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
45. Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS) (Germany)
46. Property Rights Alliance (PRA) (United States)
47. Asian Competitiveness Institute (ACI) (Singapore)
48. China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD) (China)
49. Hellenic Foundation for European and Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP) (Greece)
50. Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (United Kingdom)
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<td>International Relations and Security Network (ISN) (Switzerland)</td>
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<td>Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) (Republic of Korea)</td>
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<td>IMANI Center for Policy and Education (Ghana)</td>
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</table>
### Think Tank with a Political Party Affiliation Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) (Germany)

### 2019 Best Think Tanks with a Political Party Affiliation

**Table 39**

1. Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) (Germany)
2. Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom (FNF) (Germany)
3. Fabian Society (United Kingdom)
4. Foundation for European Progressive Studies (FEPS) (Belgium)
5. National Democratic Institute (NDI) (United States)
6. International Republican Institute (United States)
7. Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBS) (Germany)
8. Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSS) (Germany)
9. European Ideas Network (EIN) (Belgium)
10. Demos (United Kingdom)
11. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES), FKA Centre for European Studies (Belgium)
12. Progressive Policy Institute (PPI) (United States)
13. Party School of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (China)
14. Fundación Jaime Guzmán (FJG) (Chile)
15. New Democrat Network (NDN) (United States)
16. Foundation for EU Democracy (Belgium)
17. Foundation Max van der Stoel, FKA Evert Vermeer Foundation (Netherlands)
18. Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales (FAES) (Spain)
19. Fondation pour l’Innovation Politique (Fondapol) (France)
20. Green European Foundation (GEF) (Belgium)
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<td>European People's Party</td>
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28. Bertelsmann Foundation (Germany)
29. Grupo de Análisis para el Desarrollo (GRADE) (Peru)
30. Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO) (Costa Rica)
31. Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) (Malaysia)
32. Centro de Implementación de Políticas Públicas para la Equidad y el Crecimiento (CIPPEC) (Argentina)
33. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (South Africa)
34. Perú in 2062 (CIUP) (Peru)
35. Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (ASLI) (Malaysia)
36. Centre for Policy Development Sustainable Economy Program (CPD) (Australia)
37. Center for Global Development (CGD) (United States)
38. Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) (Singapore)
39. Contorno, Centro de Prospectiva y Debate (Mexico)
40. México Evalúa Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas & CIDAC (Mexico)
41. Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI) (Argentina)
42. Wilfried Martens Centre for European Studies (WMCES), FKA Centre for European Studies (Belgium)
43. Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP) (United States)
44. Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) (India)
45. Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) (Italy)
46. Wuppertal Institute (Germany)
47. Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) (Denmark)
48. Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) (Uganda)
49. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa)
50. Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS) (Japan)
51. German Development Institute (DIE) (Germany)
52. Observer Research Foundation (ORF) (India)
53. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (Indonesia)
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<td>Canada</td>
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</table>
### University Affiliated Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University (United States)

### 2019 Best University-Affiliated Think Tanks

**Table 41**

1. LSE IDEAS (United Kingdom)
2. Baker Institute for Public Policy, Rice University (United States)
3. Institute of Development Studies (IDS), University of Sussex (United Kingdom)
4. Centre for Defence Studies (CDS), King’s College London (United Kingdom)
5. Center on International Cooperation, New York University (United States)
6. Center for International Studies and Research (CERI), Sciences Po (France)
7. BRICS Policy Center, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro (PUC-Rio) (Brazil)
8. Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO), MGIMO University (Russia)
9. Institute of International and Strategic Studies (IISS), Peking University, FKA Center for International and Strategic Studies (China)
10. Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (United States)
11. Asia Competitiveness Institute, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore)
12. Mercatus Center, George Mason University (GMU) (United States)
13. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Tsinghua Center, Tsinghua University (China)
14. Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy (BTC), Tsinghua University (China)
15. Center for International Development (CID), Harvard University (United States)
16. Hoover Institution, Stanford University (United States)
17. Center for Development Research (ZEF), University of Bonn (Germany)
18. Earth Institute, Columbia University (United States)
19. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA), Harvard University (United States)
20. East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (Singapore)
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<td>Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Stanford University (United States)</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (United States)</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>Center for Policy Studies (CPS), Central European University (CEU) (Hungary)</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Oxford University (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales (FLACSO), University of Costa Rica (Costa Rica)</td>
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<td>Strategic and Defence Studies Centre (SDSC), Australian National University (ANU) (Australia)</td>
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<td>27.</td>
<td>Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore (Singapore)</td>
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<td>Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), National University of Singapore (Singapore)</td>
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<td>Ash Center for Democratic Governance, Harvard University (United States)</td>
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<td>Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies, Renmin University of China (RDCY) (China)</td>
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<td>Fiscal Governance Centre, Hertie School of Governance (Germany)</td>
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<td>Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS), Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand)</td>
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<td>The Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (CERGE-EI) (Czech Republic)</td>
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112. Tunisian Observatory for a Democratic Transition (Tunisia)
## 2019 Think Tanks with the Best External Relations/Public Engagement Program

**Table 44**

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<th>Country</th>
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# 2019 Think Tank with the Best Use of the Internet

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### 2019 Best Use of Media (Print or Electronic)

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### Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Urban Institute (United States)

### 2019 Think Tanks with the Most Innovative Policy Ideas/Proposals

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### 2019 Think Tanks with the Most Significant Impact on Public Policy

**Table 48**

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</table>
### Outstanding Policy-Oriented Research Programs Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

| RAND Corporation (United States) |

### 2019 Think Tanks with Outstanding Policy-Oriented Research Programs

#### Table 49

<p>| 1. Bruegel (Belgium) |
| 2. Urban Institute (United States) |
| 3. Chatham House (United Kingdom) |
| 4. Brookings Institution (United States) |
| 5. Korea Development Institute (KDI) (Republic of Korea) |
| 6. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States) |
| 7. International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) (United Kingdom) |
| 8. French Institute of International Relations (IFRI) (France) |
| 9. Peterson Institute for International Economics (United States) |
| 10. Wilson Center, FKA Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (United States) |
| 11. National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (United States) |
| 12. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (United States) |
| 13. Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium) |
| 15. Transparency International (TI) (Germany) |
| 16. Adam Smith Institute (ASI) (United Kingdom) |
| 17. Cato Institute (United States) |
| 18. Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) (Singapore) |
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| 22. Center for American Progress (CAP) (United States) |
| 23. Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) (Brazil) |
| 24. Lowy Institute for International Policy (Australia) |
| 25. Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) (Japan) |
| 26. Development Research Center of the State Council (DRC) (China) |
| 27. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States) |
| 28. World Resources Institute (WRI) (United States) |
| 29. Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik (SWP) (Germany) |
| 30. México Evalúa, Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas &amp; CIDAC (Mexico) |
| 31. Hoover Institution (United States) |
| 32. Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) (Germany) |
| 33. Institute for Public Policy Research (IPPR) (United Kingdom) |
| 34. Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) (Republic of Korea) |
| 35. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) (Sweden) |
| 36. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Moscow Center (Russia) |
| 37. Centre for Policy Studies (CPS) (United Kingdom) |
| 38. Center for Global Development (CGD) (United States) |
| 39. Centro Brasileiro de Análise e Planejamento (CEBRAP) (Brazil) |
| 40. Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI) (Brazil) |
| 41. German Development Institute (DIE) (Germany) |
| 42. Libertad y Desarrollo (LyD) (Chile) |
| 43. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) (China) |
| 44. Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) (Azerbaijan) |
| 45. Institute for Security Studies (ISS) (South Africa) |
| 46. Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) (India) |
| 47. Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO) (Russia) |
| 48. Observer Research Foundation (ORF) (India) |
| 49. South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA) (South Africa) |
| 50. | Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS) (Japan) |
| 51. | Washington Institute for Near East Policy (WINEP) (United States) |
| 52. | Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) (Malaysia) |
| 53. | Kenya Institute for Public Policy Research and Analysis (KIPPRA) (Kenya) |
| 54. | Development Alternatives (DA) (India) |
| 55. | East Asia Institute (EAI) (Republic of Korea) |
| 56. | Centro de Divulgación Conocimiento Económico para la Libertad (CEDICE) (Venezuela) |
| 57. | Australian Strategic Policy Institute (Australia) |
| 58. | Taub Center for Social Policy Studies in Israel (Israel) |
| 59. | Economic Policy Research Center (EPRC) (Uganda) |
| 60. | Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (China) |
| 61. | Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación (Mexico) |
| 62. | Independent Institute (United States) |
| 63. | Centro de Estudios Públicos (Chile) |
| 64. | German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) (Germany) |
| 65. | Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) (Italy) |
| 66. | Overseas Development Institute (ODI) (United Kingdom) |
| 67. | German Marshall Fund of the United States (United States) |
| 68. | Copenhagen Consensus Center (Denmark) |
| 69. | Committee for Economic Development (United States) |
| 70. | Horn Economic and Social Policy Institute (Ethiopia) |
| 71. | Future Center for Advanced Studies and Research (United Arab Emirates) |
| 72. | Chennai Centre for China Studies (C3S) (India) |
| 73. | Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) (Norway) |
| 74. | Economic Research Center (ERC) (Azerbaijan) |
| 75. | Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) (India) |
| 76. | Action Institute (Italy) |
| 77. | International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) (United Kingdom) |
| 78. | Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies (RDCY) (China) |</p>
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<td>83.</td>
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## 2019 Best Independent Think Tanks

### Table 50

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<td>Council on Foreign Relations (CFR)</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>34.</td>
<td>Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA)</td>
<td>Japan</td>
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<td>35.</td>
<td>Bipartisan Policy Center (BPC)</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>36.</td>
<td>World Resources Institute (WRI)</td>
<td>United States</td>
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<td>37.</td>
<td>Center for China &amp; Globalization (CCG)</td>
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<td>Centre for Independent Studies (CIS)</td>
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<td>Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI)</td>
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<td>Civita (Norway)</td>
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<td>Lithuanian Free Market Institute (Lithuania)</td>
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<td>Lowy Institute (Australia)</td>
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<td>Future Center for Advanced Studies and Research (UAE)</td>
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<td>59</td>
<td>TARKI Social Research Institute (Hungary)</td>
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<td>Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) (India)</td>
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<td>Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (Indonesia)</td>
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<td>Gateway House: Indian Council on Global Relations (India)</td>
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<td>Council on Foreign and Defence Policy (SVOP) (Russia)</td>
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<td>Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS) (Denmark)</td>
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<td>Free Market Foundation (FMF) (South Africa)</td>
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<td>Pacific Research Institute for Public Policy (PRI) (United States)</td>
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<td>Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal and Economic Public Policy Studies (United States)</td>
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<td>107.</td>
<td>México Evalúa, Centro de Análisis de Políticas Públicas &amp; CIDAC (Mexico)</td>
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<td>108.</td>
<td>China Reform Foundation (China)</td>
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<td>109.</td>
<td>Education for Peace in Iraq Center (EPIC) (United States)</td>
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<td>European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR) (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>132.</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
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<td>141.</td>
<td>Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>142. SIPA Center on Global Energy Policy (United States)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>143. South African Cities Network (South Africa)</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### 2019 Top Think Tanks with Annual Operating Budgets of Less Than $5 Million USD

**Table 51**

<p>| 1. Center for Social and Economic Research (CASE) (Poland) |
| 2. Fundar, Centro de Análisis e Investigación (Mexico) |
| 3. Economic Policy Research Institute (EPRI) (South Africa) |
| 4. Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) (Azerbaijan) |
| 5. African Technology Policy Studies Network (ATPS) (Kenya) |
| 6. Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (CEBRI) (Brazil) |
| 7. Centro de Divulgación Conocimiento Económico para la Libertad (CEDICE) (Venezuela) |
| 8. Foreign Policy Research Institute (FPRI) (United States) |
| 9. IMANI Center for Policy and Education (Ghana) |
| 10. Unirule Institute of Economics (China) |
| 11. Argentine Council for International Relations (Argentina) |
| 12. Polish Institute of International Affairs (PISM) (Poland) |
| 13. Libertad y Desarrollo (LyD) (Chile) |
| 14. Centro de Estudios Públicos (CEP) (Chile) |
| 15. Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) (India) |
| 16. Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI) (Italy) |
| 17. Bruegel (Belgium) |
| 18. Brazilian Center for International Relations (Brazil) |
| 19. Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) (Australia) |
| 20. Razumkov Center (Ukraine) |
| 21. Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) (Turkey) |
| 22. Ethos Policy Lab (Mexico) |
| 23. Hammurabi Center for Research &amp; Strategic Studies (Iraq) |
| 24. Economic Knowledge Dissemination Center for Freedom (Venezuela) |</p>
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<tr>
<td>25.</td>
<td>Instituto Ecuatoriano de Economía Política (IEEP) (Ecuador)</td>
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<td>Centro Studi Internazionali (CeSI) (Italy)</td>
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<td>Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe) (India)</td>
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<td>Lithuania Free Market Institute (Lithuania)</td>
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<td>Consejo Venezolano de Relaciones Internacionales (Venezuela)</td>
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<td>Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies (RDCY) (China)</td>
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<td>Center for Analyses of Economic Reforms and Communication (Azerbaijan)</td>
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<td>Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (China)</td>
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<td>45.</td>
<td>Fundación para el Avance de Reformas y Oportunidades (Grupo Faro) (Ecuador)</td>
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### Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

**RAND Corporation (United States)**

### 2019 Best Quality Assurance and Integrity Policies and Procedures

**Table 52**

1. Transparency International (Germany)
2. Brookings Institution (United States)
3. Bruegel (Belgium)
4. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (United States)
5. Centre for International Governance Innovation (CIGI) (Canada)
6. Ecologic Institute (Germany)
7. Institute for Security Studies (South Africa)
8. World Resources Institute (United States)
9. Urban Institute (United States)
10. Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)
11. Danish Institute for International Studies (Denmark)
12. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
13. Ghana Center for Democratic Development (Ghana)
14. Institute for International Political Studies (Italy)
15. Center on Global Energy Policy (United States)
16. Centre for Public Policy Studies (Malaysia)
17. Mercatus Center (United States)
18. Atlantic Council (United States)
19. Ethos Policy Lab (Mexico)
20. Fraser Institute (Canada)
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<td>Wilson Center, FKA Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (United States)</td>
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<td>Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs (United States)</td>
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<td>47.</td>
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<td>48.</td>
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<td>49.</td>
<td>Botswana Institute for Development Policy Analysis (BIDPA) (Botswana)</td>
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<td>50.</td>
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<td>Institute for Public Policy Research (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>International Crisis Group (Belgium)</td>
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<td>Global Integrity (United States)</td>
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<td>66.</td>
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<td>Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA) (Brazil)</td>
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<td>68.</td>
<td>OnThinkTanks (Peru)</td>
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### 2019 Best Regional Studies Center (Free Standing)

**Table 53**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Wilson Center, FKA Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (United States)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Middle East Center (Lebanon)</td>
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<td>Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Brazil)</td>
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<td>Asian Development Bank Institute (Japan)</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Azerbaijan Center for Economic and Social Development (Azerbaijan)</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Brookings Institution (Qatar)</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Chinese Academy of Social Science (China)</td>
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<td>East West Center (United States)</td>
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<td>10.</td>
<td>Australia Institute for Regional Security (Australia)</td>
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<td>11.</td>
<td>African Economic Research Consortium (Kenya)</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>Center for the Study of African Economies (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>13.</td>
<td>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Moscow Center (Russia)</td>
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<td>14.</td>
<td>German Institute of Global and Area Studies (Germany)</td>
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<td>15.</td>
<td>African Technology Policy Studies Network (Kenya)</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Comisión Económica para América Latina y el Caribe (Chile)</td>
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<td>17.</td>
<td>Fundación para el Análisis y los Estudios Sociales (Spain)</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Washington Office on Latin America (United States)</td>
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<td>19.</td>
<td>Food, Agriculture and Natural Resources Policy Analysis Network (South Africa)</td>
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<td>Middle East Institute (United States)</td>
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<td>21.</td>
<td>Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (Singapore)</td>
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<td>22.</td>
<td>United States Center for European Policy Analysis (United States)</td>
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<td>23.</td>
<td>George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (Germany)</td>
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<td>24.</td>
<td>Mitvim Israeli Institute for Regional Foreign Policies (Israel)</td>
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<td>25.</td>
<td>Hungarian Center for Economic and Regional Studies (Hungary)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>International Institute for Iranian Studies, FKA Arabian Gulf Center</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>National Bureau of Asian Research</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Russian Institute for the U.S. and Canadian Studies</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Russian Institute for Oriental Studies</td>
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<td>30</td>
<td>Indonesian Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia</td>
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<td>31</td>
<td>Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS)</td>
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<td>32</td>
<td>Polish Center for Eastern Studies</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>Caribbean Natural Resources Institute (West Indies)</td>
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<td>34</td>
<td>Regional Centre for Strategic Studies</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa</td>
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<td>36</td>
<td>Ghana Center for Democratic Development</td>
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<td>37</td>
<td>Russian Institute of Europe</td>
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<td>38</td>
<td>India Center for the Study of Developing Societies</td>
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<td>39</td>
<td>Sheikh Saud bin Saqr Al Qasimi Foundation for Policy Research</td>
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<td>40</td>
<td>Hammurabi Center for Research and Strategic Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>Kyrgyzstan Institute for Regional Studies</td>
</tr>
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</table>
### Regional Studies Center (University-Affiliated) Center of Excellence for 2016-2018

Brookings Institution-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy (BTC) (China)

### Best Regional Studies Center (University-Affiliated)

**Table 54**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Institution</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>European Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science (United Kingdom)</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Center for International Studies and Research, Sciences Po (France)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Tsinghua Center, Tsinghua University (China)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>East Asian Institute (EAI), National University of Singapore (Singapore)</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies, George Washington University (United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Kyoto University (Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (United States)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Oxford University (United Kingdom)</td>
</tr>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Institute, Waseda University (Japan)</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University (United States)</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University (United States)</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University (United States)</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Centre on Asia and Globalisation, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (Singapore)</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>Centre for Russian, European and Eurasian Studies, University of Birmingham (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>Center for Transatlantic Relations, SAIS, Johns Hopkins University (United States)</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>Centre for the Study of Globalization and Regionalism, University of Warwick (United Kingdom)</td>
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<td>17</td>
<td>Griffith Asia Institute, Griffith University (Australia)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Center for Security Studies, Jordan University (Jordan)</td>
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<td>Institution Name</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Orient Institute, University of Lisbon (Portugal)</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>Centre for European Regional and Local Studies, University of Warsaw (Poland)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University (United States)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Australia China Relations Institute, University of Technology Sydney (Australia)</td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>Chinese Studies Institute, Australian National University (Australia)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), National University of Singapore (Singapore)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>Institute of African Studies, Zhejiang Normal University (China)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Institute of Asia and Africa Studies, Moscow State University (Russia)</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Arab Studies Center, Al Mustansiriya University (Iraq)</td>
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<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>Center for International and Regional Studies (CIRS) Georgetown University (Qatar)</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Mercator Institute for China Studies (MERICS) (Germany)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Institute for European Studies, Free University Brussels (Belgium)</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>Asiatic Research Institute, Korea University (Republic of Korea)</td>
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</table>
Background on the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

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 30 years, 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 policymaking 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 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, 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 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.

Think Tank Regional and Global Summits

Since June 2012, the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)—in cooperation with its regional partners—has co-sponsored and organized regional and global think tank summits. The
The purpose of these summits is to engage think tanks in peer-to-peer dialogue, knowledge exchange and capacity-building to help improve the image, profile and performance of think tanks in every region of the world. In addition, we plan to demonstrate the efficacy of creating a global network that engages the leading think tanks in a peer-to-peer exchange of innovative policies and best practices for research and public engagement on key domestic and international issues. The value of these summits has been clearly demonstrated by the fact that all of the summit partners and participants have agreed to partner with TTCSP to organize summits on an annual basis. A number of institutional partnerships between leading think tanks have been formed as a direct result of these summits. Each summit is expected to have an impact on the think tanks in each region with a set of action-oriented recommendations. The summits have helped facilitate regional and global partnerships and programs and the summit recommendations demonstrate that each meeting is a “catalyst for ideas and action.”

While the regional partners’ contributions to the summits vary, many serve as the hosts for the summit and mobilize local and regional support for them. Often this involves providing in-country logistical support, the venue and significant in-kind support and a financial contribution.

The role of TTCSP has been to convene the think tanks and provide the conceptual framework for the summits. This is done in conjunction with our regional partners and based on the research, global think tank index and surveys conducted by TTCSP.

All previous summit reports can be found here: [https://repository.upenn.edu/ttcsp_summitreports/](https://repository.upenn.edu/ttcsp_summitreports/)

### 2019 & 2020 Think Tank Summits and Fora Schedule

**September 23-25, 2019: Latin America Think Tank Summit**, Bogota, Colombia; TTCSP Partner: Fedesarrollo & Fundación Ideas de La Paz (FIP)

**November 10-12, 2019: Asia Think Tank Summit**, Bangkok, Thailand; TTCSP Partner: Trade, Investment and Innovation Division UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

**December 5, 2019: Euro-Med Think Tank Forum**, Rome, Italy; TTCSP Partner: Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)

**December 12-13, 2019: Global Think Tank Summit**, Rio de Janeiro; TTCSP Partner: Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV)

**January 13, 2020: India Think Tank Summit**, New Delhi, India, TTCSP Partner: Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

**January 30, 2020: Think Tank and Civil Societies: Catalyst for Ideas, Innovation and Action 2020 Why Think Tanks Matter** in Washington, DC and 150 cities around the world

**February 26-28, 2020: Africa Think Tank Summit**, Cape Town, South Africa, TTCSP Partners: South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD)
Date and location to be determined: Global Food and Water Security Summit, European Think Tank Summit, All China Think Tank Innovation Forum, North America Think Tank Summit, AI Think Tank Forum, Central and Eastern European Think Tank Summit, Global Think Tank Summit, Middle East and North Africa Think Tank Summit

TTCSP Think Tank Publications

Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice Around the World (Upcoming 2020)

Future of Think Tanks and Policy Advice in the US (Upcoming 2020)

Think Tanks the New Knowledge Brokers and Policy Advisers In Asia (Brookings Press 2019)

Think Tanks Foreign Policy the Emerging Powers (Palgrave 2019)

Think Tanks and Emerging Power Policy Networks (Palgrave 2019)


TTCSP Publications:

If you would like to partner with us on one or more of these projects please contact Dr. James G. McGann at jmcgann@wharton.upenn.edu. The goal in the next 12 months is to translate this global interest and support into core funding for TTCSP.

2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index

The Global Go To Think Tank Index (GGTTTI) has become the gold standard of excellence for think tanks around the world and is widely cited by donors, journals, think tanks, and policymakers. More importantly, it has served to raise the profile and performance of think tanks. The 2016 GGTTTI marked the 10th year of the publication of the Index report and with each year the ranking’s influence has grown. For the past several years, the Global Think Tank Index Report has been launched at the World Bank and the United Nations in January. Over 3,190 academics, policymakers, journalists, and think tank scholars and executives completed the annual indexing process. The 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index will be released on January 30, 2020.

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies

The Lauder Institute of Management and International Studies offers an M.A. in international studies and conducts fundamental and policy-oriented research on current economic, political and business issues. It organizes an annual conference that brings academics, practitioners and policymakers together to examine global challenges such as financial risks, sustainability, inequality and the future of the state.

University of Pennsylvania

The University of Pennsylvania (Penn) is an Ivy League school with highly selective admissions and a history of innovation in interdisciplinary education and scholarship. Its peer institutions are Harvard, Stanford, Columbia, Brown, Dartmouth, and the University of Chicago in the US, and Oxford and Cambridge in the UK. A world-class research institution, Penn boasts a picturesque campus in the middle of Philadelphia, a dynamic city that is conveniently located between Washington, D.C., and New York, New York.

Penn was founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1740 to push the frontiers of knowledge and benefit society by integrating study in the liberal arts and sciences with opportunities for research and practical, pre-professional training at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Penn is committed to meeting the full demonstrated need of all undergraduates with grant-based financial aid, making this intellectually compelling integration of liberal and professional education accessible to talented students of all backgrounds and empowering them to make an impact on the world.
The Research Team
Program Director

James G. McGann, Ph.D., is a senior lecturer at the Lauder Institute of the Wharton School and the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania. He is also the director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania. He conducts research on the trends and challenges facing think tanks and policymakers around the world and provides advice and technical assistance to think tanks, governments and public and private donors on how to improve the quality and impact of policy research. He is also a senior fellow at the Foreign Policy Research Institute, a think tank based in Philadelphia.

Prior to coming to the University of Pennsylvania, Dr. McGann was an assistant professor of Political Science at Villanova University where he taught international relations, international organizations and international law. His current research interests include assessing global trends in security and international affairs research; the role of think tanks in shaping US domestic and foreign policy; think tanks and policy advice in the BRICS and G20 countries and transnational threats and global public policy. He is the creator and author of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index which ranks think tanks in every region of the world and major areas of public policy research.

Dr. McGann has served as a consultant and advisor to the World Bank; the United Nations; the United States Agency for International Development; the Soros, Rockefeller, MacArthur, Hewlett, and Gates foundations; the Carnegie Corporation; and foreign governments on the role of nongovernmental, public policy and public engagement organizations in the US and developing and transitional countries. He has served as the Senior Vice President for the Executive Council on Foreign Diplomats, the public policy program officer for the Pew Charitable Trusts, the assistant director of the Institute of Politics, John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He also served as a senior advisor to the Citizens’ Network for Foreign Affairs and the Society for International Development.
Research Interns Global Go To Index Research, Editing, and Production Team:

Erika Gustafson, Project Lead, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2021
Kimberly Burton, Temple University, Class of 2020
Mariana Garcia, Bryn Mawr College, Class of 2019
Laura Whelan, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2020
Abigail Olah, Temple University, Class of 2020
Alisa Wadsworth, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2021
Bianca Serbin, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2022
Bruce Hecht, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Class of 2021
Sahil Gujarati, DePaul University, Class of 2021
Samyak Leerha, University of Pennsylvania, Class of 2021

TTCSP Research Internship Program

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) runs a highly selective internship program for students (grad and undergrad; domestic and international) who are interested in gaining first-hand experience in public policy research in domestic and international affairs. Over 125 students from across the University of Pennsylvania and from area colleges and universities participated in TTCSP Research Internship Program during the 2018-2019 academic year. Over 30 interns from the Program have been successfully placed in internships in the US and abroad in locations such as France, Argentina, Jordan, Brazil, England and Spain.
Appendices

APPENDIX A: Email Inviting Peers and Expert Panelists to Rank 2019 Nominated Institutions

Dear Colleague:

I am writing to invite you to help rank the think tanks for the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index of the world's leading think tanks. THE RANKING ROUND WILL RUN FROM OCTOBER 20, 2019-NOVEMBER 30, 2019. Click the blue button below to start the survey.

We are still accepting nominations of individuals for the expert panels so please send the names, titles and email of individuals that you would like to invite to join the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Expert Panel.

We encourage you to participate in 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index rankings process so the think tanks in your country and regions can be properly reflected in the survey findings. We are requesting that you now rank the think tanks that list in all the categories where you knowledge and experience with the institutions that are listed.

The rankings are broken into three sections: 1. region/location; 2. area of public policy research and 3. special achievement.

The findings of the 2019 rankings will be reviewed by a group global panel of experts who will make the final selections. The international panels of experts will use the collective input of individuals like you to make informed choices for the 2019 ranking of the world's leading think tanks.

After filling out your name, title, institutional affiliation, country and e-mail address, etc. please use the drop-down menu to make your selection(s) for think tank rankings.

Please review the lists of think tanks in the drop down menus under every question to rank the listed of nominated institutions. You can reenter the survey as many times as you like to compete or revise your rankings.

Think Tanks are listed in alphabetical order (A-Z). You must scroll down the list to make your selection. You can only make one selection at a time and it should be in rank order.

Please make sure you save the link to the survey that we sent you if you plan to re-enter the survey.

YOU CAN NOT FORWARD THE LINK. IT IS UNIQUE TO YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS.

Please note: when completing the survey, do NOT use the "back" button on your internet
browser, this will erase your answers. Instead, use the "prev" button on the bottom of the survey page.

PLEASE RESIST THE TEMPTATION TO RANK YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION - THAT IS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN AND CLOSELY MONITORED.

Finally, please bring any glowing omissions, gross anomalies or irregularities to our attention immediately so we can share them with the expert panel members. There is a form at the end of each category so you can submit your additions, comments and suggestions.

WE HAVE ALSO ADDED A QUESTION AT THE END OF THE SURVEY WHERE YOU CAN SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

Thank you for your participation and continued interest in our research on think tanks and civil societies around the world.

Sincerely,

James G. McGann, PhD

APPENDIX B: Email Inviting Peers and Expert Panelists to Host “Why Think Tanks and Facts Matter” Events

Follow Up Ltr

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am writing you to invite you to join 100s of think tanks and other civil society actors in global cities around the world in January 2020 for a unique global program. The program will involve a series of coordinated events that are intended to highlight the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the world. A copy of some sample programs from the last couple of years is attached.

The annual Why Think Tanks Matter Forum and the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Report Launch are scheduled for January 30, 2020 and will take place over 2 days in Paris, Beijing, London, Washington DC, New York and approximately 140 other cities around the world.

We are hoping that you will agree to host a launch event in your city.

If you would like to host a Think Tank Issues Forum and/or the 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report Launch on January 30, 2020, please use the link below to register.

Think Tank Issues Forum and 2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Launch Registration Sheet:
Over 80 think tanks have already agreed to host events in their countries and cities. Our goal is to have 120 events around the world.

The theme for this year’s launch is **“Why Think Tanks Matter to Policymakers and the Public.”** While recent think tank growth has been nothing short of explosive, the relationship between these organizations and the policymaking process is not completely understood. The Think Tank Launch Events on January 30th is intended to provide concrete examples of the research and educational programs produced by these institutions and how it serves policymakers and the public.

Our hope is that each local host will organize a Program within the thematic framework of **WHY THINK TANKS MATTER.** The goal is to highlight the critical work think tanks perform in countries around the world. You are encouraged to engage other think tanks and IGOs, media, policymakers and other policy actors in your country as you develop your Event.

Your event should explain what think tanks are, what they do, what value they add and why think tanks are more important than ever before. In the competitive marketplace of ideas and policy advice it is essential that we make the case and provide tangible examples of the important role think tanks in countries around the world. The objective of the Why Think Tanks Matter Events is to have think tanks around the world provide compelling examples the critical work think tanks perform in a range of political and economic contexts. We also hope that by joining together on January 30, 2020 we can make a strong case for Why Think Tanks Matter.

Please send us your draft program once you have prepared it.

You must use this registration link in order to host an event:

Additional information will be provided in the coming weeks. I wanted to thank you once again for joining us for this important global event.

All the best, Jim McGann