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THINK TANKS – ROLE IN THE TIME OF GEOPOLITICAL CHANGE & GLOBAL BEST PRACTICES

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Background Experience – Think Tanks

 <p>COUNCIL <i>on</i> FOREIGN RELATIONS</p>	 <p>EastWest INSTITUTE</p>	 <p>CSIS CENTER FOR STRATEGIC & INTERNATIONAL STUDIES</p>	 <p>JIJA</p>
<p>Council on Foreign Relations</p>	<p>EastWest Institute</p>	<p>Center for Strategic and International Studies</p>	<p>Japan Institute of International Affairs</p>

“Perfect Storm” of Geopolitics in Asia



North
Korea



South
Korea



China



Japan



ASEAN

Think Tanks – How Do We Respond?

- ◆ Example: DPRK Crisis
- ◆ Multi-tiered approach
- ◆ Track 1; 1.5; 2
- ◆ Window for diplomacy
- ◆ Foreign policy & development conducted by non-state actors increasingly.



Comparative Advantage of Think Tanks

- Reduced bureaucratic and political constraints
- Often longstanding and deep connections to foreign intellectuals and government; corporate memory (unlike changing political winds)
- More nimble and ability to dive into narrowed and specific fields (e.g. counter-narcotics; agriculture; border security, etc.)
- Think-tanks as window to other relevant fields (media; academia, etc.)

Challenges to Think Tanks

- Funding constraints compared to state-run programs
- Budgetary and resource limitations
- Limited presence and nascent intellectual capacity on emerging issues.
- Policy influence – depends on the issue and connection to government. *Are reports being read?*

Way Forward – Financial Sustainability and Institution “Nurturing” Beyond Institution Building

- Most critical thing is approach and recognition of importance of think tanks – “think tank culture”
- Public awareness – what is a think-tank?
- Buy-in and long term strategic visions for think-tank development in the region
 - ▣ CAREC playing critical role in mobilizing in Central Asian region this importance



Way Forward – Financial Sustainability and Institution “Nurturing” Beyond Institution Building

- Knowing that each model of think-tank and culture is different (not all will follow US or Western approach); funding and tax rules are different; also differing views on government involvement
- Encourage cross pollination with government but understand unique differences and advantages.

Questions?

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