

Networking Asian Think Tanks for KS and CD: The Case of Asian Think Tanks Network (ATTN)

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Context

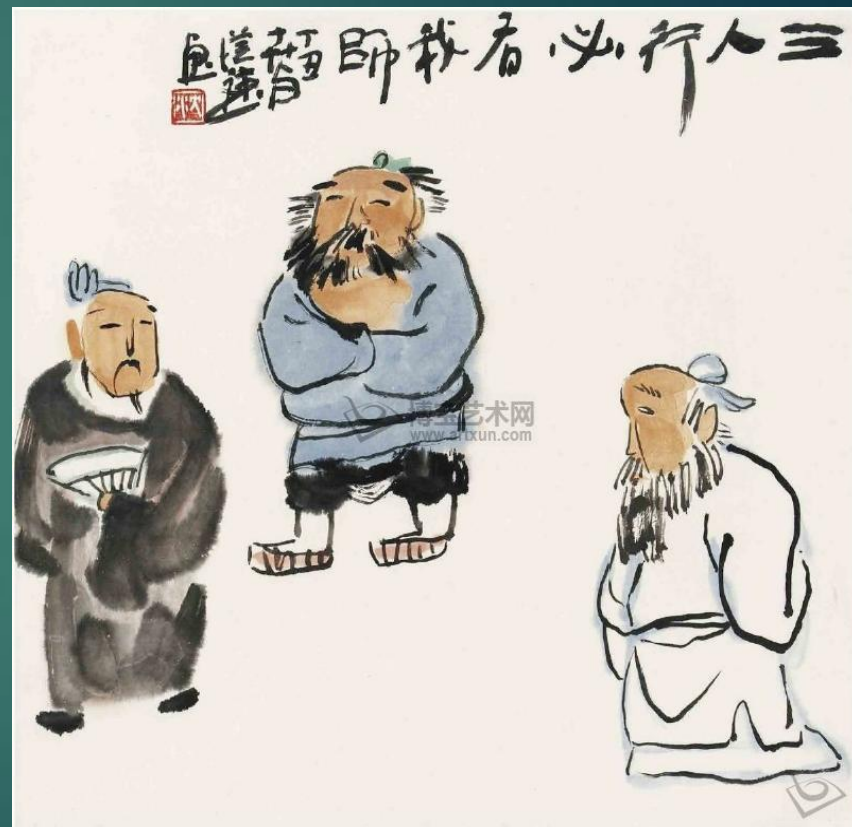
Asian Think Tanks:

- Playing increasingly important roles in policy formulation and implementation, but capacity still weak in research and policy advising;
- Eager to share knowledge with peers on development experiences and policy lessons;

ADB:

- Good governance and capacity development, knowledge solutions, and partnerships, as drivers of change in Strategy 2020;

Benefits of Networking



Benefits of Networking

- Enhanced learning & knowledge sharing;
- Enhanced capacity to plan for and address complex development challenges;
- Enhanced collective intelligence and strength;
- More effective use of resources;
- Better services to clients.



Timeline: ATTN

- Early 2012, ADB and Asian think tanks initiated the network;
- June 2012, TA Concept Paper endorsed by ADB;
- November 2012, resources provided by PRC Fund;
- May 2013, TA Report approved by ADB: RETA 8392: Provision of KPS to DMCs thru Systematic KS;
- 30-31 October 2013, 1st ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum held in Beijing. ATTN established;
- 20-21 November 2014, 2nd ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum held in Seoul.
- 8-9 September 2015, 3rd ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum held in Kuala Lumpur.

Objectives of ATTN

ATTN: an institutionalized knowledge sharing and capacity development platform among the government-linked think tanks in Asia and the Pacific

- Enhance systematic knowledge sharing, particularly S-S knowledge cooperation;
- Enable better policy advising; bridge the gap between research and policy;
- Strengthen the capacity of the Asian think tanks, particularly, those in low income DMCs; and
- Increase the collective voice of Asia and the Pacific in international arenas.

Targeted Membership

Economic and development think tanks in the region, particularly those:

- Under macroeconomic agencies, such as ministry of finance, economy, and development agencies;
- With close linkages with the government's macroeconomic agencies and assisting in development policy formulation and implementation; and
- Preferably, one think tank from each DMCs.

Focus Areas

- In line with Strategic 2020 and the challenges facing DMCs, ATTN focuses knowledge sharing on **inclusion and innovation**
- Theme of the ATTN forums:
 - ✓ 1st Forum: Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
 - ✓ 2nd Forum: Promoting Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia;
 - ✓ 3rd Forum: Advancing Innovation & Inclusion for a Prosperous Asia.
 - ✓ 4th Forum: continue with innovation and inclusion

Networking Mode

- ATTN: a joint initiative of ADB and Asian think tanks
- Internally, ERCD (content and organization), and ADBI, RDs/RMs, RKSI (collaborators)
- At the initial stage, ADB acts as lead agency, co-financier, honest broker and secretariat
- In the long run, it is expected that a sustainable financing mechanism can be found and ATTN shall be operated largely by the participating think tanks

DMF

- **Impact:** Enhanced development effectiveness of DMCs' macroeconomic and development policies.
- **Outcome:** Enhanced learning and capacity of the Asian think tanks in policy advising.
- **Outputs:** a systematic KS and CD network: ATTN, and policy-oriented knowledge products.

Networking Activities

- Flagship ATTN event: Annual ADB-Asian Think Tank Development Forum
- e-Newsletter: ATTN e-News
- Proceedings
- Website: www.adb-asianthinktanks.org, and
- More to be explored, such as joint studies, staff exchange, webinar, etc.

Results and Feedback

- ATTN established:
 - ✓ 3 forums organized in 2013, 2014 and 2015; over 60 think tanks from about 30 countries participated; also attended by international organizations and regional think tanks, govt. agencies, academia, business and media;
 - ✓ e-news and proceedings published, website built and updated;
 - ✓ 4th Forum planned in India in October 2016;
 - ✓ Members' interest and ownership growing, feedback positive and encouraging;
 - ✓ Donor continued financial support.

Factors to Consider for Networking

- How to position and differentiate the network (uniqueness):
 - ✓ Target audience
 - ✓ Focused areas
- How to make the network relevant (usefulness):
 - ✓ Meet the growing need of the members
 - ✓ Nurture the ownership and participations of the members
- How to make the network sustainable (sustainability):
 - ✓ Financing mechanisms
 - ✓ Governing structure: roles of different participants;
- How to reach out efficiently and effectively (impact):
 - ✓ Globally, regionally and domestically
 - ✓ Policy makers, media, business, and other clients