



**Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program  
Lauder Institute for Management and International Studies  
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<http://gotothinktank.com/>  
[http://repository.upenn.edu/think\\_tanks/10/](http://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/10/)**

## **“Think Tanks Matter” Go To Launches Celebrate Think Tanks around the World**

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program and 107 think tanks, intergovernmental organizations and academic institutions around the world launched the 2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index in a coordinated set of events on January 27 and 28, 2016. Our Global Partners in over 70 cities and 60 countries hosted and organized panel discussions on the subject of "Why Think Tanks Matter" (this year's theme). The program reached large audiences through on-line chats, blogs, live streaming, program videos, and tweeting. Provided below are some of the highlights of the events.

### **THE 2015 GLOBAL GO TO THINK TANK INDEX**

- Available here: [http://repository.upenn.edu/think\\_tanks/10/](http://repository.upenn.edu/think_tanks/10/)
- Downloaded 10,039 times in the six days since its release on January 29, 2016

### **A GLOBAL REPORT LAUNCHED AT GLOBAL INSTITUTIONS**



# *Why Think Tanks Matter: Helping Make People Centered Public Policy & Development a Priority*

**The World Bank  
January 27, 2016**



**Chair: Marcelo Giugale**, Senior Economic Adviser, Cluster of Global Practices for Equitable Growth, Finance, and Institutions (EFI), World Bank (United States)

#### **Panelists:**

- **Gountiéni D. Lankoandé**, Director of Research, GRAAD (Burkina Faso)
- **Melissa Leach**, Director, The Institute of Development Studies (United Kingdom)
- **Jos Verbeek**, Adviser in the Office of the President's Special Envoy on the MDGs/SDGs and Financial Development, World Bank (United States)
- **Amadou Sy**, Director, Africa Growth Initiative, Brookings Institution (United States)
- **James McGann**, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (United States)

Video of the panel is available here:

<http://streaming2.worldbank.org:8080/vvflash/GGO20160127/>



**Relevant Book: “Think Tanks and SDGs: Catalysts for Analysis, Innovation, and Implementation”** (2016)

ed. James McGann, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program

<http://www.lulu.com/shop/james-mcgann/think-tanks-and-sdgs-catalysts-for-analysis-innovation-and-implementation/paperback/product-22557881.html>

*Why Think Tanks Matter to Policy Makers and*

*the Public in the US: Policy: Research with Rigor,  
Relevance and Reach  
At the Wilson Center  
January 27, 2016*



**Welcome, Introduction, and Chair of Panel: Jane Harman**, Director, President and CEO, Woodrow Wilson Center

**Panelists**

- **Heather A. Conley**, Senior Vice President, Europe, Eurasia, and the Arctic and Director of the Europe Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (United States)
- **Ivo Daalder**, President, Chicago Council on Global Affairs (United States)
- **Ted Gayer**, Vice President of Economic Studies, Brookings Institution (United States)
- **Spencer Overton**, President, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies (United States)
- **Erika Poethig**, Institute Fellow and Director of Urban Policy Initiatives, Urban Institute (United States)
- **Kenneth R. Weinstein**, President and Chief Executive Officer, Hudson Institute (United States)

Video of the panel is available here:

<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/why-think-tanks-matter-to-policy-makers-and-the-public-the-us-research-rigor-relevance-and>

*Global Cities as Centers of Commerce,  
Education and Policy: The Philadelphia Story*

At the University of Pennsylvania  
January 28, 2016



**Chair:** Amy Gadsden, Executive Director, Penn Global

**Welcome, Introduction, and Conclusion:** James McGann, Director, Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program)

**Panelists:**

- **William Burke-White**, Director, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania (Connecting Penn to the World)
- **Peter S. Longstreth**, President, Philadelphia Consular Corps Association (Connecting Philadelphia to the World)
- **Alan Luxemburg**, President, Foreign Policy Research Institute, (Connecting Philadelphia to the World of Policy)
- **John F. Smith III**, Reed Smitt LLP Board Chair, Global Philadelphia Association (Connecting Business & INGOs to the World)

*Why Think Tanks Matter to Policy Makers and the Public: Getting to Yes on Arms Control (Nuclear Non-proliferation), Development (SDGs) and the Environment (COP21)*

**At the United Nations**  
**January 28, 2016**



**Chair: Thomas G. Weiss**, Presidential Professor, the Graduate Center of the City University of New York

**Panelists:**

- **Steve Del Rosso**, Program Director, International Peace & Security Program, Carnegie Corporation of New York (United States)
- **Jackson Ewing**, Director of Asian Sustainability, Asia Society Policy Institute (United States)
- **Amr Nour**, Director Regional Commissions New York Office, United Nations (United States)

Video of the panel is available here

<http://webtv.un.org/meetings-events/watch/why-think-tanks-matter-to-policy-makers-and-the-public-getting-to-yes-on-arms-control-nuclear-non-proliferation-development-sdgs-and-the-environment-cop21/4727883494001>

## **GLOBAL PARTNERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

- Over **1,200** tweets were tagged with the hashtag **#ThinkTanksMatter**. Our **107 global partners** in the Go To Launch were extremely active in participating in the events. They hosted panels, advertised for and live-tweeted

their events, used the hashtag to explain why think tanks matter in their country, posted pictures and video, and publicized their rankings.

## COVERAGE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Russia-Direct.org: "Why even the best Russian Think Tanks Struggle to Influence Foreign Policy"**

<http://www.russia-direct.org/analysis/why-even-best-russian-think-tanks-struggle-influence-foreign-policy>

Russia-Direct.org covered Russian think tanks' roles in the rankings. The article reported that 24 American think tanks and 3 Russian think tanks were included in the list of the best think tanks worldwide (US- and non-US.) However, some Russian think tanks fared well in other categories: this year, 12 Russian think tanks ranked in the best think tanks in Central and Eastern Europe. The important crux of the article was its analysis of the conflict between think tanks and the Russian government. As Carnegie Moscow Center Director explained, "... the authorities in Russia are very closed and reluctant to rely on any expertise outside governmental agencies." In the context of Russian think tanks' low rankings on the Index, Trenin discusses the tension between Russian think tanks and the government.

- **El País: "Ránking de Think Tanks 2015: pensando en la globalización para gobernarla"**

<http://blogs.elpais.com/alternativas/2016/01/r%C3%A1nking-de-think-tanks-2015-pensando-en-la-globalizaci%C3%B3n-para-gobernarla.html>

- **The Times of India: "India Ranks 4th in Number of Thinktanks"**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/India-ranks-4th-in-number-of-thinktanks/articleshow/50790521.cms>

- **La Segunda: "Pensando de la Derecha"**

<http://impresa.lasegunda.com/2015/07/17/A/fullpage#slider-7>



- **The Star Online: "Malaysian think tanks among the world's best, says study"**

<http://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2016/01/31/malaysian-think-tanks-among-the-worlds-best-says-study/>

- In Italy, the Rankings were covered by **Corriere della Serra** and **Repubblica**, **ANSA** (the Italian press agency), and circulated by **Radio Vaticana** (the radio of the Catholic church)
- In Germany, the **German Development Institute's** placement in the rankings was covered by **idw - Informationsdienst Wissenschaft**:

<https://idw-online.de/de/news645141>

- **Pakistan Horizon: "Why Think Tanks Matter to Policy Makers and the Public"**

A recap of the panel held at the **Pakistan Institute of International Affairs**, with commentary from each of the panelists.

<https://pakistanhorizon.wordpress.com/>

## CHINA IMPACT

- ❖ From the Center for China and Globalization: The Chinese word search for "2015 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report" on the [Baidu.com](http://Baidu.com), the main Chinese search engine, has reached over **800,000 hits** since the launch of the Index.
- ❖ The Center for China and Globalization's "Think Tanks Matter" was covered by 12 outlets, with attached links below:
  - [http://www.rmlt.com.cn/2016/0128/416248\\_2.shtml](http://www.rmlt.com.cn/2016/0128/416248_2.shtml) (People's Daily Online Forum, reprinted by two times by [china.org.cn](http://china.org.cn), [21cn.com](http://21cn.com))
  - [http://news.xinhuanet.com/2016-01/27/c\\_1117916872.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/2016-01/27/c_1117916872.htm) (Xinhuanet.com, reprinted 38 times by medias such as Sina Finance, [finance.ifeng.com](http://finance.ifeng.com), Sohu Finance, NetEase Finance, [finance.china.com.cn](http://finance.china.com.cn),
  - [http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2016-01/28/c\\_128677082.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/politics/2016-01/28/c_128677082.htm) ([news.xinhuanet.com](http://news.xinhuanet.com), reprinted 14 times by major medias such as Guangming Daily)
  - [http://jiangsu.china.com.cn/html/finance/finances/3707717\\_1.html](http://jiangsu.china.com.cn/html/finance/finances/3707717_1.html) ([china.com.cn](http://china.com.cn))
  - <http://finance.sina.com.cn/roll/2016-01-28/doc-ifynzanm3744021.shtml> (Sina Finance, reprinted 13 times by major medias such as Global Times, [comnews.cn](http://comnews.cn))
  - [http://www.wokeji.com/jbsj/eb/201601/t20160128\\_2190547.shtml](http://www.wokeji.com/jbsj/eb/201601/t20160128_2190547.shtml) ([wokeji.com](http://wokeji.com), reprinted 19 times)
  - <http://www.taihainet.com/news/txnews/gjnews/sh/2016-01-28/1656743.html> (China News)
  - <http://www.askci.com/news/data/2016/01/28/9410ifto.shtml> ([China.com.cn](http://China.com.cn))
  - [http://www.ce.cn/xwzx/gnsz/gdxw/201601/27/t20160127\\_8592267.shtml](http://www.ce.cn/xwzx/gnsz/gdxw/201601/27/t20160127_8592267.shtml) ([www.ce.cn](http://www.ce.cn), reprinted 43 times)
  - <http://news.hexun.com/2016-01-28/182063740.html> ([news.hexun.com](http://news.hexun.com), reprinted 7 times)
  - <http://news.cntv.cn/2016/01/28/ARTIwIVozRf2iffABNXQje9160128.shtml> (CCTV.com, reprinted 17 times by major medias such as China Daily, Sina Finance)
  - [http://theory.gmw.cn/2016-01/28/content\\_18692752.htm](http://theory.gmw.cn/2016-01/28/content_18692752.htm) ([gmw.cn](http://gmw.cn))

## **INNOVATIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE LAUNCH**

- **Gateway House Indian Council on Global Relations (India)**

Gateway House held a video Google Hangout with a panel of experts on the theme of why "Think Tank Matter" for the Launch of the Index. Included in the panel were **KN Vaidyanathan** of Mahindra Group, **R. Andreas Kraemer** of IASS & Ecologic Institute, **Anil Chopra**, and **Devjyot Ghoshal** - India Editor of Quartz.

Watch their discussion here:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOIVsChqBCI&utm\\_content=bufferdf251&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VOIVsChqBCI&utm_content=bufferdf251&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

- **Australian Institute of International Affairs (Australia)**

Video interview with Executive Director Melissa Conley Tyler on why think tanks matter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lQOZ-0zXQI&sns=tw>

- **Institut de Relations Internationales et Strategiques (France)**

Video interview with Director of IRIS, Pascal Boniface on "Think tanks: quelle contribution aux debats strategiques?":

<http://www.iris-france.org/70784-think-tanks-quelle-contribution-aux-debats-strategiques/>

- **Alternate Solutions Institute (Pakistan)**

At the end of the "Think Tanks Matter" session as part of Alternate Solutions Institutes' Global Go-To Launch, President Dr. Raza Ullah announced the launch of "Center for Public Policy Studies," a new program of Alternate Solutions Institute and discussed the future plans and related it to the theme of the seminar "Think Tanks Matter."

## **SELECTED PHOTOS OF LAUNCHES**





Al Jazeera Centre for Studies. Doha, Qatar. 28 January 2016.



Latvia Institute of International Affairs. Riga, Latvia. 28 January 2016.



Alternate Solutions. Peshawar, Pakistan. 27 January 2016.



Alternate Solutions. Peshawar, Pakistan. 27 January 2016.



**Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs. Cairo, Egypt. 28 January 2016.**



**African Capacity Building Foundation. Harare, Zimbabwe. 28 January 2016.**



Eduardo Stein, former Vice President of Guatemala, speaks at ASIES Guatemala. 27 January 2016.



COMEXI and Ethos. Mexico City, Mexico. 27 January 2016.



Center for China and Globalization. Beijing, China. 27 January 2016.