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THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
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**2012 GLOBAL GO TO THINK TANKS REPORT
AND POLICY ADVICE**

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Dear Friend and Colleague,

I am pleased to announce the launch of the 2012 Global Go To Think Tanks Rankings and associated trends report. The report can be accessed at the Program's website: <http://www.gotothinktank.com>.

The report's publication is the culmination of an eight-month process involving the support of think tanks and experts from every region of the world. Despite the scope of the project, the rankings are conducted without the benefit of a full time staff or budget, instead made possible with the assistance of a group of research interns from the University of Pennsylvania and other colleges in the Philadelphia area.

Below is a snapshot of more than 1950 experts and peer institutions that participated in this year's ranking process:

- ♦ 793 expert panelists for all the regional and functional research categories
- ♦ 150 journalists and scholars with expertise spanning politics, think tanks, and civil society
- ♦ 55 current and former directors of think tank programs and networks
- ♦ 40 public and private donors
- ♦ 100s of think tanks
- ♦ 25-30 intergovernmental organizations
- ♦ 120 academic institutions

Further, I am pleased to highlight the increasingly global reach of the rankings, as reflected in the following statistics regarding this year's report:

- ♦ 6,603 think tanks from 182 countries were invited to participate in the process
- ♦ 1,100 plus individuals from 120 countries participated in the nominations and rankings process
- ♦ Think tanks were nominated, and subsequently ranked, in 38 categories
- ♦ A total of 1647 think tanks were nominated
- ♦ A total of well over 57,000 nominations were received across the 38 categories
- ♦ 171 think tanks were nominated as the world's top think tank

Each year, our team works to improve the quality of the data collected and the results generated by the ranking process. A summary of the changes we have over the last six years is highlighted below. This and last year's reviews of the process sparked an upheaval of certain aspects of past year's methodology. In an effort to make the rankings process more democratic and fair, 2012's process, like 2011's, began with a call for nominations of think tanks across the thirty eight categories, not relying (as the process had in the past) on Expert Panels for these nominations. At each stage of the process, Expert Panel members were then consulted to verify the legitimacy of each round's results. By using the Expert Panels as barometers for the data's accuracy rather than as generators of data, we intend to make the process more democratic and eliminate the influence of any potential biases on the rankings.

In addition, this year's process featured the modification and development of additional categories relative to last year's ranking. The 2012 Global Go-To Think Tank Index includes both new and altered categories in comparison to the 2011 index. The new categories are: "Top Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks," "Top Education Policy Think Tanks," "Best For-Profit Think Tanks," "Best Independent Think Tanks" (financially, structurally, and legally independent of government and political parties), "Best Advocacy Campaign," and "Best Policy Study/Report Produced by a Think Tank 2011-2012." "Top Think Tanks in Asia" was split into "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)." During the rankings process, the regional categories for the Americas were rearranged into "Top Think Tanks in South America," "Top Think Tanks in Central America and the Caribbean" and "Top Think Tanks in Mexico and Canada." Unfortunately, because of the smaller number of think tanks and less developed civil society in Central America and the Caribbean, that category was ultimately recombined with the South American category. Finally, "Best New Think Tank" is now determined by the past twenty-four months, rather than the past eighteen.

Still, efforts to streamline and perfect the process are ongoing, and as we are continually seeking ways to enhance the process, I welcome your comments and suggestions on how it might be improved. I further encourage you to provide the names and contact information for prospective Expert Panel members you might suggest for the functional areas and geographic regions covered by the rankings.

As you may know, our initial effort to generate a ranking of the world's leading think tanks was a response to a series of requests from donors and journalists to produce national, regional, and

international lists of the preeminent think tanks. Our ongoing efforts are now defined by our drive to understand the role of think tanks in governments and civil societies globally, so that we can *help to improve their capacity and performance*.

Our rankings process, as in the past, 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. Particularly with this year's improvements, we believe this process has tremendous utility for think tanks, policymakers, donors, and the public. We are especially pleased with increased participation from developing countries especially in Africa, Latin America and, which allows us to bring special attention to the important work they are doing, often under a set of circumstances with a set of obstacles all their own.

Finally, I would like to thank you again for all your support over the years, and for helping make the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program a continued success.

Sincerely,

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Top 50 International Economic Policy Think Tanks
Table # 18

1. Bruegel (Belgium)
2. Brookings Institution (United States)
3. Peterson Institute for International Economics (United States)
4. Kiel Institute for the World Economy (Germany)
5. Chatham House (United Kingdom)
6. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research (AEI) (United States)
7. Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) (United States)
8. National Bureau for Economic Research (NBER) (United States)
9. RAND Corporation (United States)
10. Adam Smith Institute (United Kingdom)
11. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (United States)
12. Berkeley Roundtable on the International Economy (BRIE) (United States)
13. Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO, RAS) (Russia)
14. Heritage Foundation (United States)
15. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (United States)
16. Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) (Belgium)
17. Cato Institute (United States)
18. European Center for International Political Economy (ECIPE) (Belgium)
19. Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies (Austria)
20. Korea Institute of International Economic Policies (KIEP) (Republic of Korea)
21. Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) (Japan)
22. Fraser Institute (Canada)
23. Center for Global Development (CGD) (United States)
24. Centre d'Etudes Prospectives et d'Informations Internationales (CEPII) (France)
25. Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) (Australia)
26. Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress (Israel)
27. Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP, CASS) (China)
28. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (Indonesia)
29. Center for Independent Studies (Australia)
30. Center for Social and Economic Analysis (CASE) (Poland)
31. Centro Brasileiro de Relações Internacionais (Brazil)
32. Institute for Policy Studies (IPS) (United States)
33. Ifo Institute for Economic Research (Germany)
34. Centre for Economics and Foreign Policy Studies (EDAM) (Turkey)
35. Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (Ethiopia)
36. African Economic Research Consortium (Kenya)
37. Razumkov Center (Ukraine)
38. Consejo Argentino para las Relaciones Internacionales (CARI) (Argentina)
39. India Council for Research on International Economic Relations (ICRIER) (India)

40. Baltic Development Forum (BDF) (Denmark)
41. International Policy Network (IPN) (United Kingdom)
42. Centro de Estudio de Realidad Economica y Social (CERES) (Uruguay)
43. Policy Studies Institute (PSI) (United Kingdom)
44. Institute for World Economics (IWE) (Hungary)
45. Institute for International Trade Negotiations (ICONE) (Brazil)
46. Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) (Russia)
47. Institute of Economic Growth (IEG) (India)
48. Fundacao Armando Alvares Penteado (Brazil)
49. Finnish Business and Policy Forum (EVA) (Finland)
50. Center for Economic and Social Development (CESD) (Azerbaijan)