

The Think Tank Initiative's (TTI) Regional Meeting

Meeting Agenda
14-15 December, 2016
The Westin Grande Sukhumvit
Bangkok, Thailand

Day 1 – Emerging Context, Research Quality and Sustainability	
0830-0900	Registration and gather together time
Inaugural Session 0900-0930	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome Remarks<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Abid Q. Suleri, SDPI○ Khalida Ghaus, SPDC• Introductory remarks, Anindya Chatterjee, IDRC• Introductory remarks, Peter Taylor, IDRC
0930-1100 Inaugural Plenary	<p>Panel Discussion: Contextual Changes and its Impact on Think Tanks – Taking stock of national, regional and global trends</p> <p>Objectives: This session aims at taking stock of key political economy changes at the national, regional and global level and how these changes will impact policy research, engagement and capacity building pursuits by think tanks.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Do data, evidence, and analysis matter in current geopolitical context in South Asia?2. What is the likely impact of recent global political trends on national regulatory and other contexts within which think tanks work?3. What shifts in national and international patterns (e.g. on funding, contexts for research, expectations of stakeholders) are think tanks likely to face in the near future?4. How can think tanks become part of the solution to geopolitical challenges? <p>Outputs: Enhanced understanding of how TTs may need to revamp their ways of working to adapt to changing political economy at the national, regional and global levels.</p>

	<p>Moderator: Abid Q. Suleri (SDPI)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ajaya Dixit (ISET) • Dushni Weerakoon (IPS) • Debapriya Bhattacharya (CPD) • Shekhar Shah (NCAER) • Sultan Hafeez Rahman (BIGD) • Khalida Ghaus (SPDC) <p>Rapporteur: Sultan Mohammed Zakaria Mazumder (BIGD)</p>
1100-1115	Networking Break
Technical Session - I 1115-1245	<p>Panel Discussion: Research Quality for Institutional Sustainability</p> <p>Objectives: This session will discuss improvements which think tanks have undertaken with regards to strengthening research ethics, knowledge management, and human resource management.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How are research quality tools being utilized to manage institutional (such as reputational and funding) risks? 2. Why and how do research ethics matter in think tank sustainability? 3. What types of knowledge management models can help ground future think tank sustainability? <p>Outputs: The session will provide an understanding of tools to manage institutional risk and put in place systems of knowledge management which in turn can ensure long term sustainability.</p> <p>Moderator: Pratap Bhanu Mehta (CPR)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanghmitra Acharya (IIDS) • Malini Chakravarty (CBGA) • Sanjay Kumar (CSDS) • Shafqat Munir (SDPI) • Basil Liongs (PAC) <p>Rapporteur: Syeda Salina Aziz (BIGD)</p>
1245-1345	Lunch
Technical Session - II	Panel Discussion: Are think tanks achieving policy influence?

1345-1515	<p>Objectives: This session aims to engage non – Think Tank Initiative (TTI) partners to understand what impact think tank work has in local, national, regional, and international policy contexts and what is needed to raise the level of debate and think tank contribution.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How much impact do think tanks have on policy formulation? • What new measures may be adopted in research and outreach to achieve greater influence at policy level? • Should lobbying for policy changes be considered as a core function of think tanks? <p>Outputs: An outsider perspective that will enrich the discussion that think tanks will have in making a business case for their continued growth.</p> <p>Moderator: Debbie Menezes (TBC)</p> <p>Distinguished Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shamshad Akhtar, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific • Sukhadeo Thorat, Chairman Indian Council of Social Science Research and former Chairman of University Grants Commission, India • Mukhtar Ahmed, Chairman, Higher Education Commission, Pakistan • Mia Mikic, Coordinator, Asia-Pacific Research and Training Network on Trade. <p>Rapporteur: Sujaya Rathi, CSTEP</p>
1515-1530	Networking Break
1530–1700	Hangout: Open Collaborative Space
1800	IDRC-TTI dinner and networking reception

Day 2 - Looking Forward: Resource Mobilization and Sustainability	
Technical Session-III 0900-1030	<p>Engagement of Think Tanks with Private Sector: Opportunities, Risks and Challenges</p> <p>Objectives: This session will explore experiences of engagement with private sector within the TTI South Asia cohort.</p> <p>Key questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can the private sector collaborate with think tanks towards transforming ideas and emerging problems into policy issues? • How can think tanks partner with the private sector and related associations and still maintain independence? • Can collaboration with the private sector help in strengthening public-private dialogue for policy change? • How can think tank mitigate risks associated with collaboration with private sector? <p>Outputs: The session will provide TTs with guidelines/code of conduct for engagement with the private sector.</p> <p>Moderator: Udan Fernando (CEPA)</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yamini Aiyar (CPR) • Md Shanawez Hossain (BIGD) • Shakeel Ramay (SDPI) • Ashutosh Shukla (ISET) • Imran Shoukat (JOBS Group) <p>Rapporteur: Ajaya Kumar Naik (IIDS)</p>
1030-1100	Networking Break
Technical Session-IV 1100-1230	<p>Strengthening Capacities for SDGs: the case of health and the role of think tanks</p> <p>Objective: To explore the ways in which think tanks can play their role to help SDGs realisation; by taking health as an example of a thematic area for Think Tanks, and identifying other potentially interesting thematic areas.</p> <p>Key Questions:</p>

	<p>What is current extent and role of think tanks in evidence generation, knowledge translation and policy making processes for your selected sector (health or for another sector, depending on the selection of each group)?</p> <p>What is the envisaged role of think tanks in evidence generation, policy influence, monitoring and implementation of the SDGs related to your sector?</p> <p>What are the next steps and way forward for think tanks to play their role in supporting the realisation of SDGs at national, regional and global level?</p> <p>Outputs: Identify the way forward to enable the role of Think Tanks for monitoring and implementation of SDGs at national, regional and global level in the area of health, and other thematic areas.</p> <p>Moderator: Peter Taylor (IDRC)</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debapriya Bhattachariya (CPD) • Saadiya Razzaq (SDPI) <p>Breakout session:</p> <p>Five groups will take health and other thematic issues. Other themes may include climate change; food security; gender; sustainable growth and job creation. The groups will have a discussion as per above key questions. This will be followed by discussion around results of the group work, including ideas for joint effort to take work forward.</p> <p>Group coordinators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ganga Tilakaratna (IPS) • Prathama Banerjee (CSDS) • Yogendra Subedi (ISET) • Richa Chintan (CBGA) • Vinod Kumar Mishra (IIDS) <p>Open discussion</p> <p>Rapporteur: Charmaine Wijesinghe (IPS)</p>
1230-1330	Lunch

<p>Technical Session-V 1330-1500</p>	<p>Capacity Building Initiatives for South Asian Think Tanks</p> <p>Objectives: This session provides an introduction to under-design capacity building initiatives for South Asian TTs, aimed at helping research and communications teams to better use monitoring, evaluation, accountability and learning tools.</p> <p>Outputs: The sessions will bring out updated expectations from TTs regarding upcoming initiatives by CSTEP and SDPI. The consultative session will also highlight best possible ways of collaborative learning which may be used during these interventions.</p> <p>Moderator: Meena Nair (PAC)</p> <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vivek Vaidyanathan (CSTEP) • Vaqar Ahmed (SDPI) <p>Discussants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fahmida Khatun (CPD) • Janaka Wijayasiri (IPS) • Awadhendra Sharan (CSDS) • Happy Pant (CBGA) <p>Rapporteur: Tabinda Areeb (SPDC)</p>
<p>1500-1515</p>	<p>Networking Break</p>
<p>1515-1630 Closing Session</p>	<p>Life after TTI, wrap up and action points</p> <p>Presentation on summary of meeting by SPDC and SDPI</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mustafizur Rahman (CPD) • Dushni Weerakoon (IPS) • Abid Suleri (SDPI) • Anil Kumar Sharma (NCAER) <p>Rapporteur: Eranga Amunugama (CEPA)</p>
<p>1630</p>	<p>Vote of Thanks</p> <p>Khalida Ghaus (SPDC)</p>