

Development of Think Tanks

Challenges and Opportunities

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Think Tanks

- Heterogeneous; multidimensional; multifaceted
 - Governmental – Non Governmental – Quasi Governmental
 - National – Sub national – Regional
 - Academic – Policy Research – Advocacy – All
 - For Profit -----Non Profit
 - Issue Specific -----Multidisciplinary

Plethora of Challenges and World of
Opportunity

Challenges

- **Financial** ---- Endowment/Funding (money/source of money)
- **Human Resources** ---- Right Set of Skills (Chicken-egg)
- **Intellectual Independence** --- Funder Driven Agenda
- **Access to Data/Information**
- **Shrinking of Thinking Space** --- Populism

Challenges (Contd)

- **Research Taboos** --- Out of bound topics
- **Spatial Limitations** --- Resources, Security Situation, Visas
- **Political Economy Considerations**
- **High Demand** --- Over Stretched
- **Research into Policy Use**
- **Academic Vs Policy Research**

TT Network Challenge

- **Sustainability**
- **Resource Generation/Mobilization**
- **Not Only Network of Institutes But Network of Individuals.**
- **CAREC TT Network ----- “Language” – Research Exchange**

Prerequisite for Opportunities

- **Ideas** ---- Not Dearth of Money But Ideas
- **Relevancy** ---- Changing Realities (L – N – R – G)
- **Multidisciplinarity** A + B ~~≠~~ C
- **Mentors** to Groom Human Resources
- **Credibility** --- Evidence Based Position Vs Activism
- **Policy Outreach** and Communication

Opportunities

- **Independent and Rationale Voices** Needed to Assess Populist Demands
- **Track 1 to Track n**
- **Scenario Builders** --- Trends, Game Changers and how do they interact
- **Collaborative Research**
- Shared Efforts based on Shared Lessons for Shared Objectives (SDGs, BRI)

CAREC TT Network

- South-South Cooperation
- Especially on BRI, Climate Change, and SDGs
- Economy of Resources
- TT Can Propose Preferred Form of Regional Integration
- Capacity Building
- Funds from Foundations