

## Asian Forum Japan (AFJ) is placed 2nd in Japan and 18th in Asia in the ranking of University of Pennsylvania's *Global "Go-To Think Tanks"* report.

This year, the number of think tanks covered by the survey increased significantly from approximately 5,000 to 6,305 in 169 countries. The survey covered 108 think tanks in Japan among which AFJ placed 2nd, and 1183 think tanks in Asia among which AFJ placed 18th. This is the third year in a row that the AFJ has featured in the rankings.

Due to the expansion in scope of the survey, the former list of the Top 25 Think Tanks in Asia has now been replaced with a list of the Top 40 Think Tanks in Asia. Those Japanese institutions included in the rankings were Japan Institute of International Affairs (1st place), Asian Forum Japan (18th place), Institute for International Policy Studies (19th place), Institute of Energy Economics Japan (20th place), National Institute for Research Advancement (26th place), Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry (REITI) (28th place) and National Institute for Defense Studies (34th place).

Top 40 Think Tanks in Asia
1. Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIJA) – Japan
2. Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) – China
3. Rajaratnam School of International Studies, RSIS-Singapore
4. Center for Strategic and International Studies – Indonesia
5. China Institute for Contemporary International Relations (CICIR) –China
6. Hong Kong Centre for Economic Research (HKCER) - Hong Kong
7. Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy-Singapore
8. Shanghai Institute for International Studies – China
9. Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses – India
10. Lowy Institute for International Policy – Australia
11. Centre for Policy Research-India
12. Korea Development Institute – South Korea
13. Center for Civil Society – India
14. China Institute for International Studies (CIIS) – China
15. Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA), Singapore
16. Liberty Institute – India
17. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (Beijing)-China
<b>18. Asian Forum Japan (AFJ) – Japan</b>
19. Institute for International Policy Studies – Japan
20. Institute of Energy Economics Japan (IEEJ) – Japan
21. India Council for Research on International Economic Relations-India
22. Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS)-Malaysia
23. Taiwan Foundation for Democracy – Taiwan
24. Cathay Institute for Public Affairs – China
25. Centre for Development Studies- India

( *The Global "Go-To Think-Tanks,"* pp.40-41)

## ■ What is the *Global "Go-To Think Tanks"* ?

*The Global "Go-To Think Tanks"* is a report researched and issued every year through the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program, a think tank research project at the University Of Pennsylvania under the direction of Dr. James G. McGann, a recognized authority on think tank research.

The project began as a think tank index in response to the "never-ending" requests Dr. McGann received from government officials, journalists and scholars to provide a list of the leading think tanks in a particular country or region of the world. He has described the think tank index as "an insider's guide to the global marketplace of ideas". The report is now a known authority having featured in publications including the Economist (UK) and Foreign Policy (US). The United Nations has also shown a strong interest in the report.

The 2009 rankings were determined through a three stage selection process in which over 1000 experts from the fields of journalism, think tanks, academia and international organizations were involved in applying fair and objective selection criteria. The selection criteria are diverse, but not only do they include the influence that each think tank has on the policy-making process of each government, they also weigh the importance of wider contributions to civil society.

This report is not simply a ranking, but is also a precious resource for understanding think tank trends around the world. The entire text can be viewed at the link below.

[http://www.sas.upenn.edu/irp/documents/2009GlobalGoToReportThinkTankIndex\\_1.31.2010.02.01.pdf](http://www.sas.upenn.edu/irp/documents/2009GlobalGoToReportThinkTankIndex_1.31.2010.02.01.pdf) (January 31, 2010)

