

**EMERGENCE OF THINK TANK
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM
IN CHINA**

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Executive Summary

1. Since 2013, the establishment of “New-Type Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics” (NTTTCC) has been highly promoted by the Xi Jinping administration.
2. In the past, China’s think tank management system was fragmented and complicated without comprehensive management architecture over think tanks. Different types of think tanks are managed by different bureaucratic systems.
3. The idea of NTTTCC has two aspects: “new type” and “Chinese characteristics”. “New type” is China’s preference for different think tanks from existing ones within the traditional establishment. “Chinese characteristics” implies that Chinese think tanks should not duplicate western developmental models.
4. Domestic and overseas scholars have played important roles in helping Chinese society accept the idea of promoting think tank development and for Chinese think tanks to be different from think tanks in the United States or other western countries.
5. The misjudgment of domestic think tank experts on the financial crisis led leaders to realise that the existing think tanks lack forward-looking policy research.
6. The global think tank reports by the University of Pennsylvania have drawn much attention to Chinese think tanks from the mass media and the public.
7. Xi Jinping has attached much importance to the issue of think tank development. On 15 April 2013, Xi commented on the idea of NTTTCC in an internal research report by the Development Research Centre.
8. The decision made at the Third Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee further aims “to strengthen the construction of New-Type Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics”.

9. “The Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of NTTTTCC” and “National Top Think Tank Pilot Programme” were approved by the Central Leading Group for Comprehensively Deepening Reforms in 2014 and in 2015 respectively.
10. Led by the Central Propaganda Department, the Leading Group for the National Philosophy and Social Sciences Programme acts as the key agency for the overall management system of Chinese think tank development.
11. The Top Think Tank Council was founded and responsible for formulating top think tank criteria and evaluating the performance of pilot think tanks.
12. A comprehensive management architecture for think tanks has been established in China. Nevertheless, Chinese think tanks still face challenges within the existing management system.