

Research on Path of the New Colleges and Universities Think Tank Construction With Chinese Characteristics

ZENG Zhihong^{[a],*}; Abulrahman Suleiman Abdulrahman^[b]

^[a]Associate Professor, School of Political Science and Public Management, Southwest University, Chongqing, China.

^[b]Undergraduate, School of Political Science and Public Management, Southwest University, Chongqing, China.

*Corresponding author.

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Abstract

Think tank construction and development level are gradually becoming an important component of a national governance system. Has also become an influence in the world political power structure and economic order which sustained significant changes “soft power”. Think tank in response to the challenges of globalization, it must play an irreplaceable role to give advice and suggestions to the government. Universities Think tank it is one of the important forces on Chinese Think tank construction. The construction of the new universities think tank with Chinese characteristics under the new historical conditions of service of the government scientific decision making, to solve development problems, the urgent need for comprehensive deepening reform, to enhance or improve the country’s soft power, promoting national governance systems and governance ability modernization in great significance.

According to the resources of advantages, the policy research process, achievement publication, promotion programs and many other perspective views, Chinese University think tank has the official and unique Think tank and among them Think tanks do not have the unique advantage. But there are also the outcome of the decision making contribution to the think tank is low, the problem social influence is not strong and so on. China’s University think tank construction is facing new development

opportunities, how to maximize an elaboration in universities Think tank advantages and characteristics. At the same time, effectively avoid new problems which may arise, it is the key point of this research.

Key words: The new Think tank; Advanced universities; China

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INTRODUCTION

The think tank also known as thought library, first appeared in America during the second world war, refers to the US military during the war was used to discuss battle plans in secret room. Later it was refers to all policy-research mission, in order to influence public policy and public opinion for the purpose of policy research institutions. The developed level of ideological base is reflecting to the country politics, economics, and cultural development level. With the globalization sustained in-depth and the rapid development of information technology, in today’s world every country competition not only “strong power” competitions, thoughts, ideas, culture as the core of “weak power” competition is just a new key point, While the think tank as the national ideological innovation force and source is “weak power” to the key competition. In twenty-first Century Chinese need to have many of the world level and influence of think tank intellectual support, the scale of development of university ideological base and innovation ability which determines the future of a country and nation building, therefore; Explore the new era with Chinese Characteristics path the new universities think tank construction, It seems especially urgent.

1. THEORETICAL BASIS

(a) Revolving door” theory. Senior ministers in U.S government at the minister’s cabinet are from the elite think tank, many of former officials in Think tank are engaged in policy research, but many of the Think tank researcher held senior positions to the government, such circulation between scholars and officials are in U S “Revolving door”. “Revolving door” Mechanism allows think tanks public opinion influence which penetrated into all aspects of policy development.

(b) Public Policy Theory. Policy planning is the core part of the retaining process of the public policy, policy making refers to the policy planning programs, design, evaluation and selection process, Its main types are divided into two kinds single and multivariate, multiple subjects referring to the outside government organizations and individuals; Multiple subjects involved in policy-making has gradually become a trend. This is more for the university’s think tank participation in public policy formulation, to build a bridge between the government and private foundation base.

(c) The theoretical paradigm of institutionalism and elitism. Institutionalism: The structure and functional system restricts to the operation rules of the behavior inside the system body, Think tank is one among the important behavior body, participate in shaping the structure of decision making system, Elitism explain the mechanism of Think tanks influence on political decision making, Think tanks provide a professional learning of rational discourse system for decision making elite, from theoretical and ideological perspective, to demonstrate decision of the rationality and legitimacy.

(d) Pierre Boudreaux “The power field space center” theory. Political decision making system is composed of political, finance, media, composed of four complex areas of academic space, associated with decision making information and resources flow in this space, the formation of “Power field”, and this Think tank is the center of “Power field”. What the four areas of decision making systems have been affected.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

Dickson (1971), Published the book describes the introduction of the US Think tanks formation and development works. In 20th century, the early 90s, Think tank theory which involves in the policy process has gradually become a hot research topic in western countries. From the research paradigm, Think Tank research has formed three different kinds of traditions. Firstly, the historical path,. Smith (1991) analysis the policy of the elite as well as policy experts later than gradually formed think tank experts in the formation of American history and the growth of politics. And in the USA latest policy elite groups of ideological base experts called Idea

brokers. Rodrick (1993), in the 20th century from earlier 70th has been research on the rising of US ideological base on new political culture in Washington. He found out that in these 20 years a great change took place within the US government. At the same time, the strength has been increased outside US government. Initially established expert status, improve the development of television and communication skills which change the policy discourse in America fundamentally. Secondly is positivism, Stone (1996), pointed out the important role of the exchange of knowledge in policy research institutes, and analyzed in detail on ideological base organizational management and cognitive network. She laid out the research of a theoretical foundation on the ideological basis of positivism. McGowan (1995), created the first of its kind of ideological base research on the quantitative research method, using quantitative research of 7 ideological bases in the basic data on the American was listed to compare. In US foreign policy decision making process for the big case of policy subsystem, Abelson (1996) detailed analysis of ideological basis participation on decision making process mechanism. Rich (2004) introduce ideological base policy into three subsystem (Including health care reform, telecommunications reform and tax cuts) which play a role in the case, but also for the first time will return to analysis the application of quantitative method through ideological base research. Thirdly, International Comparative Study. McGowan and Wofer (2000) held a conference about ideological base (Think tanks) in Spain (Think Tanks and Civil Society, ideology and action catalyst), as well as Stone and others (each state ideological base: is one comparison path) and (ideological base tradition: is policy research and ideological politics), also (Reliable knowledge: originate from global development network), and other three anthology has conducted comparative study of every nation Think tanks. Fourth, is about related research on foreign universities Think tanks. American University think tank organization framework generally has a board of directors, president, vice president and chief director; they formed an ideological base leadership. The members of the board of directors generally were in the American government circle, business circle, academic circle and elite composition; research must have independence and funding structure diversification. European University think tank based on academic research and student training industry, production of policy thought (idea) it is the major works on some extension. European universities Think tank pays more attention to academic values on publications, rather than the value of policy as their first guide. Indian universities Think tanks which link with political parties are weak, advocates’ think tank of non-political parties, and most focus on development issues and research on the localization obvious characteristic.

Chinese think tanks are mainly divided into three categories official think tanks, university think tanks,

non-governmental think tank, the number of university ideological base are many however due to the lack of the relative stability and scientific organization and management mechanisms, in the field of policy making not yet develop its full advantages, but Chinese University Think tanks most have grown into internationally influential through ideological base of super power nations. At present Chinese universities think tank research focused on the following aspects: First, the present situation and development of university think tank background. Chinese universities gathered more than eighty percent of Social Sciences force, nearly half of science and engineering, sixty percent “thousands people plan” selected candidates, as well as a large-scale graduate and undergraduate team, and think tank construction can provide strong support for the talent people. Secondly, historical reviews of the University think tank research. Chinese think tank research, the first stage started since 1982, and related research topics basically belong to the think tank popularization knowledge as well as the famous foreign Think tank introduction of common sense. Then quite a long time, Chinese Think tanks research work always has been limited from Europe, America and other developed countries on the case of Think tank general introduction and historical review, case studies and comparative analysis. From 2006, Chinese think tank’s research works from a qualitative description establish a model + of the quantitative analysis on upgrading other advanced stage. Now Chinese think tank research is still in the primary stage, quantitative analysis methods have yet to be widely used, with Chinese characteristic research work on the development of think tanks there are still a lot of blank areas. Thirdly, learning experience from foreign universities think tank. Ren Xiao (2000) proposed five powers of ideological base (think tank), in western countries, the continuous development of think tanks plays an increasingly important role in domestic and foreign policy-making process in their respective countries. Zhu Xufeng (2007) conducted a complete overview according to the western think tanks research history and research methods, also proposed evaluation of the think tanks influences analysis framework. Li Guoqiang (2014) pointed out the weakness connection between Indian Think tanks and political parties. For example, CPR emphasizes not to contact any political party, advocates of think tank non-political party. Fourthly, recommendations and Prospect of Chinese universities think tank research. Wang Lili (2010) Proposing a “Revolving door” The mechanism and influence of public opinion analysis framework it came to be used in the operating mechanism of Think tank research. Meng Weixiao (2012) Pointed out that universities think tanks and government have to maintain an appropriate relationship, starting from functional social services, University think tank holds all government thought and policy intentions which are necessary and need to stand on the position of scientific

research on putting forward an independent opinion. Xu Xiaohu, Chentuo (2011) proposed the creation of think tanks discipline, establish appropriate education specialty in think tank in both undergraduate and graduate in conditional universities and research institutions. Wang Lili (2012) proposed that Chinese universities think tank should be made from the organization structure, selection of talent people, funding sources, influence of the capacity expansion, Scientific research evaluation of several levels to large-scale reform, at the same time should also pay attention to the theory construction and research strategic, to strengthen research features, to provide “responsibility awareness”, “Global Awareness” and “brand awareness”

3. ANALYSIS OF CURRENT SITUATION AND PROBLEMS OF CHINESE UNIVERSITY THINK TANK CONSTRUCTION

University is to create new ideas, important source of new knowledge, new model of Universities think tank can pass through original ideas, unique point of view and other knowledge products have an important impact on the decision makers and social.

Looking from the global perspective, University Think tank usually accounted for a large proportion in the field of policy research. About 75% of American Think tank based in the University. Examine the world-famous university think tank, the following characteristics can be found between the University and the Think tank: a) Inside University can be forming multiple Think tanks. University Think tanks basically give full advantages of the basic research, The ongoing knowledge transformation and the formation of promotion, famous university has more than one dominant subjects and research field expertise, these research centers or research institutes all of them can generate think tank. b) Mutual penetration of strong research fields and dominant academic field of the University Think tank. University disciplinary advantage is the solid base on relying on the University Think tank, such as the Hoover Institution specialist research in the field of economic policy, international affairs etc., these subjects are advantageous discipline at Stanford University, among the forefront world. c) Universities Think tank and the formation of other department within the University “Internal Revolving door”. Between the University think tanks and university should give full play to the advantages of talents, must have the internal transformation mechanism, interchangeable between researchers and university faculty teachers.

Universities think tank has a pivotal force in the Chinese think tank construction, compared with other types of think tank, in terms of talent people and knowledge acquired (reserved), independence research,

the research result promotion and other efficient aspect, Universities think tanks have shown unique advantages and great potential. First, has plentiful of talented people and knowledge reserve which used to provide decision making support service. University is the collection of talent people and knowledge at most concentrated (centralized) area, a complete range of scientific construction, reasonable talent structure, solid academic foundation, profound deep theoretical knowledge and excellent research conditions, well equipped to provide intellectual support for local government public decision making criteria. Second, the University think tank must have certain independence. Chinese University Think tanks although most do not have independent legal status, but because it also does not depend on the party and government organs. So in terms of the work carried out over military and political think tanks, Social Science department think tank has stronger independence. Therefore, the research of the universities think tanks can be detached from the larger limit on the government intervention, intentionally or unintentionally, thus is to maintain objectivity and relatively independent policy research position at a larger extent. Third, research result of the University Think tank and the public getting benign interaction, and it has strong advantages in the discourse guide on the public opinion. Most of China's official think tank comparatively closed, deep within the system, even shrouded "Mystery" characteristics. China's most influential think tanks do not serve the public, but it serves for minority groups. They do not interact with the public, or interact with each other. The Chinese University think tank will highlight the advantages, that will be possible to carry out an independent research on the needs of society, and the formation of scientific research objective, then through the press, magazines, internet, forum and other mass media in a variety of channels of research results will be widely spread, showing a very strong openness. Direct result of opening is caused by the interaction between the University Think tanks and the social public, the real desire of the social public is expression which can promote the University think tank to enhance to he further research capacity, thus increasing win on public recognition, and in this process is to get the trust of the society and practically right to speak. Fourth, the university has a catalytic policy validity "public image" advantage. University think tanks due to the Universities properties have the inherent advantages of "public image". In the process of historical evolution, Universities and the society contact becoming more and closer, starting from the "Ivory tower", continuously from the margins of society toward the center of the community, more and more became "axis organization". The Government is willing to rely on borrowed universities think tank behind this good image advantage. The public is also easier to trust and accept University Think tanks provided by policy research result.

But we also must be clearly to recognize that, compared to the demand of the construction of university think tank of China's economic and social development, there are still some problems which cannot be ignored: One is small, scattered, weak, many of the universities think tank based on research institutions, but scattered strength, positioning not allowed, research level are mixed; Second is high quality outcome(result) is lower, Part of the research according to the practical appear to be not strong, excessively academic problems; Third is think tank construction required High-end of talent and innovation team seriously inadequate; Fourth is scientific evaluation of the university, motivation of talent people and result applied mechanism still cannot meet Think tanks construction need. Influential teachers in colleges and universities actively engaged from consultative governance research, restrict the potential of University Think tank.

4. COUNTERMEASURES AND SUGGESTIONS TO PROMOTE THE HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHINESE UNIVERSITY THINK TANK

Construction of university think tank is a systematic project, in conformity with "The University think tank contains into full play advantages and effectively avoids of the new problems that may arise in the process of new development "principle, aiming of the reality existence problems and shortages of the construction of the Chinese Think tank, which rose up of several development proposals.

4.1 Emphases on Universities Think Tank to Create a Social Environment

Firstly, to strengthen and emphasis the government's on the construction of university think tank, Government must establish a genuine which relying on science policy decisions to promote the concept of modern governance, and this concept strongly expressed and revealed, university think should take the initiative act to seek the decision making strategy and policy scheme, guided by the demand of production, thereby greatly stimulated active participation in decision making on universities think tank research; Government "Admissible" adopt High-level think tank research to the greater intensity, Universities think tank to win the "real" service.

In fact, to make the whole society fully aware of Think tank, important significance of constructing college and university Think tank. Governments use a variety of newspapers and radio and television networks, and other publicity channels to promote the public think tanks, create an understanding, recognition, and dependence on, respected Think tanks, public awareness and social atmosphere.

4.2 Build a Multifaceted Relationship Network of the Universities and Colleges Think Tanks

Firstly, build a “Chinese-style revolving-door” mechanism. The “revolving door” production and run root in the United States political system. Many of the former official from the policy research are engage to the Think tanks; but many of the think tank researchers are taking position to the government, from researcher to the ruling party. This kind of circulation between scholars and officials is the US “revolving door”, come from the great difference in the management system, in nature, personnel system etc. China’s colleges and universities Think tanks were almost non-existent “revolving door” phenomenon. The “revolving door” mechanism a real combination of knowledge and power efficient integration is indeed a unique effectiveness. China can reasonably benefit from experience of the United States, to explore “Chinese-style revolving-door” mechanism. Through Colleges and Universities think tanks and service sector between a permanent job and part-time job, such as exchange of the job flexible approach, Activation of both human resources, revitalize the information resources of both sides, for the benefit of the production of a high quality Think tank results.

Secondly, Optimization of transverse is contacted with the outside world university Think tank. The first one is to strengthen cooperation. The government decision making and academic research is different and this is the one of the important features, it is faced with the complexity of the problems, decision making problem is a difficult as academic issues as a human cross-sectional view, and design a clue to research, and must be taken into account of longitudinal time associated with the problem and the transverse space at various factors. From the academic point express the decision making issues. The decision making is largely interdisciplinary, cross-professional and cross-cutting compound. So, the same issue of decision making research problem is requires a difference between think tank knowledge base cooperation, a background of the staff jointly the project team to complete. Second is dislocation of development level. Various think tanks should be stuck to their characteristics and build expertise, in order to meet the needs of policy should not blindly jump into the herd instinct, and grandiose projects, so that ruled out boundaries with each other, and form a duplicate or similar to that, caused overall wastage of Think tank resources. Third, establish an information communication mechanism. Although the existence of multiple contact between the university think tank and the government, but also from stability and long term perspective, there is a need with the Government and the relevant organizations to establish fixed information communication mechanism, so as to stabilize in order to obtain sufficient information, insure that the research work will be able to pas much as possible in line with objective needs. “The Government

ideological base for the policy research institute is the main channel of the information and data. Without these resources, the quality results of the research is very difficult to be guaranteed. “

Thirdly, to strengthen international exchanges and cooperation of universities think tanks. In this regard, university think tanks with other think tanks do not provide with unique advantages. Foreign colleges and universities think tank are play role in the national policy research market, as China’s colleges and universities think tanks established the direction and benchmark. Because the colleges and universities has formed a transnational exchanges and cooperation which developed a multifaceted integrated forms and channels, this has laid a good foundation in China’s colleges and universities Think tanks for international exchange and cooperation; While the University Think tank international exchanges and cooperation to China on the whole of the international exchange and cooperation. There will be no doubt on lead generation and radiation effect.

4.3 Strengthen University Think Tank Operating System Mechanism

Problems in the construction of University think tank system appear to be similar with “university autonomy” problem, which requires think tanks as much as possible to maintain its independent judgments value. Think Tanks should exert efforts to research and to attempt to resolve the problem which will be based on a real point to the future, with particular emphasis on its value level should be on judgment. So, the results of research must be goes beyond the reality of the concept design, the knowledge structure and practices, therefore, colleges and universities Think tanks should not only to be served in the Government, also need to be independent outside government; Or in other words, only was independent outside Government, in order to provide better service from the government, this is a moment need to have an accurate grasp of the dialectical relations.

Colleges and Universities think tanks operating mechanisms are primarily internal organizational structure and functioning. Essentially, think tanks belonging to the openness of academic organizations, therefore, it should be match by the scientific staff composed with a flat organizational structure, members can hire temporary professional staff according to the need of the project; Work carried out should not simply rely on administrative instruction but should follow on more research needed, by undertaking the task of scientific researcher on independent research. In order to ensure the normal operation, Think tanks need enough funds to support, according to the specific quality, funds should come from schools, business project, subsidy funds and other channels. In addition to the regular work evaluation standard of quality and quantity indicators, in particular should highlight the research achievements by

the government, by reference, as well as adoption of the actual effect. College and university think tanks have their own display platform, such as newspapers and magazines, modern network, reports, lectures, seminars, training, media release and so on.

5. TO ENHANCE THE OVERALL SERVICE CAPACITY OF THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THINK TANK

Colleges and Universities think tanks need truly to reflect its value, basically must have enough service ability. First, establish a correct think tank consciousness, this awareness requires not only the formation of active service in the initiative policy-making, but also requires correct attitude, the attention is focus of placed on the quality of decision making and social service development, instead of looking at think tank construction as another kind of form for benefits derived channels. Consciousness awareness think tank established primarily for endogenous, not only with the external constrains, Second, provided with business mastery, reasonable structure of professional staff, and pay attention to regular business training and practical training through a similar “revolving door” and other mechanisms, continuously improve business standards. Third, dealing with theoretical and practical research, academic research and decision making research, basic research and applied research, the relationship between long-term research and instant research etc... Fourth, the decision making service needs to path through two ways. First one is to accept

entrust a project from the government, on the other hand, to carry out independent research, promote independent research to the government achievements products. Fifth, look more on working strength, less the pursuit of fame, the real think tank is to rely on the strength of the brand build out, different variety of promotional display should only be achievement promotion, the truth publishing and social interaction.

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