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Research on the Operational and Safeguard Mechanisms of New-Type Think Tank Systems: Postprint

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] The construction of new-type think tanks with Chinese characteristics is advancing rapidly and has entered a new stage, urgently requiring the consolidation and revitalization of the vitality and dynamism of the think tank community to form a new-type think tank system with rational layout, integrated advantages, organic connectivity, and coordinated operation. [Method/Process] Based on observations of China's new-type think tank construction practices, this article systematically reviews and deeply analyzes the operational and safeguard mechanisms in the construction of the new-type think tank system. [Result/Conclusion] By improving organizational mechanisms and establishing the management framework for the new-type think tank system, constructing operational mechanisms to stimulate its maximum effectiveness, streamlining linkage mechanisms to promote its embedding into policy networks, improving environmental safeguard mechanisms to consolidate its developmental foundation, and promoting an overall leap in the construction level of new-type think tanks with Chinese characteristics.

Full Text

Research on the Operational and Guaranteeing Mechanisms for the System of New Types of Think Tanks

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Abstract

[Purpose/significance] The system of new types of think tanks with Chinese characteristics has developed rapidly and entered a new stage.

There is an urgent need to consolidate and unleash the vitality of think tank communities, forming a new type of think tank system with rational distribution, integrated advantages, organic connectivity, and coordinated operation. **[Method/process]** Based on observations of China's new think tank construction practices, this paper systematically 梳理 and deeply analyzes the operational and guaranteeing mechanisms for building this system. **[Result/conclusion]** To elevate the overall level of new think tank construction with Chinese characteristics, we must improve organizational mechanisms to build the management framework, construct operational mechanisms to maximize system effectiveness, smooth connection mechanisms to promote embedding within policy networks, and perfect environmental guarantee mechanisms to consolidate developmental foundations.

Keywords: new types of think tanks; operational mechanism; guaranteeing mechanism

Classification Number: C912

The purpose of establishing a system of new types of think tanks with Chinese characteristics is to enable think tank communities to operate and function more effectively. Exploring the operational and developmental logic of this system requires focusing on building management frameworks and improving organizational mechanisms to transform from individual think tank efforts to collective action, creating a “clustered combat” formation. It necessitates optimizing elements and resources through improved operational mechanisms to maximize think tank productivity in intellectual products. The system must embed itself within policy networks through enhanced connection mechanisms to more effectively influence public policy. Finally, it requires establishing comprehensive external environmental guarantee mechanisms for institutionalized operation and sustainable development.

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1. Improving Organizational Mechanisms: Building the Management Framework for the System of New Types of Think Tanks

The mission and responsibilities of new think tanks distinguish them from ordinary enterprise and social organizations. They must emphasize not only “individual combat” capabilities but also “clustered combat” capabilities to form a think tank product supply system that matches the decision-making consultation needs of the Party and state. After years of development, China currently has no shortage of think tank institutions, experts, or resources. However, the overall function of new think tanks still falls short of Party and government expectations. The crux of the problem lies in the dispersed and fragmented state of these institutions, experts, and resources. There is an urgent need to construct an organizational mechanism that effectively aggregates think tank institutions, experts, and resources into a management framework and organizational structure with clearly defined functions, responsibilities, and authority. This would drive various new think tank entities to work toward common strategic goals, creating a new think tank community where think tanks at all levels and categories can gather and disperse as needed, fulfill their respective responsibilities, and demonstrate their capabilities.

1.1 Establishing a Leadership and Coordination Body with Overall Planning and Multi-party Compatibility

Leadership and coordination bodies bear important responsibilities in the system of new think tanks, as they must both coordinate overall planning to clarify development directions and promote think tanks to enhance their decision-making consultation service levels. Given the current landscape of new think tanks—which includes Party and government internal think tanks, Party school think tanks, academy of social sciences think tanks, university think tanks, military think tanks, enterprise think tanks, and social think tanks—establishing a single leadership coordination body with administrative subordination presents certain institutional difficulties. A more reasonable approach is to construct a cross-departmental, cross-disciplinary, and coordinative council institution. Western think tank development experience shows that council-based organizational management mechanisms represent an important characteristic. At the national level, China has established the National High-End Think Tank Council system as a deliberative and evaluation body for high-end think tank construction. At the provincial level, regions such as Jiangsu and Hebei have established provincial new think tank councils. For example, Jiangsu established the Jiangsu New Think Tank Council under the Provincial Philosophy and Social Sciences Leadership Group in June 2017, serving as the deliberative and evaluation body guiding provincial new think tank construction. The council’s main responsibilities include reviewing think tank construction plans and regulations, proposing key research tasks urgently needed for decision-making, providing necessary support for think tanks conducting decision-making consul-

tation research, and conducting comprehensive evaluations of key think tanks with recommendations for establishment, adjustment, or dissolution. Through establishing think tank councils, better top-level design for provincial new think tank system construction can be achieved, strengthening collaboration among various think tank research forces. At the prefecture-level city level, some cities have also established comprehensive leadership and coordination bodies. For instance, Guangyuan City in Sichuan established the Municipal Party Committee and Government Decision-Making Consultation Committee as the backbone and leader of new think tanks, fulfilling coordination and service functions, while Shuangyashan City in Heilongjiang established the New Think Tank Construction Guidance and Coordination Committee as its leadership body.

1.2 Leveraging the Central Liaison Functions of Party and Government Department Think Tanks and Social Science Federation Organizations

Given that various think tanks belong to different systems and departments, it is essential to select institutions with broad liaison scope and extensive coverage to organize and coordinate central communication work. In China's new think tank construction practice, the liaison functions of Party and government department think tanks and social science federation organizations are particularly prominent. While conducting their own research, Party and government department think tanks can leverage their advantages of being close to decision-making centers and understanding decision-making needs. On the one hand, they actively function as information distribution centers for decision-making consultation, promptly releasing important theoretical and practical issues urgently needing research on provincial economic and social development to guide provincial decision-making consultation services toward clear targets. On the other hand, they fully play their role in coordinating research resources by establishing research projects to organize multi-party collaborative research, while comprehensively refining research results from various institutions to better meet Party and government decision-making requirements and provide broader comparative perspectives and options for decision-making. Social science federation organizations serve as bridges and bonds between Party and government and the social science community, possessing special advantages in advancing new think tank system construction. While building their own think tanks and enhancing decision-making consultation service capabilities, they can more importantly leverage their "connection" functions and "integration" advantages to fully integrate advantageous research resources in the social science community. Through guiding decision-making consultation research, building platform carriers, smoothing transformation channels, and guiding city/county-level social science federation think tank construction, they promote the overall improvement of new think tank construction levels and system perfection.

1.3 Forming Broadly Covering and Structurally Sound Think Tank Alliances

Think tank alliances represent an important organizational mechanism that not only helps form think tank clusters to tackle comprehensive and complex problems that individual think tanks cannot address, but also promotes industry self-discipline and self-management. Generally, think tank alliances adopt a council system to organize, coordinate, and collaborate on specific think tank development matters, providing guidance and suggestions for think tank management and supervising the rationality and legality of think tank operations. Mostly comprising independent think tanks, these alliances are open, loosely structured, and non-profit, capable of integrating advantages from official, academic, industrial, and media sectors to enhance think tank research and 成果转化 efficiency. Currently, forming think tank alliances has become a common practice in China's new think tank system. At the national level, the Center for Contemporary World Studies jointly established the "Belt and Road" Think Tank Cooperation Alliance Council with over 50 domestic think tanks and research institutions related to the Belt and Road Initiative. At the provincial level, multiple provinces have established think tank alliances with different initiating entities. For example, Shandong established the Shandong Think Tank Alliance initiated by the Shandong Academy of Social Sciences with participation from various think tanks, city-level academies, and research bases across the province. Hunan established the Hunan Think Tank Alliance co-initiated by nine units including the Provincial Counselors' Office. Henan established the Henan New Think Tank Alliance at its 2017 Government Development Research Center (Research Office) Directors' Symposium. At the provincial capital and prefecture-level city levels, numerous think tank alliances have also emerged to aggregate research forces and better serve local development. For instance, Wuhan established a think tank alliance with six units including the Municipal Government Counselors' Office, while Nanjing established the Nanjing Think Tank Alliance led by the Municipal Political Consultative Conference. Additionally, there are industry-specific and professional think tank alliances, such as the Internet Governance Think Tank Alliance jointly established by Sun Yat-sen University and 13 other institutions, and the Central Enterprise Think Tank Alliance spontaneously formed by the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission Research Center and various central enterprise think tanks. Notably, think tank alliances are flexible and offer advantages for cross-regional cooperation. For example, the social science federations of Nanjing, Zhenjiang, and Yangzhou jointly established the "Ning-Zhen-Yang" Think Tank Alliance around major issues of regional integration. More such cross-regional cooperation models may emerge in the future.

2. Constructing Operational Mechanisms: Maximizing the Effectiveness of the System of New Types of Think Tanks

Building the management framework for the system of new think tanks represents only the first step toward achieving “clustered combat.” To truly unleash the intellectual product production capacity of new think tanks and maximize the effectiveness of resource elements, operational mechanisms must be established to open channels for communication, interaction, and organic integration among various entities, elements, and platforms within the system, with corresponding procedures and rules formulated to maximize the system’s role. Thus, operational mechanisms focus on addressing how various entities within the system can cooperate through division of labor, how resource elements can be optimally combined, and how platforms can 叠加 advantages, ultimately achieving vertically integrated operation of think tanks across hierarchical levels and horizontally collaborative advancement across different fields.

2.1 Integrated Operational Mechanism

One of the main problems currently facing China’s new think tank construction is the dispersed, overlapping, and fragmented nature of think tank resources. Therefore, an important task in building the system of new think tanks is to innovate resource allocation mechanisms by integrating experts and resources distributed across different think tanks within and outside the system. This forms a comprehensive decision-making consultation research service network covering multiple fields, with channels to promote research 成果转化. The advantage of the integrated operational mechanism lies in breaking through institutional barriers, enabling effective concentration and collaboration in think tank development to create a $1+1>2$ effect. Simultaneously, it can unify the direction of think tank system construction, making government support policies more effective. The 39 “Jiangsu Provincial Decision-Making Consultation Research Bases” established by the Jiangsu Provincial Social Science Federation adopt this integrated operational mechanism: a tripartite collaborative model with universities and research institutes as the primary responsible units, relevant provincial departments participating in construction, and experts from central state organs or Beijing-based universities and research institutes participating as chief experts. This model maximizes the integration of social science resources within and outside the province. The team composition also advocates breaking institutional barriers to attract cross-departmental personnel for collaborative research. This integrated operational mechanism helps form positive participation and collaboration mechanisms, opening information communication channels between university research teams and Party and government department experts. It effectively transmits government department information to research experts, who utilize their academic foundations to conduct professional and in-depth research analysis, avoiding “working behind closed doors” or “blind men touching an elephant” types of research. Meanwhile, the 39 decision-making consultation research bases each have their own research

fields, forming clear business distinctions that help prevent unclear research directions in some think tank institutions and reduce redundant research and resource waste. While the integrated operational mechanism has advantages, it also has limitations. Breaking institutional barriers to form cross-departmental research teams can easily lead to team looseness, placing higher demands on think tank administrative management capabilities. Therefore, when constructing and perfecting the integrated operational mechanism, while highlighting the core functional position of research departments, certain ratios of professional administrative management personnel must be established to handle organizational liaison and service coordination work, thereby more fully leveraging the advantages of integrated professional research resources.

2.2 Collaborative Operational Mechanism

With social development, the problems facing think tanks are increasingly complex, requiring participation from specialized think tanks or experts in various sub-fields to collaboratively solve problems in a question-oriented manner. This forms a collaborative operational mechanism among various think tanks. The collaborative operational mechanism can be divided into two types: The first is the thematic collaboration mechanism, which gathers experts from related fields and different think tanks to conduct joint research on major theoretical and practical issues concerning reform and development through project proposals or policy planning drafts. Thematic collaboration is project-based and temporary, meaning the collaborative team is formed when research begins and disbands after problem resolution. For example, in 2015, Shanghai's Municipal Development and Reform Commission invited domestic and international think tanks to conduct strategic research on Shanghai's 13th Five-Year Plan development by combining major project bidding with public solicitation, achieving good results. The second is the field collaboration mechanism, which is more suitable for issues covering multiple aspects of economic and social development involving multidisciplinary fields. For instance, Nanjing University's Yangtze River Delta Economic and Social Development Research Center and China South China Sea Research Collaborative Innovation Center are both think tank collaboration platforms covering multidisciplinary fields built upon university research resources. The advantage of the collaborative operational mechanism lies in concentrating advantageous resources to tackle major strategic issues in economic and social development. Its limitation is that the overall level is often determined by the "shortest board" —experts in subdivided fields or disciplines must all reach certain levels to contribute to high-level systematic solutions. Therefore, the collaborative operational mechanism must be premised on the aggregation of numerous high-level research experts.

2.3 Exchange-based Operational Mechanism

The exchange-based operational mechanism in think tank systems is mainly manifested through forums and seminars. Some academic exchange forums are

held annually, gathering groups of experts and scholars and establishing their own brands. Some have become important carriers for international exchange due to national-level involvement, such as the Boao Forum for Asia. In Jiangsu, the most influential and effective exchange-based operational mechanism is the Jiangsu Development High-Level Forum jointly organized by Nanjing University, Jiangsu Provincial Academy of Social Sciences, and Jiangsu Provincial Social Science Federation. Generally, the main characteristic of exchange-based operational mechanisms is openness, which facilitates broad participation by think tank experts. On the same platform, experts can express their views and interact on certain issues, enabling inclusiveness and drawing on collective wisdom while discovering new perspectives and hearing new voices. Additionally, this open operational model has relatively low or no thresholds, facilitating participation by think tank talents, especially young think tank professionals, providing them with growth platforms to broaden their horizons and expand knowledge. From the perspective of social impact and interaction, exchange-based operational mechanisms are superior to integrated and collaborative mechanisms. They move beyond the 误区 of “research behind closed doors,” using media to interact frequently with the public. This provides think tank experts with platforms to present themselves and test their results, enhancing think tanks’ social influence while giving the public opportunities to interact with experts and promoting think tank research to be more grounded in reality and closer to the public. Of course, exchange-based operational mechanisms also have limitations. Due to low entry barriers, some forums and seminars suffer from formalism and tokenism—merely setting up platforms, inviting celebrities, and repeating old tunes without producing substantive effects, existing in name only. Therefore, in the system of new think tanks, the focus of exchange-based operational mechanisms should be constructing multi-level and multi-field platform carriers that combine think tank research with results dissemination, publicity, and display.

3. Smoothing Connection Mechanisms: Promoting the Embedding of the System of New Types of Think Tanks into Policy Networks

Whether a think tank system can function effectively depends on its ability to connect seamlessly with the decision-making system—in other words, its capacity to embed itself within policy networks. Policy networks consist of relationships among autonomous yet interdependent actors with common interests. When government or market failures occur, these equal, coordinated, and self-governing policy networks become a mode of public governance. In China’s policy networks, think tank institutions, academic institutions, decision-making institutions, and media institutions are relatively important “actors.” Therefore, constructing connection mechanisms to embed the system of new think tanks into policy networks requires promoting mutual integration and effective connection between think tank institutions and academic, decision-making, and

media institutions across multiple dimensions including basic theory, research methods, and results application and promotion.

3.1 Promoting the Connection between Think Tank Research and Basic Theoretical Research

This connection helps establish a solid theoretical foundation for think tank research and provides effective methodological support. Basic theoretical research in social sciences is the cornerstone of think tank research—without innovation in basic theory, think tank research becomes water without a source or a tree without roots. Observing well-known think tanks at home and abroad reveals that they are often also renowned or authoritative institutions in basic theoretical research, typically possessing leading disciplinary research with academic leadership in basic and frontier theoretical levels. From the basic methods and patterns of social science research, applied countermeasure research must be conducted within appropriate theoretical frameworks and research paradigms. For example, since World War II, Western economic theory has evolved from free marketism to Keynesianism to neoliberalism, with different theoretical frameworks giving rise to different public policy research. Especially when reality has surpassed the vision of existing academic research, cutting-edge basic theory is needed to guide us out of developmental dilemmas. Although basic theoretical research and practical policy research differ in operability and timeliness, reasonable planning can organically combine medium- and long-term research with “immediate” problem research, promoting applied research development through breakthroughs in basic theoretical research. Therefore, perfecting the connection mechanism for mutual promotion between basic theoretical research and decision-making application research is of great significance. We should encourage and support basic theoretical researchers to engage in think tank research. For those research institutions and personnel who have long been engaged in basic theoretical research, we should encourage them to continue their professional work without following trends. For those with high-level theoretical expertise, strong social insight, and aptitude for practical problem research, we should cultivate them into high-end think tank research talents. For those currently engaged in think tank research who need to broaden their theoretical thinking and research horizons, we should provide more learning and training opportunities to strengthen their theoretical foundations.

3.2 Promoting the Connection between Think Tank Research and Party Committee and Government Decision-Making

This connection helps propel think tank research onto policy agendas and facilitates the policy transformation of think tank research results. The central “Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of New Types of Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics” clearly states that serving Party and government decision-making should be the purpose, with policy research consultation as the main direction. For government decision-makers and think tank experts, greater

emphasis must be placed on organizational learning' s interpretive systems and reproduction processes, as well as their mutual penetration and high interdependence. However, from the current status of various think tank organizations, while Party and government department think tanks possess natural advantages in connecting with public decision-making, other types of think tanks still face many obstacles in conducting problem-oriented research and promoting results transformation into policies. Therefore, a set of smooth and effective “supply-demand” interaction mechanisms must be established to promote better adaptation of think tank “products” to policy needs. Examining the generation and transmission paths of think tank decision-making consultation influence, think tank research topics require effective screening, release, and bidding mechanisms. Through various platforms and collaboration channels, think tanks must deeply understand the spirit and deployment of important meeting documents of Party committees and governments, long-term track policy and planning formulation and implementation, and actively strengthen cooperation with Party and government departments, key industry enterprises, and in-system research institutions to enhance research topic relevance. In terms of research methods, think tank research must be based on investigation and research, on understanding public sentiment, reflecting public opinion, and concentrating public wisdom. Researchers must frequently go deep into reality and grassroots levels, persistently conduct arduous and meticulous investigation work, extensively solicit public opinions, and find solutions that suit local conditions. They must correctly master basic investigation methods, gradually introduce modern information technology into research fields, and comprehensively apply multidisciplinary knowledge to better complete qualitative and quantitative analysis of complex systems, providing evidence for correct decision-making. In terms of results transformation, in-system Party and government think tanks and university research institute think tanks can release and promote their research results and main viewpoints through channels such as research bulletins, decision-making consultation internal publications, and important forums and seminars participated in by Party committees and governments. Simultaneously, the openness of in-system transformation channels must be enhanced to promote multi-level and multi-field think tank research results entering decision-making levels.

3.3 Promoting the Interactive Connection between Think Tank Research and the Public

With the enrichment and convenience of modern communication methods, the timeliness and coverage of information flow have continuously improved, making direct communication and interaction between think tanks and the public an increasingly important pathway for think tanks to influence society. In Western developed countries, think tanks often play the role of policy advocacy and public opinion guidance at the source of decision-making, promoting the scientificity, democratization, and openness of public decision-making. Currently, China has few well-known think tanks with significant social influence, and the methods and channels for think tank research to communicate with the pub-

lic are relatively singular. Especially for low-level and small-scale think tank organizations, their professional talents and research results cannot be fully reflected in social influence. Therefore, smooth, timely, and efficient interactive mechanisms must be constructed. Drawing on Western think tank development experience and combining it with China's new think tank system construction reality, three approaches can be taken:

First, promote deep integration between think tank research and media dissemination. As communication channels, media need think tank research and experts to support the authority and credibility of their information dissemination. Statistics show that most commentary articles in mainstream American media are authored by think tank scholars. In China, central-level news media such as CCTV and People's Daily have special commentary columns where many think tank experts use their professional knowledge to analyze and interpret current theoretical and hot issues for the public in simple terms, achieving good results. Additionally, in the current era of self-media, "three micros and one end" (microblog, WeChat, micro-video, and news client) are also important channels for think tank publicity and influence expansion that must be fully utilized.

Second, promote the normalization of think tank interpretation of public policies. Major strategies and policy measures of Party committees and governments are closely related to social livelihood. Interpretation by think tanks as third parties helps the public better understand, accept, and grasp these policies. Long-term media columns and public policy consultation platforms can be established to facilitate communication channels between the public and think tank experts, carrying out social science popularization and expert grassroots activities to promote the normalization of think tank experts' participation in major policy interpretation.

Third, build public service platforms for think tanks. High-end and well-known think tanks have many platforms and channels for interacting with the public, but small and medium-sized think tanks lack such platforms and channels. This necessitates building public service platforms in the think tank field to give small and medium-sized think tanks more opportunities to interact with the public.

4. Perfecting Environmental Guarantee Mechanisms: Consolidating the Development Foundation for the System of New Types of Think Tanks

Modern think tanks emerge with political, economic, and social development and progress, inseparable from sound policy, legal, and social environmental guarantees. The same applies to the system of new think tanks. The fundamental purpose of constructing this system is not to provide solutions for specific fields, projects, or problems, but to take a global and long-term perspective in

shaping sustained and long-term think tank product supply capacity. This requires creating an institutionalized and legalized decision-making consultation environment conducive to the system of new think tanks, establishing a complete set of systems favorable for knowledge product production and decision-making consultation role performance, strengthening the traction and connection functions of decision-making systems, and promoting the institutionalized operation of the think tank system.

4.1 Optimizing the Policy Environment

A favorable policy environment, like sunshine and rain, can provide “nourishment” such as talent and funding for think tank development. Policies include not only supportive and guiding policies but also normative and restrictive ones. Optimizing the policy environment requires three approaches. First, optimize policies for think tank assistance in governance. Establish and improve a work system under the unified leadership of Party committees with division of responsibilities among relevant departments, effectively strengthening leadership over think tank construction work. Integrate think tanks into decision-making reference systems at all levels of Party committees and governments to improve decision-making scientification, democratization, fairness, and effectiveness, better leveraging think tanks’ role in governance through wisdom. Second, optimize think tank development policies. With the enhancement of modern decision-making scientification, professionalism, and systematicity, there is an urgent need to separate “deliberation” from “decision-making” and introduce think tanks into the public decision-making process. Establish normalized and institutionalized connections between government decision-making and think tank consultation. When think tank research results and policy suggestions differ significantly from existing government policies, officials at all levels should provide think tank experts with more research space as much as possible, achieving “listen to both sides and you will be enlightened,” and avoid restricting think tank research through funding or other conditions. Third, optimize think tank management policies. Governments should build public competition platforms for decision-making consultation for all types of think tanks, establishing equal “rules of the game” regarding open decision-making systems, public information disclosure, and think tanks’ social and legal status. Standardize bidding and evaluation procedures for research projects to ensure projects are obtained through fair competition based on strength, replacing “identity” or “relationship” with “capability” in project application and approval.

4.2 Perfecting the Legal Environment

To truly achieve governing the country according to law, the rule of law concept must permeate all aspects of national development, and think tank development is no exception. The significance of a sound legal environment for the system of new think tanks lies not only in granting legitimate status to think tank entities but also in promoting think tank activities in accordance with laws

and regulations. Perfecting the legal environment mainly includes three aspects: First, advance legislation in the think tank development field. Determine the status, functions, responsibilities, and rights of think tanks through legal means, providing complete legal basis for clarifying think tanks' legal status and promoting their development. Second, strengthen legal and compliance supervision of think tank activities. Relevant administrative organs must manage think tanks strictly according to statutory authority, procedures, and the spirit of the rule of law. Think tanks violating relevant laws and regulations must be held legally accountable. Third, guide the standardized construction of new think tanks with the rule of law concept. Through specific legal provisions, redesign government public decision-making, especially major decision-making processes, with rigorous, scientific, and rational standardized design, making think tank consultation a necessary component of major decision-making procedures. Establish public decision-making consultation bidding and adoption systems to standardize government public decision-making think tank consultation bidding processes and adoption criteria. Establish post-decision policy implementation evaluation and adjustment mechanisms, where third-party think tanks provide evaluation reports to decision-makers after government departments make policy decisions and implementations, and make evaluation reports public to society in compliance with legal provisions.

4.3 Creating a Social Environment

The value and significance of new think tank construction lie in finding solutions to social problems and exploring pathways to enhance social welfare. Therefore, advancing the system of new think tanks requires joint efforts from the whole society and demands shaping a social environment conducive to system construction. First, encourage innovation and inclusiveness to enhance social civilization quality. Strive to build an inclusive research environment, develop inclusive culture, and advocate inclusive spirit, allowing think tank ideas from different fields, groups, and directions to converge and integrate, giving full play to the policy advisory role of new think tanks as the “strongest brain.” Second, attach great importance to and actively implement think tank brand strategy. Support think tank platform construction through policy, funding, and resources; expand existing think tank activity platforms to increase coverage and influence; build new platforms with strong pertinence, practicality, and foresight; and strengthen cooperation with well-known domestic and international think tanks to connect with global think tank research networks. Third, use multiple channels to promote think tank ideas and viewpoints to the public, continuously gaining broad public understanding and support. Enable the public to actively and enthusiastically participate in various research activities such as social surveys, questionnaires, interviews, and consultations, making think tank research more “grounded” and think tank results more “popular,” bridging the distance between think tanks and the public.

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