

Reflections on Promoting New-Type Think Tank Construction in Underdeveloped Areas from a Public Policy Perspective: Postprint

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Abstract

[Purpose/Significance] Think tanks are research institutions that take public policy as their research object and policy analysis professionals as their core. Policy science (public policy studies) is the most important supporting discipline for think tanks. Exploring the dilemmas and solutions in the construction of local new-type think tanks from a public policy perspective holds considerable practical significance.

[Method/Process] Based on a public policy perspective, this paper conducts an in-depth analysis of the practical dilemmas currently faced in promoting the construction of new-type think tanks in underdeveloped regions.

[Result/Conclusion] It proposes pathways for promoting the construction of new-type think tanks in underdeveloped regions: transforming backward administrative management thinking with new development concepts; establishing and improving supportive policy systems; strengthening the construction of supporting disciplines; and vigorously cultivating policy analysis professionals.

Full Text

Reflections on Promoting New Think Tank Construction in Underdeveloped Areas from a Public Policy Perspective

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Abstract

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science (public policy studies) constitutes the primary supporting discipline for think tanks. Exploring the dilemmas and solutions for local new think tank construction from a public policy perspective thus holds strong practical significance.

[Method/Process] Based on a public policy perspective, this paper deeply analyzes the current practical dilemmas faced in promoting new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas.

[Result/Conclusion] The paper proposes effective paths for promoting new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas, including transforming backward administrative management thinking through the new development concept, establishing and improving supporting policy systems, strengthening the construction of supporting disciplines, and vigorously cultivating policy analysis talent.

Keywords: Public policy; Underdeveloped areas; New think tank construction; Dilemma; Path

1. The Issue of New Think Tank Construction in Underdeveloped Areas

The phenomena of backwardness versus advancement, and catch-up versus surpassing, represent important patterns in human social development. Catch-up and surpassing constitute the main rhythm of contemporary world development, with developing nations 追赶 developed countries and underdeveloped regions 追赶 developed regions representing the trend of our times. In recent years, China's "latecomer catch-up" development trend has become prominent, with its total economic volume ranking second in the world and its growth rate consistently exceeding that of developed nations. China also exhibits internal "catch-up and surpassing" dynamics: unbalanced regional economic development has caused western underdeveloped regions to continuously 追赶 eastern developed regions, with underdeveloped areas' growth rates ranking among the highest in recent years, revealing emerging latecomer advantages. However, rapid economic development has been accompanied by massive resource consumption. Given scarce resources and increasing uncertainties, underdeveloped regions' previous follow-the-leader development models are insufficient for achieving "latecomer catch-up" goals. Moreover, social progress and enhanced civic consciousness have increased the difficulty of integrating social interests, making traditional public policy formulation methods inefficient at coordinating social contradictions and disagreements, thus necessitating innovation. As President Xi Jinping emphasized during his inspection tour in Ningxia, "The more underdeveloped the region, the more it needs to implement an innovation-driven development strategy." This underscores the arduous task of reform and innovation in underdeveloped areas.

The heavier the burden of reform and innovation, the greater the need to pool wisdom to provide strong intellectual support, and the more major reform measures require solid public policy research. In recent years, the Party and state have attached great importance to building new-type think tanks with Chinese characteristics. However, unbalanced regional economic development and uneven distribution of educational and human resources have led to significant differences in construction methods, progress, and development levels of local new think tanks across China. Construction in underdeveloped areas lags particularly far behind, with relatively low overall development levels. Statistics show that approximately 60% of China's active and influential think tanks are distributed in mega-cities of developed regions, while only 17% and 17.5% are located in central and western underdeveloped areas, respectively [1]. The University of Pennsylvania's "Top 10 Chinese Think Tanks 2015" and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences' "Chinese Think Tank Report 2015" both ranked Chinese think tanks by influence, concluding that national-level think tanks dominate the top rankings, while local think tanks—except for one or two from Shanghai and Beijing—are rarely seen, particularly those from underdeveloped regions [2]. Therefore, exploring the dilemmas and solutions for local new think tank construction in China and accelerating new think tank development constitute both a need for socioeconomic development in underdeveloped areas and a requirement for scientifically laying out the system of new think tanks with Chinese characteristics.

Ultimately, accelerating new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas is important for attracting, cultivating, and reserving high-level talent for socioeconomic development, and for providing counsel and recommendations to implement innovation-driven development strategies and achieve leapfrog development goals. First, it can enhance regional innovation capacity and break away from follow-the-leader development models. Only through continuous innovation can regions escape follow-the-leader patterns. New think tanks serve as important drivers for generating new ideas and strategies, implementing innovation-driven strategies, and strengthening innovation capacity in underdeveloped areas. Second, it can improve the scientific level of public decision-making and enhance governance capacity. The special requirements of leapfrog development demand higher standards for the scientific validity, legitimacy, timeliness, and democratic nature of public policy formulation in underdeveloped areas. Practice has proven that new think tanks constitute an essential component of modern government decision-making systems. Third, it can attract, cultivate, and reserve high-level talent. Talent lies at the core of leapfrog development, just as it does for new think tanks. Promoting new think tank construction requires strengthening think tank talent teams and continuously attracting and cultivating think tank personnel.

2. The Alignment Between New Think Tanks and Public Policy

The need for government governance and resolution of social public problems constitutes a direct cause of public policy emergence. When public policy becomes the authoritative means for governments to allocate public resources, its goal must be positioned as realizing public interest, as only by maximizing the interests of the majority can public policy gain legitimacy. This also determines that once public policy with strong social linkage effects fails, its negative consequences will cause extremely serious social harm. Continuous human social progress and rising civic awareness of public policy have not only made citizens interested in government policy formulation and implementation but also stimulated their strong and urgent sense of participation. This increasingly forces governments to formulate public policy based on the starting point of public interest. Meanwhile, social progress has also made factors influencing public policy—such as social environment, information, and technology—increasingly complex and variable, causing governments to find it increasingly difficult to formulate public policies that satisfy majority interests alone and forcing them to seek intellectual support from think tanks both inside and outside the government system [3].

Think tanks, also called “brains trusts,” lack a unified definition, but most domestic and foreign scholars view them as professional research institutions that take public policy as their research object. The “Chinese Think Tank Report 2013” defines think tanks as professional research institutions that take public policy as their research object and public interest as their research orientation. German professor Patrick Koellner defines think tanks as research institutions that take policy analysis and research as their object and influencing public policy as their goal. Today, think tanks as non-governmental actors increasingly influence public policy and have become indispensable forces in national public decision-making systems for solving social public problems. In modern public governance systems, modernized new think tanks are important forces participating in public policy formulation and influencing government decisions, effective channels for public-government communication, and important carriers for public participation in policy formulation and expressing their demands. The “new” in new think tanks lies in their more prominent independence, professionalism, innovation, and authority, and in their policy recommendations demonstrating greater strategic foresight and operability.

In recent years, China’s tremendous economic development achievements have attracted global attention. Rapid economic development inevitably poses new demands for political system reform, among which transforming government functions, expanding public policy formulation subjects, and improving transparency in policy formulation and implementation must constitute main contents of deepening administrative management system reform. With further improvements in social productivity, the weight of public policy in China has also increased—any policy directly involving the interests of the majority should become public policy, and such public policy must allow public discussion, crit-

icism, and supervision [4]. To enable the public to widely understand, criticize, and supervise public policy, information communication channels between the public and government must be unblocked. Strengthening think tank construction constitutes an effective path for China to currently improve information disclosure and sharing mechanisms and unblock public-government policy information communication channels. The state's "Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of New Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics" emphasizes that on the one hand, strengthening think tank construction is urgently needed to address increasingly complex and arduous reform, development, and stability challenges; on the other hand, China must attach great importance to new think tank construction with Chinese characteristics to solve the problem of think tank development failing to keep pace with socioeconomic development.

Thus, the era's development has set newer standards and higher requirements for the scientization and democratization of public policy formulation, forcing governments to improve public policy in keeping with the times. Accelerating new think tank construction, leading scientific development with scientific development concepts, supporting scientific decision-making with scientific and democratic decision-making consultation, and boosting socioeconomic development through scientific decision-making has become the trend of the times.

3. Realistic Dilemmas in Promoting New Think Tank Construction in Underdeveloped Areas

Unbalanced regional economic development and uneven distribution of educational and human resources have caused new think tank construction in China's developed regions to lead the nation, while underdeveloped regions face numerous difficulties such as scarce research resources, low think tank activity platforms and vitality, and insufficient think tank talent [5]. From a public policy perspective alone, the main dilemmas currently facing new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas include the following aspects.

3.1 Backward Administrative Management Thinking Urgently Needs Transformation Backward development consciousness hinders socioeconomic development, and outdated ideological concepts in underdeveloped regions constitute the main factor constraining socioeconomic development. Traditional decadent Chinese concepts and bureaucracy particularly affect administrative management in China's western underdeveloped regions. The long-term influence of these backward ideological concepts accustoms people to the order and stability of hierarchical society, habitually emphasizing power, management, restraint, and ideological unity while neglecting rights, service, human development, and ideological emancipation, as well as preferring moderation and conservatism over reform and innovation [6]. Here, we list only two manifestations of how backward administrative management thinking hinders new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas. First, administrative decision-making bears a strong imprint of departmentalism. Lagging

economic development and low levels of scientization and democratization in administrative decision-making make it difficult for underdeveloped regions to escape the influence of departmentalism and executive will when solving public domain problems and formulating policies, often resulting in “whatever the leader says goes.” When decision-makers’ subjective consciousness dominates decision-making and public policy formulation, it greatly increases the possibility of decision-making errors and policy failures, commonly manifested as financial waste caused by lack of planning or poor policy effects. For example, in 2009, the National Audit Office’ s audit supervision of the state’ s 4 trillion yuan investment revealed that “some economically underdeveloped regions lacked overall planning in decision-making, and the problem of waste caused by redundant construction was relatively prominent.” Second, the phenomenon of weak policy implementation is relatively prominent. The grounding of public policy mainly relies on implementation; weak policy implementation has serious negative impacts on achieving policy goals and solving public problems. Influenced by backward ideological concepts, underdeveloped regions have consistently experienced habitual delays or selective implementation of central and national policies, particularly the difficulty of implementing policies at the grassroots level or the phenomenon of “policies from above, countermeasures from below.” For instance, many subsidy policies benefiting people’ s livelihoods, when reaching underdeveloped regions, often have additional localized provisions attached that make it difficult for policies to truly take root, leading to public complaints and hindered career development. For example, China’ s rural poor population is mainly concentrated in western underdeveloped regions, which are also the main battlegrounds for the state’ s targeted poverty alleviation strategy. According to the National Audit Office’ s “Audit Results Announcement” (No. 1, 2016, General No. 232), “some regions have not implemented some policies benefiting poor groups sufficiently or precisely,” and “failed to implement streamlining administration and delegating power requirements as stipulated, illegally setting pre-conditions for administrative licensing.” Furthermore, the National Audit Office’ s “Audit Results Announcement” (No. 7, 2016, General No. 239)...

3.2 The Policy System Supporting New Think Tank Construction Needs Improvement To strengthen new think tank construction with Chinese characteristics, China issued the “Opinions on Strengthening the Construction of New Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics,” emphasizing that all regions must conscientiously implement it and formulate specific measures. Although all localities have issued implementation opinions, some places, particularly underdeveloped regions, have been relatively slow in formulating supporting policies. First, the introduction of reform policies for think tank research project and fund management has lagged. For example, in July 2016, the state issued the “Several Opinions on Further Improving the Management of Central Financial Research Project Funds and Other Policies,” emphasizing that all regions must accelerate the reform of research project fund management.

However, after the Opinions were issued, only a few developed provinces (municipalities) quickly implemented the document's spirit and formulated specific implementation measures. In view of this, in March 2017, the state issued the "Notice on Further Doing a Good Job in Implementing Policies for the Management of Central Financial Research Project Funds and Other Policies," requiring localities to further raise their ideological awareness and promptly refine policy measures and vigorously implement them. Second, there is a lack of supporting policies for developing private think tanks. Against the backdrop of the state promoting new think tank construction with Chinese characteristics, private think tanks with market-oriented and independent advantages are gradually gaining attention, but their development in China remains slow. Due to backward economic development, private think tanks in underdeveloped regions, unlike official think tanks, cannot obtain financial support, and coupled with limited market demand for decision-making consultation—since government demand for such services tends to favor official think tanks—the situation of slow private think tank development is more serious than in developed regions. According to the "Chinese Think Tank Report," currently influential private think tanks in China, such as Horizon Research Consultation Group and Jiuding Public Affairs Institute, are mainly distributed in developed cities like Beijing and Shanghai.

3.3 The Problem of Long-Term Brain Drain Needs Urgent Mitigation

Talent constitutes the core of think tank survival and development. Without talent, particularly policy analysis talent, think tanks can hardly grow strong, let alone generate ideas and influence administrative decision-making. The fact that local new think tank construction in China currently cannot keep pace with socioeconomic development demand ultimately boils down to new think tank development encountering bottlenecks in talent team construction. The bottleneck for developed regions mainly involves unreasonable talent structure, scarcity of outstanding leading talent, and lack of good talent mobility mechanisms between government, enterprises, and think tanks. For underdeveloped regions, the bottleneck first involves long-term brain drain, followed by the problems faced by developed regions. In fact, since the 20th century, brain drain in underdeveloped regions has been consistently prominent. For example, Gansu transferred out approximately 13,000 professional and technical personnel during 1979–1999, while bringing in fewer than 5,000. During 1979–1998, Xinjiang transferred out about 40,000 cadres, while bringing in only 7,248. During 1985–1995, Ningxia transferred out 5,089 professional and technical personnel, while bringing in 2,329 [7]. In February 2017, Education Minister Chen Baosheng stated at the work promotion meeting for the Midwest Higher Education Revitalization Plan, "I ask eastern universities to show mercy when recruiting talent from midwestern universities." In reality, in recent years, developed regions have fully utilized their advantages to attract talent from western underdeveloped areas in various fields. This "talent poaching" by developed regions has objectively exacerbated brain drain in underdeveloped areas, which in turn leads to insuffi-

cient momentum for innovation-driven development. Consequently, underdeveloped regions have no choice but to continue relying on traditional factor-driven development. However, excessive reliance on resource factor-driven development inevitably channels large amounts of resources toward economic development, leaving limited resources for optimizing the talent environment, which subjectively further exacerbates brain drain. Compared with developed regions, brain drain and shortage of policy analysis talent have more prominent negative impacts on underdeveloped regions' new think tank construction and implementation of innovation-driven development strategies. Therefore, promoting new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas urgently requires solving three major talent problems: first, long-term brain drain; second, unreasonable talent structure and shortage of professional talent; and third, poor think tank talent mobility.

3.4 Supporting Disciplines for Think Tanks Need Strengthening The rise of think tanks is closely related to the urgent need for scientization and democratization of public policy. Think tank development has further promoted public policy scientization and democratization. Think tank development has been the main driver behind the rise of policy analysis; initially, think tank experts systematized and systematized policy analysis knowledge and methods to create policy science (public policy studies) as a relatively independent discipline. It can be said that think tanks gave birth to and stimulated public policy studies, while public policy studies became the most direct and primary supporting discipline for think tanks. The talent needed by think tanks consists of professional public policy analysis talent [8]. The United States' practice of cultivating professional think tank talent through Master of Public Policy (MPP) education has proven effective and has been promoted, becoming a common degree program universally established in universities in Western developed countries. By contrast, in China's current disciplinary professional setup, public policy studies has not yet become a first-level discipline, and there are few teaching and research institutions for public policy, with very limited numbers. Few universities have established public policy majors; most universities only treat public policy as a research direction within public administration or administrative management majors. Among these, public policy discipline construction in underdeveloped regions is even more lagging. For example, most Chinese universities with doctoral programs in administrative management are located in developed regions. Currently, among western underdeveloped provinces and autonomous regions, only a few universities such as Sichuan University and Lanzhou University have doctoral programs in administrative management. Meanwhile, there are few universities with master's programs in administrative management or public management (MPA) that have established public policy research directions. Against the backdrop of long-term brain drain, lagging construction of think tank supporting disciplines leads to limited capacity for cultivating professional public policy analysis talent, hindering new think tank construction in underdeveloped regions.

4. Paths for Promoting New Think Tank Construction in Underdeveloped Areas

4.1 Transforming Backward Administrative Management Thinking with the New Development Concept The new public management movement, which emerged in Western developed countries to overcome the drawbacks of traditional bureaucratic organizations, has been criticized for causing government administration to lose its public nature and values, but this has not prevented it from becoming a trend in public management development. In reality, Western new public management concepts also consider the value factors of public administrative organizations and government administrative personnel, mainly manifested in: flexible, deregulation-oriented management methods that fully embody the “humanization” of management; decentralization-oriented management methods that realize the “democratic value” of partial citizen participation; and customer-oriented management methods that promote the establishment of service-oriented governments that take realizing “service value” as their mission [9]. Similar concepts represent part of the advanced Western concepts that can be absorbed and referenced in China’s reform process. However, given that new public management emerged in Western capitalist developed countries, the national conditions of socialist and developing countries determine that Western new public management concepts cannot be completely copied to guide China’s administrative management system reform.

Consistently, the ideological concepts that conform to China’s national conditions and lead China’s reform and development have continuously enriched and developed with the times, with socialist theory with Chinese characteristics advancing with the times. The “Five Major New Development Concepts” proposed at the Fifth Plenary Session of the 18th CPC Central Committee serve as action guidelines for China to comprehensively build a moderately prosperous society during the “13th Five-Year Plan” period and for even longer-term development. “Innovation,” the first concept, includes institutional innovation, theoretical innovation, and governance innovation, with institutional innovation being fundamental. “Coordination” mainly involves coordinating major relationships in China’s socioeconomic development, namely coordinating relationships among economy, environment, population, and urban-rural areas. “Green” mainly emphasizes development sustainability and good cyclical and regenerative characteristics, with sustainable development at its core. “Opening-up” emphasizes not only mutually beneficial and win-win opening-up but also continuously improving China’s discourse power in global governance through opening-up. “Sharing” aims to change the situation where people cannot fairly share the fruits of national development due to unreasonable systems or policy implementation deviations, emphasizing that only by allowing people to fairly share development outcomes can social development be better promoted. Undeniably, firmly establishing and earnestly implementing the “new development concepts” will constitute a “new public management movement” related to the overall situation of China’s comprehensive deepening of reform and development

for a long time to come. Among these, leading and coordinating government governance with new development concepts and deepening administrative management system reform constitute important links connecting various deepening reforms. Therefore, promoting new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas must transform backward administrative management thinking through new development concepts, with the determination to eliminate the old and bring forth the new, continuously deepening think tank institutional mechanisms reform and accelerating new think tank construction.

First, use innovative development to break old thinking patterns, emphasizing that institutional innovation is fundamental. The “new” in new think tanks lies crucially in institutional innovation, and underdeveloped regions must attach great importance to think tank institutional mechanism innovation. Second, use coordinated development to handle major relationships in promoting new think tank construction. Lack of competition and cooperation constitutes the main drawback of current think tanks in underdeveloped regions. In promoting new think tank construction, adhering to the principle of “advocating competition and coordinating cooperation” is essential for straightening out major relationships between government and think tanks, official think tanks and private think tanks, etc. Third, use opening-up development to change the current situation of low openness of existing think tanks in underdeveloped regions, and extensively carry out exchanges and cooperation in think tank construction with an “open” and “going global” posture. Fourth, use shared development to cultivate a fair think tank ideas market. The expression of sharing in promoting new think tank construction in underdeveloped areas is mainly fairness, meaning all types of think tanks must be treated equally and without discrimination, using shared development to change the situation where official think tanks monopolize regional decision-making consultation markets. Fifth, use green development to emphasize the sustainability of promoting new think tank construction, avoiding perfunctory formalities or retreating when encountering difficulties.

4.2 Improving the Policy System Supporting New Think Tank Construction Overall, China’s local new think tank construction and development remain in the initial stage, with existing think tanks in underdeveloped regions showing considerable gaps compared with modernized, professional think tanks. To build a batch of professional high-end new think tanks, underdeveloped regions must closely follow new think tank development laws, improve the policy system supporting new think tank development, and vigorously solve prominent problems in think tank operation mechanisms and systems.

First, improve fiscal support policies for new think tank construction. Currently, most existing think tanks in underdeveloped regions are official and semi-official think tanks funded by fiscal appropriations. This “feeding” method, on the one hand, leads to rigid think tank management and operation mechanisms lacking flexibility and independence, and on the other hand, is unfavorable to market competition and hinders private think tank development. Therefore, building a

modernized new think tank system should change think tank funding methods, replacing “fiscal appropriations” with competitive and diversified fiscal support policies, while simultaneously establishing special funds for local private think tank development to support their growth and encourage all types of think tanks to participate more in decision-making consultation services.

Second, improve legal support policies for new think tank construction. Underdeveloped regions can increase support for new think tank construction and development from the perspective of improving local legal systems. For example, make decision-making consultation a statutory component of government decision-making at all levels, especially for major decisions concerning socioeconomic development and people’s livelihoods, and establish and improve long-term mechanisms for new think tank participation in decision-making consultation. Simultaneously, legally clarify the non-profit or private non-enterprise legal status of private think tanks, enabling corporate legal person-type private think tanks to enjoy certain preferential policies when providing public welfare decision-making consultation services.

Third, improve information resource sharing support policies for new think tank construction. The survival and development of think tanks, particularly private think tanks, depends on access to comprehensive and accurate information data resources needed for public policy research. Compared with developed regions, underdeveloped regions currently lag in information resource sharing and in building large databases and online retrieval systems, mainly because government information shared with society mostly involves business operation and management levels, while information data concerning research and decision-making levels is relatively lacking. Therefore, the government information disclosure and sharing mechanism must be improved, the scope of government information sharing further expanded, and information data for research and decision-making that does not involve secrets gradually disclosed and shared with decision-making consultation institutions. Big data application and development should be accelerated, and various large databases and digital information platforms needed for new think tank construction and development should be established.

4.3 Curbing Brain Drain and Smoothing Talent Mobility Channels

First, establish and improve talent mobility compensation and other systems to curb long-term brain drain. China’s unbalanced regional development will cause brain drain in underdeveloped areas to continue. Against this backdrop, the “13th Five-Year Plan” outline proposes improving incentive policies for wages, medical treatment, professional title evaluation, and pension security to encourage talent to flow to frontline grassroots positions, central and western regions, and remote and 艰苦 areas. To prevent intensified brain drain, underdeveloped regions must adopt effective measures to curb long-term talent loss, and even establishing talent mobility compensation systems to impose certain restrictions on developed regions’ “talent poaching” is not inappropriate. On the

one hand, establish and improve talent mobility compensation mechanisms and related systems to prevent developed regions from arbitrarily “poaching talent” from underdeveloped areas, requiring developed regions that “poach talent” to pay certain economic compensation to underdeveloped regions or provide corresponding counterpart support. On the other hand, strive to improve living treatment and working conditions for talent in underdeveloped regions, narrowing the gap with developed regions, and adopt effective measures to retain and attract talent by establishing and improving talent incentive systems.

Second, establish good think tank talent mobility mechanisms and channels. Talent mobility helps improve think tank talent quality and increase think tank vitality. From the current situation, new think tank construction in underdeveloped regions remains in the initial stage, lacking effective talent mobility mechanisms in think tank talent team construction to promote benign talent flow among government, enterprises, and think tanks. Therefore, strengthening think tank talent team construction requires, on the one hand, learning from foreign “revolving door” systems, conducting pilot trials, and actively exploring local practice paths. On the other hand, institutional mechanism reforms must be carried out in personnel, financial, and management systems to establish long-term mechanisms that smooth talent mobility channels among government, enterprises, and think tanks. What underdeveloped regions can do at the current stage includes gradually carrying out think tank personnel system reforms, issuing policies encouraging think tank experts and young scholars to take up positions or temporary posts in relevant government departments, and encouraging retired or retiring government leading cadres to engage in public policy research in think tanks. Selecting think tank experts and young scholars for temporary posts at party and government departments at all levels represents a relatively feasible current approach.

4.4 Strengthening Supporting Disciplines and Vigorously Cultivating Policy Analysis Talent New think tank construction and development requires large numbers of professional public policy analysis talent. Public policy studies is the main supporting discipline for think tank construction and development. This discipline’s construction has high alignment with new think tank construction, with mutual promotion and complementarity. The purpose of discipline construction and development is to cultivate professional talent. Professor Ding Huang believes that the purpose of public policy studies education is to enable public policy analysis methods to have substantive influence on policy, and the talent it cultivates should become policy analysis experts in their fields [10]. Therefore, promoting new think tank construction requires strengthening think tank supporting disciplines and vigorously cultivating professional public policy analysis talent.

The State Council’s issuance of the “Overall Plan for Coordinating the Construction of World-Class Universities and First-Class Disciplines” and the current “Double First-Class” construction underway in universities nationwide represent

concrete implementations of General Secretary Xi Jinping' s important speech spirit at the Philosophy and Social Sciences Work Symposium. In universities' "Double First-Class" construction projects, the main disciplines supporting think tank development have been listed as key discipline construction areas by many universities. Therefore, underdeveloped regions must seize this opportunity, take "Double First-Class" construction as an opportunity, integrate resources, strengthen public administration, public policy studies, and other discipline construction, vigorously cultivate talent, and effectively consolidate the foundation for think tank talent team construction. First, support local universities in strengthening public policy discipline construction, mainly by supporting universities with mature disciplinary conditions to establish public policy studies as an interdisciplinary discipline and cultivate a public policy discipline system, attaching great importance to public policy analysis talent cultivation [11]. Second, support qualified schools in building public policy analysis laboratories based on policy experiment bases, databases, talent training platforms, and government cooperation platforms.

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