

Endowments for Think Tanks in developing countries: What role for private foundations and official donors?

OECD Headquarters
Château de la Muette, 2 rue André Pascal, 75016 Paris – Room D
28 April 2008

AGENDA

12:00– 13.45

Working Lunch – Setting the Stage

Introductory Remarks

Javier Santiso, Director and Chief Development Economist, OECD Development Centre

Food for thought: “Think tanks in developing countries – What are the needs?”

Ignacio Walker, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and President of CIEPLAN, Chile

Guiding Questions

- Why should donors and foundations support think tanks instead of other local actors?
- What are local think tanks doing to promote better public policies in developing countries?
- What are their major constraints in doing so?
- How can donors and foundations better support the activities of local think tanks?

14:00 – 15:30

Session I – Why partner up to give think tanks core support?

Chair: Mario Pezzini, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development

Why should official donors work with private foundations?

Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, Secretary General, AECI (Spain)

The IDRC-Hewlett Think Tank Initiative

Maureen O’Neil, President, IDRC

Paul Brest, President, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation

Open Discussion

Guiding Questions

- What can donors and foundations gain from working together?
- What are the venues for further donor-foundation collaboration?
- How can donors and foundation foster research capacity and strengthen independence among developing countries think tanks?
- What are the lessons learnt from the IDRC-Hewlett Think Tanks initiative?

15:30 – 16:00

Coffee break

16:00 – 17:30

Session II – A proposal: Endowments for developing-country think tanks working on fiscal issues

Chair: Mario Pezzini, Deputy Director, OECD Public Governance and Territorial Development

Presentation of the Proposal

Javier Santiso, Director and Chief Development Economist, OECD Development Centre

Comments:

The challenge of fostering independent local research on fiscal policy issues

Jeffrey Owens, Director, OECD Centre for Tax Policy & Administration

The challenge of creating endowments

Adrian Ionescu, Director, Local Government and Public Service Reform Initiative, Open Society Institute

The challenge of maintaining independence despite foreign funding

Carol Adelman, Director, Center for Global Prosperity, Hudson Institute

Open Discussion

Guiding Questions:

- Endowments:
 - Optimal size and type
 - Nature of contributors and size of their contributions
 - Investments
 - Management
 - Governance
 - New funders
 - Other technical questions (law, tax exemption benefits, etc.)
- Selection of beneficiaries
 - Criteria
 - Priorities (needs definition, core funding, capacity building)
 - Procedure
 - Assistance
 - Review & Assessment

17:30 – 18:00

Wrap up

Summary and Conclusions

Jeffrey Owens, Director, OECD Centre for Tax Policy & Administration

Next Steps

Stephen Groff, Deputy Director, OECD Development Co-operation Directorate
Javier Santiso, Director, OECD Development Centre