



TTCSP
THINK TANKS AND CIVIL SOCIETIES PROGRAM
UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

The United Nations and The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program Present:

*Why Think Tanks Matter to Policy Makers and
the Public: Getting to Yes on Arms Control
(Nuclear Non-Proliferation), Development (SDGs)
and the Environment (COP21)²*

At the United Nations

Conference Room 2, 46th Street and 1st Avenue, New York, New York 10017

January 28, 2016
3:00pm – 4:30pm

I. Welcome: Amr Nour, Director Regional Commissions New York Office,
United Nations (United States)

II. Introduction, Overview and Highlights: the 2015 Global Go To Think
Tank Index by James McGann, Director (TTCSP) and Editor Global Go
To Index

Chair: Thomas G. Weiss, Presidential Professor, the Graduate Center of
the City University of New York

Panelists:

- Jackson Ewing, Director of Asian Sustainability, Asia Society Policy
Institute (United States)
- Amr Nour, Director Regional Commissions New York Office,
United Nations (United States)
- Steve Del Rosso, Director, International Peace & Security Program,
Carnegie (United States)

III. Concluding Remarks: James McGann and Amr Nour

²*A panel of think tanks and global policy makers will present and discuss the role think tanks have played in getting to Yes on key policy issues.

DESCRIPTION

In recent years, the increasing accessibility and diffusion of knowledge and technology worldwide have brought the four corners of the world within our reach. And in this ever more globalized reality, the interdependence and competition among states, nongovernmental organizations, and transnational corporations have only intensified. In this context, there is increasing evidence of the emergence of what some have called “idea capitals,” or cities that act as magnets for talent, innovation, and creativity. What these discussions have failed to address, however, is the potential of these centers in shaping local, national and global public policy. With their concentrations of dynamic individuals and organizations, these so-called “global cities” are poised to lead the world in policy innovation, provided that they focus on translating the knowledge they develop into policy progress. Today’s program is designed to explore both the global cities and how they might serve as international hubs for private and public innovation.

This program marks the ninth annual event organized by Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) at the University of Pennsylvania to acknowledge the important contributions of think tanks worldwide. Our initial effort to produce a global ranking of the world’s leading think tanks in 2006 was in response to a series of requests from donors, government officials, journalists, and scholars who wanted the TTCSP to identify the leading think tanks in the world. Since its inception, our objective for the Global Go To Think Tank Index report have been to gain a better understanding of the role think tanks play in governments and civil societies. Using this knowledge, we hope to help enhance the quality, capacity and performance of think tanks around the world.

We are pleased to report that 4,677 journalists, policy makers, think tanks and public and private donors from 143 countries participated in this year’s ranking process. Last year’s edition of the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report was downloaded over 175,000 times from March 1, 2015- December 31, 2015 and there are now 47,000 individuals that follow the follow the annual ranking process.

The theme of this year’s launch of the Go-To Index is: *Why Think Tanks Matter to Policy Makers and the Public* and will involve 100s of think tanks and other civil society actors in approximately 60 countries, 70 cities. These partner institutions will produce a series of coordinated events that are intended to highlight the important role think tanks play in governments and civil societies around the world. The Program at the World Bank will focus on **the role of think tanks play in global public policy and specifically in areas of arms control, environment, and development.**



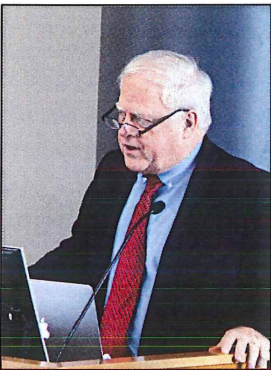
The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP) is designed to increase the profile, capacity, and performance of think tanks at the national, regional, and global levels, so they can better serve policymakers and the public. TTCSP conducts research on the relationship between think tanks, politics, and public policy, produces the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index, develops capacity-building resources and programs, supports a global network of close to 7,000 think tanks, and trains future think tank scholars and executives. The TTCSP is often referred to as the “think tanks think tank”.

BIOGRAPHY



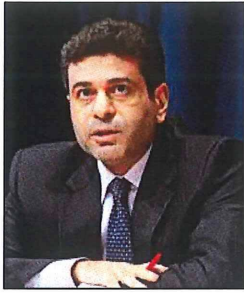
Jackson Ewing is the Director of Asian Sustainability at the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) in New York, where he leads projects on environmental cooperation, responsible resource development, and international climate change policy.

Prior to joining ASPI, Jackson led the Environment, Climate Change, and Food Security Program at Singapore’s S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). He has worked throughout Asia with actors in government, the private sector, civil society, and international organizations, and he has carried out policy projects addressing transboundary environmental stresses, unsustainable food value chains, and the nexus of systemic water, food, and energy challenges. Jackson publishes widely through a range of mediums and is a regular contributor to radio, television, and print media. He holds a doctorate in environmental security and a master’s degree in international relations from Bond University, a bachelor’s degree in political science from the College of Charleston, and an ongoing fellowship at RSIS.



James G. McGann, Ph.D. is a senior lecturer of International Studies at the Lauder Institute and director of the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania. Prior to assuming his current post, Dr. McGann was the assistant director of the International Relations Program and a professor of international relations at the University of Pennsylvania. He has served as a senior fellow and director of the Think Tanks and Foreign Policy Program at the Foreign Policy Research Institute in Philadelphia since 1989.

For the last 25 years he has served as president of McGann Associates, a program and management consulting firm specializing in the challenges facing think tanks, policymakers, international organizations and philanthropic institutions. His research and consulting have enabled him to work with governments and civil society organization in over 4 countries. Dr. McGann is the creator and editor of the annual Global Go To Think Tank Index.



Amr Nour is currently the Director of the United Nations Regional Commissions' Office in New York. In this capacity, he is responsible for providing strategic policy advice on a broad array of economic and social development issues on the global agenda with a bearing on the regional work undertaken by the Regional Commissions. He is also leading inter-regional coordination and collaboration efforts among the Commissions.

Before joining his current functions, Mr. Nour worked as a research and evaluation officer at the United Nations (UN). He conducted in depth UN system-wide programmatic and technical cooperation audits in the field, in addition to management evaluations, including on results-based management and reform in the UN system. Prior to joining the UN, Mr. Nour worked as a diplomat advising the Government of Egypt on issues of foreign policy. His portfolio included, among others, the political economy of energy, trade-related issues and negotiations, as well as the sustainable development agenda. Mr. Nour also covered in-depth a number of political issues, including as a delegate to the Security Council. He represented his government in several global conferences and UN main and subsidiary bodies and led negotiations on behalf of several political groupings at the UN. Mr. Nour carries a Masters in Public Administration from Syracuse University, United States; a Masters in Political Science from the University of Paris I/Sorbonne, France; in addition to Law and Engineering Degrees from Cairo University, Egypt. He also carries post-graduate certificates in international law and Middle-Eastern studies.

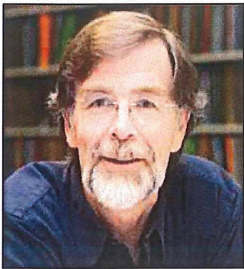


Stephen Del Rosso was recruited to the Corporation by President Vartan Gregorian from the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations, where he served as director of programs for one of the country's largest and most active international affairs forums. Mr. Del Rosso's previous foundation experience includes management of The Pew Charitable Trusts' Global Security grantmaking program for almost six years and coordination of its final efforts in Eastern and Central Europe. A former career diplomat, Mr. Del Rosso served nearly 10 years in the U.S. Foreign Service, with overseas assignments

in Central America and the Caribbean during the height of U.S. engagement in the region in the mid-1980s. In Washington, he had tours in the Department of State's operations center and as staff officer to Secretary of State George P. Shultz, during which he also participated in numerous overseas missions. His other Foreign Service assignments included program coordinator of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, arms control legislative management officer, and director of the office of legislative operations. He was also a presidential management intern (now fellow) in the international affairs division of NASA, news producer at Voice of America, and principal staff assistant to Sir Julian Critchley, a British Member of Parliament.

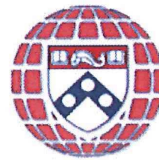
Mr. Del Rosso holds a PhD in political science from the University of Pennsylvania, an MALD from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, where he was an Earhart Fellow, a diploma in international studies from the Bologna Center of the Johns Hopkins School of

Advanced International Studies, and a BA in English from Tufts University. He is a member of the board of the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre; chairman emeritus of the board of the Baltic-American Partnership Fund (an independent grantmaking foundation established by USAID and the Open Society Foundations); and an associate fellow at the Geneva Centre on Security Policy. He is also a member of Human Rights Watch Europe and Central Asia Advisory Committee, the Council on Foreign Relations, International Institute for Strategic Studies, American Political Science Association, and International Studies Association.



Thomas G. Weiss holds an M.A. and a Ph.D. from Princeton University and a B.A. from Harvard University. Between 1998, when he first came to the Graduate Center, and 2014, he served as director of the Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies. A leading expert on the United Nations and on humanitarian intervention, Weiss has written extensively about international organizations, conflict management, humanitarian action, the Responsibility to Protect doctrine, North-South relations, and U.S. foreign policy. He is sole author of ten books, is coauthor or editor of more than forty other books, and has published more than 225 articles and book chapters. His latest authored books are *Governing the World? Addressing “Problems without Passports”* (2014) and *Humanitarian Business* (2013). He currently directs two research projects, *Wartime History and the Future United Nations*, and the *Future United Nations Development System*. Weiss has held leadership positions and professional posts in academic research institutes and in prominent nongovernmental organizations and think tanks, among them Brown University’s Watson Institute for International Studies, the Academic Council on the UN System, the International Peace Academy, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty. Weiss served as president of the International Studies Association (ISA) (2009–10), editor of *Global Governance* (2000–05), and director of the UN Intellectual History Project (1999–2010). A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, International Institute for Strategic Studies, and ISA, he currently is editor of the book series “Global Institutions” (Routledge) and serves on eight editorial boards.

PARTNER INSTITUTIONS



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