Think tanks and global development thinking

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Introduction

Policy environment in developing world influenced by international development community

Local perspectives needed – role for think tanks

Limited direct impact by think tanks on development policy

Changes taking place - think tanks linking and influencing international development community
Local think tanks shaping global thinking

Disseminate research findings through international and regional media

Build relations with the international policy community

Become a “go-to” institution

Building relationships with key institutions in our region and overseas
Local think tanks shaping global thinking

IPAR staff attend international conferences

IPAR’s growing reputation

Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Projects</th>
<th>Project Funder, Joint Research Partners</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aid for Trade</td>
<td>International Centre for Trade and Development/OECD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aid Effectiveness</td>
<td>Action Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EAC Tax Incentives</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tax for SMES</td>
<td>European Centre for Development  Policy Management (ECPDM)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Examining the impact of land reform on Women</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic Empowerment</td>
<td>OXFAM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Role of HEs for Employment Creation and</td>
<td>World Bank</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty Reduction in Rwanda</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Millennium Development Goals</td>
<td>UNDP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Partnerships, Networks, Shared Research Projects

Center for International Governance Initiative
AGI
ACET
IPPR
Aberdeen
Sussex
Surrey
IGC
CHEMONICS
Research Africa
EPRN Rwanda
AERC
EAC TTN
Witz University
Increasing influence in international debates

Millennium Development Goals
– Report findings influenced UN decision to appoint HE Paul Kagame to Co-Chair the Implementation Group.

How can donors ‘do no harm’ and maximise their positive impact?

“Rwanda’s experience with aid delivery in many ways can serve as a model for donors as they attempt to design programmes elsewhere with state-building in mind

(LSE, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, IPAR Rwanda)
Increasing influence in international debates

- ‘Local knowledge’ our key asset
- Continue ‘democratizing’ the development policy space
- Space needed for knowledge sharing between think-tanks
Research and policy challenges

- Governance and leadership
- Recruiting, retaining and building research capacity
- Media knowledge and relations
- Balancing core funded research projects with commissioned projects
- Competing in “advice market”
- Developing stable funding base.
The future – influencing the global through the national

- Public policy issues need solutions backed by evidence
- Socio-economic problems need solutions tailored to local circumstances
- Local think-tanks growing in experience and capacity to carry out strong research
- Influencing debates in developing world - more policy borrowing and innovation
The future – influencing the global through the national

Disseminate work through international media networks

Eastward shifts in global balance of power (BRICS)? Opening up policy space for developing world influence (East African Community)?

Solid partnerships between think tanks in developed and developing world
Thank you

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