



Practice and Exploration of Think Tanks Construction in China "Double First Class" Universities with Industry Characteristics — A Case Study on China University of Geosciences, Beijing

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Abstract: Today's world is facing profound changes unseen in a century. New Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics are playing an important role in promoting the modernization of national governance system and governance capacity, and the construction has achieved remarkable results. However, there is still more room for the development of Chinese university think tanks, especially those with industry characteristics. Education is an important cornerstone for national rejuvenation and social progress. The construction of world-class universities and first-class disciplines should meet the major strategic needs of the country, the main battlefield of the economy and society, and the frontiers of science and technology development. The connotation construction of colleges and universities should strengthen the close integration of academic exploration and serving the needs of the country. In the process of building new-type Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics, "Double First Class" Universities with industry characteristics should adhere to the principles of focusing on national needs, give play to their characteristics, innovate systems and mechanisms, and lead the development of the industry. China University of Geosciences, Beijing, is actively building the new-type university Think Tank with Chinese characteristics in the first round of "Double First Class" construction cycle. Relying on the two first-class disciplines of geology, geological resources and geological engineering, it takes the interdisciplinary integration as the starting point, and conducts Think Tank research in the field of natural resources around three centers, two forums, and one report. The construction of the Natural Resources Strategic Development Institute helps to explore how to achieve the goal of building a world-class university in the field of earth science while serving the major needs of the country and the industry.

Keywords: new-type Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics, university Think Tanks, "Double First Class" Universities, university with industry characteristics

In January 2015, the general offices of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council jointly issued the "Opinions on Strengthening Development of Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics", which pointed out that new Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics is an important support for making scientific decisions, an important part of the modernization of national governance system and governance capacity, and an important part of the country's soft power. The new-type Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics is non-profit research and consulting institutions[1], focusing on strategic issues, public policies and serving the scientific, democratic and law-based decision of the party and government. Think Tanks in universities with industry characteristics, are an important part of new-type Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics. With three advantages of complete disciplines, numerous scholars and leading academic, universities Think Tanks should adapt to the requirements of the state, industry and field development, as also as improving the quality, social contribution and international influence. "The Promotion Plan for the Construction of New-type University Think Tanks with Chinese Characteristics" proposes to innovate the system and mechanism, integrate high-quality resources, build the brand of university Think Tanks and promote the overall improvement of the social service ability of universities according to the principles of overall design, combination of point and area, emphasis on key points and classified implementation. "The Implementation Measures for Promoting the Construction of World-class Universities and Disciplines (Interim)" proposes that the "Double First Class" Universities should form new high-end Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics, make outstanding contributions to national and regional economic transformation, industrial upgrading and technological transformation, and serving national security and social and public security. We should apply new knowledge and theories to understand the world, carry forward civilization, popularize science, educate people and serve society.

Universities with industry characteristics are an important part of Chinese higher education, playing an irreplaceable role in economic construction and social development, and making important contributions to promoting the rapid development of the industry. China University of Geosciences, Beijing (hereinafter referred to as "CUGB"), built by Ministry of Education

of the People's Republic of China and Ministry of Natural Resources of the People's Republic of China, is an "Double First Class" University with industry characteristics. The university has two first-class disciplines, geology, geological resources and geological engineering. CUGB plays an important role in Chinese natural resources, especially in discipline construction, talent training, scientific research, international influence and strategy development. The world is undergoing profound changes unseen in a century. As the largest developing country in the world, China's strategic development of natural resources provides a strong guarantee for building an open world economy and a community with a shared future for mankind, accelerating the top design and system construction of ecological civilization, providing the scientific basis for government decision-making are the responsibilities and missions for CUGB to build a research university Think Tank with industry characteristics.

1. Construction of "Double First Class" Universities Think Tanks with industry characteristics

In 2021, "2020 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report", an authoritative assessment of Global Think Tanks, was released. For the first time, there are 1,413 Think Tanks from China, ranking 2nd, just behind the United States with 2,203. Among them, 8 Chinese Think Tanks are listed in the comprehensive list of the world's top Think Tanks, and only Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy and Institute of International and Strategic Studies Peking University are university Think Tanks. In "Top 100 Think Tanks of Asian Powers (China, India, Japan and South Korea)", there are only four Think Tanks in universities: Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Institute of International and Strategic Studies Peking University, Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies Renmin University, Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding Peking University [2]. After several years of construction, the new-type Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics has improved greatly on the whole. The number of university Think Tanks has increased during the first round of "Double First Class" construction, but the official think tank is the main one in terms of construction effectiveness and influence. In "Chinese Think Tanks Report (2018): Influence Ranking and Policy Suggestions" by Center for Think Tank Studies, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, the top 10 university Think Tanks are all world-class universities, among which only one with industry characteristics is Institute of Public Policy, South China University of Technology. The other 9 are comprehensive universities [3]. University Think Tanks mainly are constructed in comprehensive universities. For universities with industry characteristics, although they have remarkable achievements in one or certain disciplines, on the whole in active service national development they also has the very big development space, especially in the research contents, technical means, mode of transmission. Comparing with world's top Think Tanks, we should keep developing in the face of modernization, the world and the future, also we should strengthen the reform and innovation.

2. Practice and exploration of Think Tanks construction in CUGB

2.1 General idea

CUGB is a research university with distinctive features and long history. It is characterized by geology, resources, geo-engineering technology and environment, with coordinated development of science, engineering, liberal arts, management, economics and law. Geology, geological resources and geological engineering are approved as the national world-class construction disciplines in 2017. During the first round of "Double First Class" universities construction, CUGB actively build the first new Think Tank with Chinese characteristics — Institute of Natural Resources Strategic Development (hereinafter referred to as "Strategic Institute"). This Think Tank is the implementation of Xi Jinping Thought on Ecological Civilization. It's the exploration to push forward Five-sphere Integrated Plan and Four-pronged Comprehensive Strategy, focus on the national strategy, services China strategic natural resources development accurately. The Think Tank relies on the talents and academic advantages of university to promote economic growth, strengthens the close integration of academic exploration and national needs, and develops the university to achieve the goal of building a world-class university in earth science while serving the major needs of the country and the industry.

2.2 Positioning objectives

CUGB actively serves the development of the country. Strategic Institute is guided by the needs of the country, aims to help the strategic development of natural resources, features frontier academic research, offers advice and suggestions as its mission, and takes collaborative education as its own responsibility, explores a new model for the joint construction of two ministries, and conducts research on major issues in the development of natural resources. The development orientation of Strategic Institute is to provide the Party Central Committee and the State Council with relevant suggestions on natural resource policy and strategic development and ecological civilization construction based on academic research results,

and provide policy suggestions, development suggestions and decision-making references with academic value for the Ministry of Natural Resources, China Geological Survey, local governments and the natural resources industry, makes new attempts for the Ministry of Education's collaborative education requirements, and conducts beneficial explorations for the development of industry-university-research integration in universities with industry characteristics.

During the construction of Strategic Institute, disciplines are the cornerstone of constructing "Double First Class" University. The key disciplines to achieving the goal of world-class university in the field of earth science are placed on geosciences. Strategic Institute faces the world's scientific and technological frontiers and national strategic needs, clarifies the connotation, goals and paths of earth system science construction, realizes the transformation and upgrading of the discipline system, innovates the discipline construction model, gives play to the leading role of advantageous disciplines, promotes the coordinated development of other disciplines, promotes the collaborative innovation of production, education and research, and continuously improves the ability to serve economic and social development. Focusing on the school's development goals, the university formulates a detailed plan for the development of Strategic Institute, and sharpens a sword in ten years. It will take two years for pilot construction, exploring industry-university-research model and providing Think Tank products. It will take two years for mature construction to form authoritative Think Tank service products in the field of natural resources, explore and improve the strategic development of natural resources and innovative talent training models. It will take six years to expand development and build branch courts.

2.3 Practice

CUGB is an industry characteristics, study as the main advantage disciplines. Depending on advantage disciplines, Strategic Institute runs in "small core, large network, open work" mode, serves for China's natural resources management decision-making and the development of natural resources industry, and cultivates talents in the natural resources industry.

Relying on the university's two first-class disciplines of geology, geological resources and geological engineering and its multi-disciplinary advantages, Strategic Institute takes the interdisciplinary integration and collaborative innovation as the main focus, actively serves the needs of the country, hires top talents at home and abroad, and carries out its work around three centers, two forums and one report. The Natural Resources Rule of Law Research Center focuses on key and difficult issues in the field of natural resources rule of law construction through the mechanism of integration of government, industry, education and research. Through special and key research, it provides theoretical and think tank support for national natural resources legislation and policies, and provides Think Tank consulting services for enterprise development. Ecological Rehabilitation Center, focuses on the development of science and technology research and decision support, and promotes the innovation in ecological restoration theory, technology promotion and related achievements, perfects policies and regulations, improves the ecological restoration, ecological restoration talent cultivation to establish "production, study, research, government, enterprises" innovation platform, practice "two mountains" concept, and boost the construction of ecological civilization. The Carbon Neutral Research Center, in response to the country's major needs, is dominated by outstanding young scholars in the fields of geology, mining and petroleum industries to promote the green and low-carbon development.

Strategic Institute carries out two brand activities of Strategist Forum and Youth Forum. The Strategists Forum focuses on the country's major strategic needs about natural resources, takes innovation as the driving force, maintains strategic thinking, promotes innovation in energy science and technology, boosts the development of the industry, and supports national decision-making. The Youth Forum is positioned as an academic platform for young scholars in natural resources field to communicate and grow together.

Strategic Institute publishes "Report on the Development of Natural Resources in China" to analyze the development trends, policies, hot issues in the field of natural resources, provide information reference and decision-making support for the high-quality development of the natural resources industry, serve the country's natural resource management, enterprises and institutions, provide reference for the scientific decision-making of government departments and actively play the role of university Think Tank for political advice.

2.4 Basic structure

Strategic Institute, as an entity, is a scientific research department. It actively explores the model of board-entity-academic committee construction, carries out in the form of research centers, coordinates internal and external resources, and builds professional management and research team with reasonable structure. Through global recruitment, industry competition and university selection, the leading mechanism of Think Tank research section will be established. Through Think Tank researcher system, the channel of talent sharing between Think Tank and departments is constructed to form an open and rolling research team. Through the construction of chinese-style "revolving door". multiple channels will be implemented to absorb senior researchers by full-time and part-time combination.

The Council implements the decision-making system of council, and is responsible for the decision-making, overall planning and coordination of major academic and administrative issues. The entity implements the decision-making system of the party-government joint meeting. It is fully responsible for carrying out the research work. The chief experts are responsible for setting up research centers. The Academic Committee adopts the mechanism of expert consultation meeting, which is responsible for putting forward suggestions for the development direction of Strategic Institute, clarifying the academic objectives, tasks and social service directions of each research center, and strictly controlling the quality of Think Tank products submitted by Strategic Institute. The Academic Committee is composed of authoritative experts from universities, scientific research institutes, geological exploration units, mining enterprises, financial institutions and relevant industry associations. The members adopt the tenure system, and combine full-time, part-time and re-employment.

3. Thoughts on the construction of "Double First Class" Universities Think Tanks with industry characteristics

Education is an important cornerstone of national rejuvenation and social progress. The construction of "Double First Class" Universities Think Tanks with industry characteristics, should meet the major strategic needs of the country, the main battlefield of the economy and society, and the frontiers of science and technology development. The connotation construction for universities should strengthen the close integration of academic exploration and national needs. In the process of building a modern Think Tank with Chinese characteristics, "Double First-class" universities with industry characteristics must closely focus on the requirements of the modernization of the national governance system and governance capacity, implement the requirements of the Ministry of Education for collaborative education, and insist on focusing on national needs, giving play to university advantages, innovating system and mechanism, and leading industry development. The following five suggestions are proposed.

(1) Highlight the professional advantages of "Double First Class" Universities with industry characteristics, strengthen interdisciplinary integration research, and create a distinctive Think Tank brand.

(2) Actively explore the management system and operation mode of new Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics, strengthen scientific management, fully implement achievement incentive measures, and establish a modern Think Tank operation mechanism.

(3) Adhere the basic task of talent training, focus on cultivating compound Think Tank talents, and enhance the core competitiveness of Think Tanks.

(4) Strengthen external intelligence by "revolving door" of Chinese-style Think Tanks, and realize the combination of theoretical research and practice by talents flow. That makes the advice of senior officials more scientific and operable.

(5) Innovate and optimize the external publicity way by new technologies. Improve the quality and influence of Think Tank achievements.

During the construction of new Think Tanks with Chinese characteristics, "Double First Class" Universities with industry characteristics focus on interdisciplinary integration research, relies on disciplines, scholars, academics, and strives to achieve "excellence, science, quality, and effectively improve the ability to serve decision-making level", reflects "high vision, prophetic vision, father vision"[4]. In the new round of "Double First Class" construction, universities with industry characteristics should strengthen the high-quality development, while actively serving the development of the country. The universities should cultivate a group of young talents with patriotism, play a better role in the strategic development of various industries. It is necessary to provide accurate counsel and service, launch a series of high-quality masterpieces with social influence, and make new contributions in social services.

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