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Israeli Think Tanks Among the Most Influential in the World

While Israeli universities are on the decline, Israeli think tanks are on the way up. The first ever ranking of the world's leading public policy research organizations has placed 9 Israeli think tanks among the top 407. Out of a total of 48 Israeli think tanks considered for evaluation, the 9 best Israeli public policy research organizations also made it to the top 25 think tank list in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The 2008 Global Survey of Think Tanks published by the University of Pennsylvania is a result of a study that evaluated 5,465 think tanks worldwide. Out of the 5,465 institutions considered by a panel of experts, 407 think tanks were nominated to the list of Global "Go-To Think Tanks". Only 48 Israeli think tanks were nominated for evaluation, and only 218 think tanks for the MENA region as a whole. Out of these 218 think tanks in the MENA region, 21 met the criteria for being placed on the list of the "Top 25 Think Tanks in Middle East and North Africa".

The 9 best Israeli think tanks that made it to the top 25 in MENA, and the top 407 worldwide are:

1. The Institute for National Security Studies (#3 in MENA)
2. The Economic Cooperation Foundation (#12 in MENA)
3. The Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (#15 in MENA)
4. The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute (#16 in MENA)
5. The Israel-Palestine Center for Research and Information (IPCRI) (#17 in MENA)
6. The Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies (#18 in MENA)
7. The Israel Center for Social and Economic Progress (#19 in MENA)
8. The Reut Institute (#20 in MENA)
9. The Rabin Center for Israeli Studies (#21 in MENA).

The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania, created a process for ranking think tanks around the world. It's the first comprehensive ranking of the world's top think tanks, based on a worldwide survey of hundreds of scholars and experts. Think of it as an insider's guide to the competitive marketplace for ideas that matter.

This project grew out of never ending requests from journalists, scholars and government officials who want a list of the leading think tanks in a particular country or region of the world. Global "Go-To Think Tanks" is the culmination of 18 months of polling and surveying to create that list.

Prior to launching this study, extensive research was conducted to develop a working list of the leading think tanks in the world. Relying on previous studies, think tank directories and databases, and experts in the field, the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania identified a universe of 5465 institutions for possible inclusion in the study.

Once the universe was established, an international group of scholars who study think tanks, executives and scholars from think tanks, public and private donors, and policymakers to nominate think tanks that they consider to be the best in the world using the selection criteria was developed in consultation with groups who fund and evaluate think tanks and other civil society organizations.

The full study is available to download

at www.sas.upenn.edu/irp/documents/2008_Global_Go_To_Think_Tanks.pdf

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About the Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies

The Jerusalem Institute for Market Studies (JIMS) is an independent, non-profit economic policy think tank whose mission is to promote social progress in Israel through economic freedom and individual liberty. JIMS' website is <http://www.jims-israel.org>.