**23 January 2015**

**EMBARGOED 2.30AM FRIDAY JANUARY 23**

**AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS NAMED TOP THINK TANK IN THE REGION**

The Australian Institute of International Affairs has been voted the top think tank in South East Asia and the Pacific, in the annual Global Go To Think Tanks Index.

The Index, compiled by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program based at the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania, acknowledges the important contributions and emerging global trends of think tanks worldwide.

The Index began in 2006, in response to requests from donors, government officials, journalists, and scholars to produce regional and international rankings of the world’s pre-eminent think tanks.

The Index, which was released at **2.30 am** this morning, places the AIIA at the top of the regional Index, with the Lowy Institute and the Strategic and Defence Studies Centre at number 5 and number 8 respectively (see Table 10 excerpt below).

**The report will be released officially at the Australian Institute of International Affairs, Stephen House, 32 Thesiger Court, Deakin at 10am today, 23 January.**

The AIIA’s National Executive Director, Melissa Conley Tyler, said the top ranking recognised the Institute’s 91 year history as an independent non-political body promoting an interest in, and understanding of, international affairs. (www.internationalaffairs.org.au)

“We are delighted that the Institute has been recognised as the top think tank in the region by this prestigious Index”, Ms Conley Tyler said.

“We also congratulate all of the other Australian think tanks listed in the Index. In Australia, there are 29 think tanks, and we’re pleased that our work to provide high-quality analysis and comment on international affairs has been so highly ranked”.

Full copies of the **8th Annual Global Go to Think Tank Index Report** can be obtained by contacting intern3@internationalaffairs.org.au.

**NOTE EMBARGO**

Top Think Tanks in Southeast Asia and the Pacific

Table 10

1. Australian Institute for International Affairs (AIIA) (Australia)

2. Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) (Indonesia)

3. Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) (New Zealand)

4. Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA) (Singapore)

5. Lowy Institute for International Policy (Australia)

6. Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) (Malaysia)

7. Taiwan Foundation for Democracy (TFD) (Taiwan)

8. Strategic and Defense Studies Centre (SDSC) (Australia)

9. Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) (Singapore)

10. Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) (Malaysia)

11. Centre for Independent Studies (CIS) (Australia)

12. Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) (Singapore)

13. East Asian Institute (EAI) (Singapore)

14. Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) (Indonesia)

15. Thailand Development Research Institute (TDRI) (Thailand)

16. Pakistan Institute of International Affairs (PIIA) (Pakistan)

17. Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) (Bangladesh)

18. Taiwan Institute of Economic Research (TIER) (Taiwan)

19. Sustainable Development Policy Institute (SDPI) (Pakistan)

20. Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BIISS) (Bangladesh)

21. Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) (Nepal)

22. Institute for Strategic and International Studies (Philippines)

23. Chung-Hua Institution for Economic Research (CIER) (Taiwan)

24. Alternate Solutions Institute (Pakistan)

25. Institute for Social and Environmental Transition (ISET-N) (Nepal)

26. Institute for International Relations (Taiwan)

27. Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) (Bangladesh)

28. Institute for Strategic and Development Studies (ISDS) (Philippines)

29. Social Policy and Development Centre (SPDC) (Pakistan)

30. Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP) (Cambodia)

31. Institute of Policy Studies of Sri Lanka (IPS) (Sri Lanka)

32. Institute of World Economics and Politics (IWEP) (Vietnam)

33. Regional Centre for Strategic Studies (RCSS) (Sri Lanka)

34. Political Risks Assessment Group (Singapore)

35. Institute of Security and International Studies (ISIS) (Thailand)

36. Institute of National Capacity Studies (INCS) (Indonesia)

37. Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) (Pakistan)

38. Brunei Darussalam Institute of Policy and Strategic Studies (BDIPSS) (Brunei)

39. Diplomatic Academy of Vietnam (DAV) (Vietnam)

40. Center for Research on Economic and Social Transformation (CREST) (Pakistan)

41. Vietnam Institute of Economics (VIE) (Vietnam)

42. Centre for Poverty Analysis (CEPA) (Sri Lanka)

43. Economic Institute of Cambodia (EIC) (Cambodia)

44. Alternative Development Initiative (ADI) (Bangladesh)

45. Centre for Strategic and Policy Studies (CSPS) (Brunei)

46. Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD) (Bangladesh)

47. Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (MISIS) (Myanmar)

48. Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) (Bangladesh)

49. Institute for Governance Studies (IGS) (Bangladesh)

50. Associates for Community and Population Research (ACPR) (Bangladesh)

51. Center for Global Studies (Bangladesh)

52. Applied Economics Research Centre (AERC) (Pakistan)

53. Area Study Centre for Far East and Southeast Asia (FESEA) (Pakistan)

54. Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research (Bhutan)

55. Bangladesh Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (BCSIR) (Bangladesh)

56. Institute of Social Welfare and Research (ISWR) (Bangladesh)

57. Centre for Nepal and Asian Studies (CNAS) (Nepal)

58. Asian Institute of Management Policy Center (APC) (Philippines)

59. Nepal South Asia Centre (NESAC) (Nepal)

60. Institute for Social and Environmental Transitions (ISET) (Taiwan)

[[1]](#footnote-1)

1. Think Tanks & Civil Societies Program

The Lauder Institute

The University of Pennsylvania [↑](#footnote-ref-1)