UNU-WIDER MOVES UP TO SIXTH PLACE IN THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT THINK TANKS RANKINGS

For the second year in a row the United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) was ranked in the top ten of international development think tanks according to the 2011 Global Go-To Think Tanks Report. This year UNU-WIDER ranked one place higher, 6th, in the highly competitive category of international development think tanks.

The United Nations University (UNU), the parent organisation of UNU-WIDER, ranks 6th among the world’s ‘Best Government - Affiliated Think Tanks’.

The Global Go-To Think Tank Report is annually produced by the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program of the International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania. The 2011 report—launched on 18 January 2012 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York—comprises the results of the 2011 rankings as well as a summary of the major trends and issues with respect to think tanks worldwide.

UNU-WIDER’s and UNU’s number 6 rankings are one-slot advances from the rankings of the 2010 Global Go-To Think Tanks Report, when both ranked 7th in their respective categories.

The news was welcomed by UNU and UNU-WIDER alike. ‘We are very pleased that the work of the United Nations University has again been evaluated so positively’, commented Professor Konrad Osterwalder, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Rector of UNU. ‘Although such listings must be taken with a grain of salt, I believe our sixth-place rank confirms the success of UNU’s continuing efforts as an academic and research organization within the United Nations, and our role as a bridge between the United Nations system and the international academic and policy-making communities.’

Professor Finn Tarp, Director of UNU-WIDER commented: ‘We highly appreciate the continued recognition of our work. UNU-WIDER strives to be a high-quality, policy-oriented research and capacity-building institution, dedicated to achieving the central goals of the United Nations system, including poverty reduction and sustainable and equitable development.’

UNU-WIDER is based in Helsinki, Finland. The institute is devoted to development economics, multidisciplinary research and policy analysis on development issues, as well as to building analytical capacity of developing country researchers.

Research at UNU-WIDER is undertaken through collaboration with institutions and individuals from the global South and North to achieve a truly global perspective on development. The current work programme focuses on issues around crisis of finance, food and climate change and their impact on economies and societies, as well as other major issues of vital importance to the development community.

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Table 1: 2011 “Top-Thirty International Development Think Tanks” (Top 10)
1. Brookings Institution – United States
2. Center for Global Development – United States
3. Overseas Development Institute (ODI) – United Kingdom
4. Harvard Center for International Development – United States
5. Deutsches Institut fur Entwicklungspolitik, German Development Institute (GDI) – Germany
6. United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER) – Finland
7. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars – United States
8. Institute of Development Studies – United Kingdom
9. International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) – United Kingdom
10. Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS) – Germany

Table 2: 2011 “Best Government Affiliated Think Tanks” (Top 10)
1. Congressional Research Service – United States
2. German Institute for International and Security Affairs (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik SWP) – Germany
3. World Bank Institute (WBI), World Bank – United States
4. Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) – Norway
5. Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies (RUSI) – United Kingdom
6. United Nations University (UNU) – Japan
7. Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) – Japan
8. Center for Eastern Studies (OSW) – Poland
9. Deutsches Institut fur Entwicklunspolitik, German Development Institute (GDI) – Germany
10. Asian Development Bank Institute – Japan

Methodology of the Global Go-To Think Tanks Report:

The 2011 rankings are based on a survey of 6,545 think tanks from 182 countries, as well as some 1,500 policy makers, journalists, and regional and subject-area experts from 120 countries. Expert panels of almost 800 members from around the world—spanning political and academic discipline spectrums—subsequently worked to refine and validate the ranking lists. Given the rigour, scope and depth of the process, the Global Go-To Think Tanks Report has been described as ‘the insider’s guide to the global marketplace of ideas’. A total of 5,329 think tanks from around the world were nominated.

For more see: http://www.gotothinktank.com/