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**GRANDVIEW INSTITUTION**

 **国观智库**  
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## 1. Introduction

The Grandview Institution was founded by Mr. REN Libo (President), former chief correspondent of Xinhua News Agency in Pyongyang. In 2013, Chairman Xi Jinping first proposed the goal of building a “new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics.”<sup>1</sup> This is the clearest and richest instruction on the construction of think tanks ever given by a top central leader. The momentum of Chinese think tanks has thus been “bursting forth.” In May of that year, the Grandview Institution was born at last.

In recent years, it has become popular in China to run think tanks in all sectors of the society with higher expectations, hoping that they can play a greater role in social reforms and progress. In this regard, China’s private think tanks try to come up with significant results responding to the requirements of the new era and new tasks. The Grandview Institution believes that think tanks must first of all have a rigorous data accumulation as research base and carry out policy research out of political discussion, so that they must not “feel something” and boast about it. Secondly, a new type of think tank with Chinese characteristics must be developed for promoting decision-making system, optimizing decision-making process, and improving the quality of decision-making. In addition, excellent researchers should be familiar with the decision-making process with preferable experience. Decision-making should not be detached from the actual operation.

There are various types of think tanks in China, such as media-based think tanks and public relations think tanks, but the atmosphere of domestic think tanks in China is actually not very favorable. “Research” is a long-term process that requires careful cultivation and sustainable growth. Influencing policy-making is not a drum beating, but treading on thin ice with a pragmatic and rigorous attitude.

The Grandview Institution believes that in the era of globalization, national think tanks have influence not only on domestic, but also on foreign governments to some extent. As the exchange between Chinese and foreign think tanks is increasing in a relevant and strategic manner, both are recommended to listen to

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<sup>1</sup> *Why does Xi Jinping put special emphasis on “new type of think tank construction”* [习近平为何特别强调“新型智库建设”], CPN News, Oct. 29, 2014, available at <http://theory.people.com.cn/n/2014/1029/c148980-25928251.html>.

each other's views and opinions, promote mutual understanding and trust, and systemize their respective national decision-making systems.

## 2. Development

Founded in 2013, the Grandview Institution has become one of the leading private independent think tanks in China. In accordance with the China Think Tank Index (CTTI)'s Think Tank Report released in 2018, the Grandview Institution was ranked 6th on the list of China's Social Think Tanks Rating.<sup>2</sup> Other social think tanks on the list include Pangoal Institution, Center for China and Globalization and other well-known think tanks in China. CTTI is jointly developed by the China Think Tank Research and Evaluation Center of Nanjing University and the Think Tank Research and Publication Center of Guangming Daily. For the past years, the authority and objectivity of the CTTI Think Tank Report have been widely recognized by the industry with a high reference value. In addition, the Grandview Institution is the only private and civil think tank in terms of reporting to the central government's decision-making internal reference.



Grandview Institution's headquarters in Beijing

<sup>2</sup> 2018 CTTI Source Think Tank Development Report [2018CTTI 来源智库发展报告] at 10 (PAI Ranking), available at <https://cttrec.nju.edu.cn/DFS//file/2019/09/12/20190912105739668tjg49h.pdf>.

### 3. People



REN Libo (President), born in 1979, graduated from Shandong University with a bachelor's degree in international politics and is currently an EMBA student in Tsinghua University. Before founding the Grandview Institution, Mr. Ren had been working for the Xinhua News Agency for 10 years. In his previous decade-long service to Xinhua News Agency, Libo has been leading various divisions, including the Cankao Xiaoxi, the Xinhua Pyongyang Bureau, the Reference News Department, and the CNC. From 2001 to 2011, he was appointed to draft special reports to CPC Central Committee and the State Council. Also, he has conducted a large amount of in-depth field research and reports on significant political and economic issues, therein his suggestions and work were highly appreciated and have influenced the decision-makers.



TIAN Shichen (Vice-President) was born in 1975, went to the University of Foreign Languages (A.B. in English), PLA, Luoyang, Xi'an Politics Academy (LL.M.), People's Liberation Army (PLA) / University of Nottingham, UK, and Wuhan University (PhD in Public International Law). He was former Director of the Crisis Management Affairs and Media Division of the Information Office of the Ministry of Defense, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Eurasian Bureau of the Office of International Military Cooperation of the Ministry of Defense. Here, Dr. TIAN was responsible for the crisis management and media coverage of major military operations and incident involving foreign militaries, and the direction of Europe and Central Asia Policy research and planning for international military cooperation. Dr. TIAN has worked in different positions in grass-roots field forces, academic institutions, headquarters, and military commissions. He has long been engaged in military diplomacy, journalism, and legal services. He is committed to the daily liaison and coordination of the office of the foreign-related response mechanism of the entire army. He communicated with foreign government agencies and media organizations and participated in major bilateral and multilateral negotiations with more than 30 countries.



LIU Wendou (Co-chair of Board of Trustee) was born in 1967, got his Bachelor of Russian Language and Literature at Peking University and Doctor of Russian Language and Literature at Voronez State University, former Soviet Union. As a colonel (retired), he was former Commissioner of the International Military Cooperation Office of the Central Military Commission, National Defense Attaché of the Chinese Embassy in Georgia, Deputy Military Attachment of the Chinese Armed Forces of Russia's Land, Sea, and Air Forces, Deputy Director of the US Department of Foreign Affairs of the Ministry of National Defense, and Director of the Central Asia Division of the Eurasian Bureau. Dr. LIU has rich experience in military diplomacy. He has visited dozens of countries as a member of the high-level military delegation of the Chinese People's Liberation Army. He has participated in the planning and implementation of major diplomatic activities such as the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Defense Ministers Meeting and large-scale joint exercises between China and foreign countries.

#### **4. Vision & Focus**

The Grandview Institution's philosophy is that mutual understanding in the international community is the key to promoting efficient and effective global governance. Therefore, while objective, forward-looking, in-depth, and practical researches are fundamental to the Grandview's development as an independent think tank, people-to-people exchanges are also indispensable. In the spirit of pragmatism, the Grandview has gradually established a global network of research fellows and think tanks respectively regularly hosting small-scale and in-depth discussions, debates and joint research projects. To achieve the best possible outcomes in contributing to the efficiency and effectiveness in global governance, the Grandview has decided to invest its very best resources in the following areas of studies: Global Maritime Governance, International Law of Military Operations on the Sea, Belt and Road Initiative, Borderland Governance, Sino-U.S. Relations, Sino-European Relations, the Korean Peninsula, and Russia & Central Asia.

## 5. Governance

The Grandview Institution is independent in three aspects. First, we are free from government budget. Second, we set our research agenda independently. Third, we hire our people independently. As the Grandview is a private think tank, our funds are from the following: 1. Contract-based research project from enterprises such as Alibaba and Byte Dance. We also have some contacts with European enterprises. 2. Contract-based research projects for local and central government agencies and department; 3. Charitable donation from private companies and individuals.

We influence policy-makers through following channels. First, we do contract-based studies for local and central government departments and agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the Committee of Development and Reform, etc. Second, some of our research fellows are advisors for local and central government. Third, some of our research fellows are retired civil servants or military officers, who, to some extent, still have affiliation with government. Through the above-mentioned channels, we have produced independent research projects, periodicals, data analysis for research support and policy recommendations to various government agencies.

## 6. Networks

So far, by adopting interdisciplinary approaches and actionable data, the network of over a hundred renowned scholars, government officials, senior journalists, and business leaders has produced independent research projects, periodicals, and data analysis. In addition, we have provided highly recognized research support and policy recommendations to China's Central Government agencies such as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Development and Reform Commission, the Ministry of Commerce. The Grandview's clients also include private sectors and local governments of Beijing, Chongqing, Guangdong Province, Guangxi Province, Fujian Province, and Jiangsu Province among others, whose development planning and industrial development have benefited from our studies. As we further expand the two global networks that connect all those relevant with one another, more international dialogues will take place in addition to our six existing dialogue series: China-US Relations, China-Europe Relations, China-

NEA Relations, Grandview-ASEAN Think Tanks, Global Maritime Governance, and BRI Country Cooperation and Development. In 2020, due to the breakout of COVID-19 pandemic, the Grandview Institution kept bridging think tanks via online and scholars all over the world and organized over 40 bilateral dialogues on regional security, trade environment, and bilateral relationship.

Other cooperating partner think tanks of the Grandview include the Carter Center, the Korean Foundation, the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, the China Academy of Social Science, the Development Research Center of Chinese State Council, the China Institute of Contemporary International Relations, etc.

## 7. Recent Events

In 2020, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, all the events of the Grandview Institution were held online. The Grandview hosted more than 30 online dialogues with scholars and practitioners of international relations from the United States, Japan, South Korea, and Germany covering such topics as bilateral political relations, economic and trade exchanges, cooperation on preventing epidemic, and the security situation around China. The dialogue provided not only a platform for experts from both sides to maintain mutual understanding and communication, but also a flexible and unique perspective on how to understand the international challenges and risks under the pandemic.



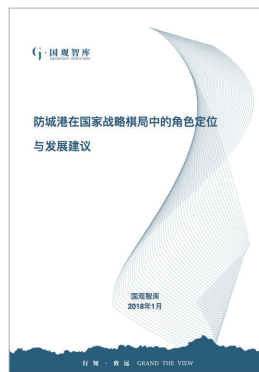
Recent Events

## 8. Publications

### Research Reports

#### *Marine Affairs*

It mainly conducts a series of research projects on global ocean governance, ocean rights defense and security environment, global ocean strategic public opinion environment involving China, competitiveness of urban ocean economy, country-specific ocean economic development and industrial park model, blue economy and construction of the Maritime Silk Road. The Grandview also forms a full business chain of marine data retrieval, data management and data analysis by building its own database.



The position of Fangchenggang in the national strategy and development recommendations, 2018

Some of the results are as follows:

Research Report on the Development of International Marine Energy Industry (2019)

Study on the Legal Status of Islands and Related Issues (2019)

Study on the Risk of the Silk Road on Ice (2019)

Study on Polar Country Policies (2019)

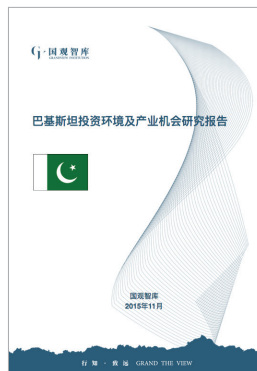
Study on Regional Governance Mechanisms in the Yellow Sea (2019)

Study on Security Risks along the Maritime Silk Road (2019)



### *“Belt and Road” Initiative*

It mainly focuses on the global strategic environment of the “Belt and Road” Initiative, the investment environment of key countries along the route and the investment opportunities and risks of key industries, as well as the taxation system, exchange rate, policies and laws, labor policies, cultural environment and other issues that Chinese enterprises encounter in the process of overseas landing.



Pakistan Investment Environment and Industry Research Report, 2015

Some of the results are as follows:

Analysis of Military Trade Market in Typical Middle East Countries (2019)

Analysis of the Development Status of Renewable Resources and Remanufacturing Industry (2017)

### *Borderland*

The research series mainly focuses on the comprehensive governance of border areas, ethnic and religious relations in border areas, the global counter-terrorism and security situation, and counter-terrorism cooperation among neighboring countries. The regular internal publication of the State View Think Tank, “Borderland Policy,” contains some articles by experts, scholars and borderland cadres, which are suggested to senior leaders with comments.

Some of the results are as follows:

The Counter-Terrorism Situation in Central Asia and Transcaucasia and the

Challenges and Responses to China (2019)

Study on Promoting BRI with the Islamic World in the Context of Geopolitical Changes (2018)

### Journals

Global Polar Dynamics (weekly)

Global Think Tank Research on China and the Sea (weekly)

Public Opinion Report on Key Belt and Road Projects (monthly)

### Monographs

1. New Space for Foreign Investment - Ranking the Value of Investment in “One Belt, One Road” Countries (Social Science Literature Press, 2017)



The Blue Ocean: Going Abroad

This book is one of the monograph series of the Grandview Institution - Chinese enterprises going abroad. It also takes into account global standards and Chinese factors to systematically rank the investment value of countries along the Belt and Road. Its research data was cited by CCTV’s “News Broadcast” in the “Counting the Belt and Road” section.

2. New Force: Chinese Private Enterprises in the Construction of “Belt and Road” (Social Science Literature Press, 2017)

This book explains the relationship between the construction of BRI and the outward investment and cooperation of private enterprises, and analyzes the opportunities and challenges faced by private enterprises in outward investment and cooperation from the perspectives of national investment environment, industrial investment environment and cases of private enterprises going abroad.



New Force

Reported by Jiawei Bi\*

### Contact Information

<http://www.grandviewcn.com/>

Nanliuxiang St., Xicheng District, Beijing China, 100052

Mr. REN Libo (President)

[renlibo@grandviewcn.com](mailto:renlibo@grandviewcn.com)

Mr. BI Jiawei (Director of Public Affairs)

[bijiawei@grandviewcn.com](mailto:bijiawei@grandviewcn.com)

[info@grandviewcn.com](mailto:info@grandviewcn.com)

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\* Director of Public Affairs; Senior Research Assistant. He may be contacted at: [bijiawei@grandviewcn.com](mailto:bijiawei@grandviewcn.com)/Address: The Grandview Institution, 3 Nanliuxiang St, Xicheng District, Beijing, China 100052.

