

Promoting Silk Road Think Tank cooperation for development and mutual benefit of all countries

Talant Sultanov

Director, National Institute of Strategic Studies, Kyrgyz Republic

I sincerely welcome all the participants and guests gathered to participate in the second annual international Silk Road Forum. First of all, let me thank Development Research Center under the State Council of the People's Republic of China and Center for International Relations and Sustainable Development (CIRSD) for the invitation on the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic (NISS KR) to jointly establish Silk Road Think Tank Network (SiLKS). It is a great honour for us to become SiLKS founding member and we fully support this initiative.

I would like to say a few words about the National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic. The National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic is a government think tank, which provides the President, Prime Minister and Government of the Kyrgyz Republic with expert, analytical and scientific support on economic, social and political issues. The Institute is coordinated by the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Major goals of the Institute are provision of expert and analytical support for effective decision-making of the Kyrgyz government and other state institutions in the field of economics and politics; working out recommendations for the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic; providing high quality research and expertise to the local government bodies; consolidation and strengthening of expert and analytical potential of the country's community; establishment of cooperation with leading foreign research think tanks and international organizations.

NISS KR is a member of Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) Member States Analytical Association, CSTO Scientific-Expert Council, Shanghai Cooperation Organization Forum.

The Institute conducts a wide range of research projects; prepares policy notes. Among implemented one can name research project on analysis of relations between China and Central Asian countries, particularly, Kyrgyz Republic; following the results of the November 2014 international conference in Bishkek “Common Development and Prosperity of the States along the Great Silk Road” NISS KR published its materials. In accordance with the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Forum Regulation chairmanship at the Forum for 2013-2014 was transferred to the SCO National Research Center of the Kyrgyz Republic - National Institute for Strategic Studies of the Kyrgyz Republic, and next SCO Forum meeting on contemporary economic development challenges in the SCO Region was held in June 2014 in Bishkek. All the mentioned above is a part of the Institute’s work.

Joint construction of the Silk Road Economic Belt will not only promote the spirit of the ancient Silk Road, which combines the principles of mutual trust, equality, tolerance and win-win results, but will meet current new global trend towards peace, development and cooperation.

Silk Road think tanks can play crucial role in advancing practical cooperation, learning from each other, promoting innovative thinking.

Silk Road Think Tank Network (SiLKS) is a unique platform for conducting joint research on issues of economic and social development; providing consultations to governments; encouraging information exchanges and knowledge sharing on development through international conferences, roundtables, publications; also for effective policy communication and mutually beneficial cooperation.

I do believe that Silk Road Think Tank Network will promote think tank cooperation as well as strengthen mutual trust and understanding in general and contribute to the development of huge potential of the region.

I wish the participants and guests of the Forum fruitful dialogue and every success.

Thank you for your attention.