

# 2015 Annual Report



SHANGHAI INSTITUTES FOR  
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES

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Industry. Originality.  
Patriotism. Cosmopolitanism.



## President's Message

In 2015, as the world continued to undergo profound changes that led to transitions in the international order and presented challenges for effective global governance, Chinese diplomacy succeeded in addressing various concerns and challenges, further expanding China's global presence and influence. In 2015, Shanghai continued its efforts towards a science and technology innovation center with global impact, scoring new achievements in its internationalization campaign. Also in 2015, the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) celebrated its fifty-fifth anniversary. To better serve China's diplomacy and Shanghai's development, SIIS continued to deepen its reform and innovation to adapt to the evolving international and domestic environment for think tanks and prepare itself for the forthcoming sixtieth anniversary.

The year 2015 also marked the seventieth anniversary of the victory of the Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War, and coincided with the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. Over the past seven decades, significant changes have occurred with regard to the pattern of international power distribution, and now there have been intensified debates over

what international norms make for a better world. China and other developing countries have exerted a growing impact on the world while emerging powers and regional powers have increasingly aspired for a bigger role in the construction and reform of global governance system.

The past year was also a year with flying colors for China's major-country diplomacy, witnessing a host of major initiatives with far-reaching positive influence on global politics, economics, and security. The Belt & Road Initiative was launched and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank started operation. China had also been proactive in providing intellectual public goods to the world. President Xi Jinping elaborated on a Chinese vision of a "community of shared destiny for all mankind" in his speeches delivered both at home and abroad to offer Chinese voice and Chinese wisdom on a better world. The year 2016 will be the first year for the implementation of China's "13th Five-Year Plan." The Fifth Plenary Session of the CPC Central Committee articulated that China would fulfill the obligations of a major power by contributing more public goods and become a constructive actor on the world stage.

As China and Shanghai open wider to the world, think tanks also need to reform and adapt to the evolving situations. As a leading Chinese research institution, SIIS needs to tackle the new challenges and embrace the opportunities for further development. As an old Chinese saying goes, "a wise man changes as time and circumstances change." Therefore, only by furthering reform can we seize the initiative in future competitions. We are fully confident and capable to become a leader in the development of think tanks and make greater contribution to the development of Shanghai and our nation.

2015  
▶ Year in Review



In 2015, fully involved in major national and local diplomatic events, SIIS made valuable intellectual contributions to China's conduct of academic diplomacy by undertaking government-entrusted research programs, providing theoretical, strategic, and policy-oriented advice, and strengthening public opinion guidance.

### I. SIIS has centered its research on the major issues concerning China's diplomacy and the development of Shanghai, carried out strategic and forward-looking research, and strengthened our capacity for preparatory research.

Firstly, SIIS focused on strengthening its capacity for advising the central government and Shanghai municipal government in their major strategic decisions by engaging in more research programs with practical application. SIIS launched a series of innovative programs based on the mid-term and long-term strategic focus of China and Shanghai. In 2015, SIIS conducted preparatory and backup studies on the drafting of the "13th Five-Year Plan," major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, Belt & Road Initiative, important multilateral mechanisms (the G20, BRICS, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization), major global governance issues (climate change, global energy governance, post-2015 development agenda), Shanghai's internationalization, and city diplomacy, and released a series of high-quality reports.

Secondly, SIIS carried out more strategic-oriented researches to help policy planners make informed decisions. SIIS strengthened its ties with government agencies such as the Office of CPC's Foreign Affairs Leading Group, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, International Department of CPC, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce, Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council, and State Oceanic Administration by carrying out research programs and providing high-quality research reports. SIIS strengthened cooperation with the Foreign Affairs Commission of the CPPCC Shanghai Committee and signed an MOU with the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Shanghai Municipal People's Congress for joint research programs.

Thirdly, our high-quality research outcomes, including policy reports, academic papers, opinion pieces, and monographs were published on prestigious Chinese and English periodicals. SIIS was rewarded six research grants from the National Social Science Fund of China, including one major research project, one general research project, three projects for young scholars, and one specially-assigned project.

### II. SIIS was actively involved in the preparations for major diplomatic events and organizing related activities.

Firstly, SIIS participated directly in major diplomatic events in China and Shanghai, including the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), the official launch of the New Development Bank of BRICS (NBD), the 27th Shanghai International Business Leaders Advisory Council meeting, and the World Cities Day. On March 29, SIIS chaired a side forum on "Asian-Pacific Security Architecture" under the framework of BFA 2015. On July 21, the New Development Bank of BRICS launched business in Shanghai. After the inauguration, SIIS presided over an international seminar "The New Development Bank: From Idea to Reality." Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, Shanghai Mayor Yang Xiong, and NDB President K.V. Kamath from India attended the seminar and made keynote speeches. Leading international scholars, diplomatic envoys, government officials, board members of NBD, and representatives from financial institutions gathered together to discuss the significance and challenges of NBD, and explored its future strategies.

Secondly, SIIS hosted a series of events revolving around China's Belt & Road Initiative, the G20 agenda, the Post-2015 Development Agenda, the evolution of the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA), and Shanghai's city diplomacy, creating a favorable academic climate for China's host diplomacy.

The Belt & Road Initiative is a major approach by the Chinese government to

construct an all-round opening-up pattern. In 2015, the Chinese government released “Vision and Actions on Jointly Building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road” to interpret the vision, concept, target, actions, and mechanisms of the initiative. In order to support this major strategic initiative, SIIIS hosted a series of international and domestic conferences, including an international seminar on how to integrate the economic growth in Central Asia with the proposal of building the Silk Road Economic Belt, an international conference on the Belt & Road Initiative and the Investment Plan for Europe, and a symposium on the Maritime Silk Road and China-Sri Lanka Relations.

China will host a G20 summit for the first time in 2016. As a leading think tank in China on the study of G20, SIIIS held a series of G20-related academic seminars in 2015, including “Towards a More Effective G20 in 2016: China's 2016 G20 Presidency and Agenda Setting,” “Global Energy Governance and the G20” and the “Third China-Australia Global Issues Dialogue”. SIIIS was also accredited as one of the three Chinese co-chairing institutions in the Think Tank 20 Network (T20) and will host a series of relevant events in 2016.

The year 2015 also witnessed the seventieth anniversary of the founding of the United Nations. With development issues becoming a global focus, China has become an important participant and contributor in global development cooperation. China has been actively involved in the negotiation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and making important contribution to reach an equal, inclusive, and sustainable development agenda. SIIIS has also been one of the few Chinese institutions to work on this aspect from early on and therefore has become very influential at home and abroad. On October 25-26, SIIIS and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-sponsored an international conference on “Global Governance and Development Issue for a Shared Future.” UN Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo and former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremić delivered keynote speeches.

### III. Bringing into full play the unique advantages of a leading think tank, SIIIS played an irreplaceable role in guiding public opinion, academic diplomacy, and public diplomacy.

Firstly, SIIIS had strengthened its partnerships with international organizations and academic institutions with a view to enhancing its academic reputation and bolstering its role in international agenda setting.

On May 11-12, 2015, supported by the Department of European and Central Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, SIIIS held the Third CICA Think Tank Roundtable under the title “Asian Security Cooperation: Issues, Concepts and Institutions,” attended by 35 participants from Afghanistan, China, Kazakhstan, Iran, Malaysia, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, Thailand, and Turkey. The roundtable meeting has attracted much attention from inside and outside of China. The Fourth CICA Think Tank Roundtable was subsequently held in December. Now the roundtable has become one of the most important non-official forums for CICA.

On May 23, the Stockholm China Forum 15 was held in Guangzhou, co-sponsored by the Shanghai Institutes for International Studies, the German Marshall Fund, and the Guangdong Research Institute for International Strategies. Stockholm China Forum has been promoting communication and dialogue between experts in policy-communities from the European Union, the United States, and China. It has become one of the leading seminars on China. Senior experts, high officials, and business leaders participated in the forum and had policy-focused discussions on China, whose topics includes “New Type of Major Power Relations,” “Dynamics of International Systems & Management of Geopolitical Crisis,” “Global Governance and Sustainable Development,” and “New Silk Roads, New Banks and New Funds.”

On May 26-28, 2015, SIIIS and the Polar Research Institute of China jointly held the third annual meeting of the China-North Europe Arctic Cooperation.

More than 80 representatives from China, Finland, Iceland, Denmark, Sweden, Norway, and Russia were invited to hold discussion over the economics, politics, laws, and governance issues concerning the Arctic region.

Secondly, as China's national power continues to grow, elevating its international standing, leading Chinese think tanks faces a new task of publicizing Chinese ideas and guiding public opinion. SIIS has made effective endeavor in this respect. For example, SIIS released a joint research report with UNDP and the China Center for International Economic Exchanges: *Rebalancing Global Economic Governance-Opportunities for China and the G20 beyond 2015* on June 26, which attracted wide media coverage.

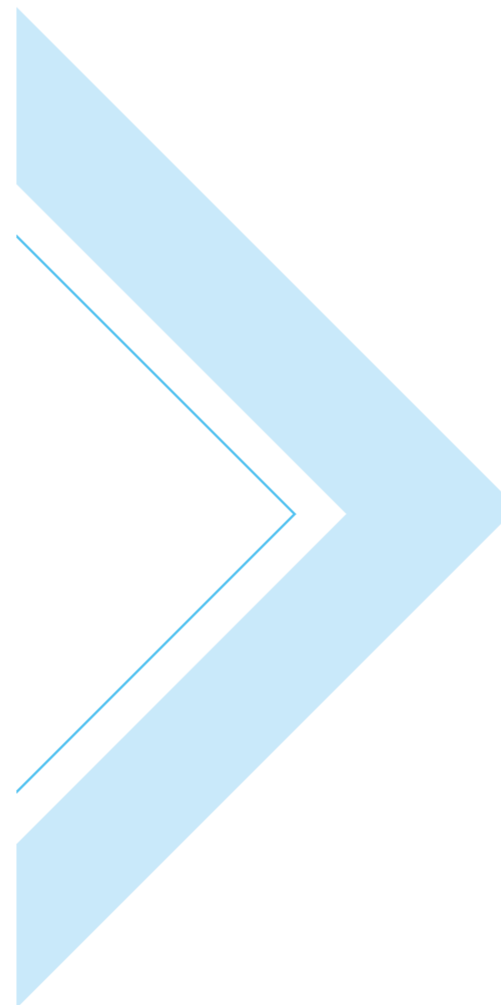
On July 7, SIIS together with the Shanghai Chunqiu Institute for Strategic and Development Studies and Guancha Syndicate held a seminar on public diplomacy and China-U.S. relations. The seminar focused on how to maintain a positive outlook among U.S. media and elite circle for President Xi's visit to the United States by means of public diplomacy and academic diplomacy. Ms. Fu Ying, Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress was invited to make a keynote speech. Experts and scholars from Renmin University of China, China Institutes of Contemporary International Relations, China Foundation for International and Strategic Studies, China National Association for International Studies, National Center for Climate Change Strategy and International Cooperation, Nanjing University, National Institute for South China Sea Studies, Fudan University, Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Yicai.com, Shanghai New York University, Shanghai Chunqiu Institute for Strategic and Development Studies, Australian National University, and Shanghai Institutes for International Studies participated in the discussion.

#### IV. SIIS actively promote internationalization and expanded academic network.

SIIS has been expanding its outreach with a view to pushing for further

internationalization. Over the past year, we had hosted many high-level delegations led by world-famous politicians, including former Slovenian President Danilo Türk, former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, former Romania President Emil Constantinescu, former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, former Speaker of the Parliament of Iran Hadad Adel, Australian G20 Sherpa David Gruen, UN Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo, former Argentine Foreign Minister Jorge Enrique Taiana, former Serbian Foreign Minister Mr. Vuk Jeremic, former Australian Foreign Minister Bob Carr, former Foreign Minister of Tajikistan Kholiknazarov Khudoberdi, First Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister of the Czech Republic Petr Drulák, Deputy Secretary of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Greg Moriarty, NDB President K.V. Kamath, former Assistant Secretary of the U.S. Department of Energy David Sandalow, Vice President of the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences Nguyen Quang, Vice Admiral Arun Kumar Singh from the United Service Institution of India, former Afghan Deputy Foreign Minister Ershad Ahmadi, former Deputy Foreign Minister of Mexico Andrés Rozental, former Secretary-General of ASEAN Ong Keng Yong, and Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN AKP. Mochtan.

One of the highlights for SIIS in 2015 was closer cooperation with academic partners from all around the world. SIIS has extended its partnership in greater quantity and higher quality, including MOUs signed with foreign and Chinese government agencies and research institutions, such as the Department of International Economic and Financial Cooperation of Chinese Ministry of Finance, the China Review Think Tank Foundation, the Shanghai University of Political Science and Law, the National University of La Plata of Argentina, Zambia's Policy Monitor and Research Center, the Montenegro-China Friendship Association, and Sri Lanka's Pathfinder Foundation. SIIS also deepened cooperation and increased academic exchanges with partner institutions, including top-ranking think tanks such as the Center for Strategic and International Studies and Chatham House. Under the framework of CICA



think tank forum, we have constantly promoted our cooperation with think tanks in Central and East Asia. With the great support from China's foreign embassies, SIIS has established institutional cooperation with think tanks in Central and Eastern European countries, Sri Lanka, and Afghanistan, and pivotal countries along the "Belt and Road." SIIS has also deepened its ties with famous foreign foundations and NGOs, including Germany's Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, the Asia Foundation (US), and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (US).

SIIS keeps growing momentum for high-caliber academic exchanges. In 2015, SIIS had received 290 foreign delegations and 9 visiting scholars and foreign students and hosted 25 international conferences attended by more than 20 dignitaries, among whom five were former heads of government. SIIS had also sent 91 delegations to visit others countries and more than 86 scholars from SIIS have attended international conferences or stayed for academic exchanges in foreign countries.

SIIS was also devoted to Taiwan and Hong Kong-related research work under the guidance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council. SIIS has strengthened its cooperation with Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR government about political reform and Hong Kong's role in the Belt & Road Initiative. On September 21-22, SIIS and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Shanghai Office co-sponsored the 12th Symposium on "Sino-EU Relations and the Taiwan Question". Mr. Chen Yuanfeng, Vice Minister of Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council made a keynote speech.

#### V. 2016 the Year Ahead

The year 2016 will mark the opening year for the implementation of China's "13th Five-Year Plan." Facing a fast-changing and increasingly complicated world and as the Chinese economy enters into a "new normal," we at SIIS are determined to be proactive and pool team wisdom to make greater

achievements in our efforts to transform and upgrade the traditional think tank.

Firstly, SIIS will plan ahead to focus on the overall diplomacy of China and the major events, projects, and activities in Shanghai. In 2016, China will host the G20 summit and SIIS will organize three G20-related international conferences as one of the three co-chairing institutions of Think Tank 20. SIIS will also deepen its project cooperation and communications on major global issues such as Belt & Road Initiative, global development agenda, and CICA.

Secondly, SIIS will consolidate its research advantages in aspects such as Belt & Road Initiative, major-country diplomacy with Chinese characteristics, Asian security architecture and Asian security concept, China's role in global governance, China's soft power and discourse power in the world, and governance in new strategic frontiers and global commons such as polar regions, the global ocean, and cyberspace. SIIS will strengthen its collaborative innovation with its peers in and out of China to elevate its internationalization level and enlarge its global impact, making the institution an internationally-renowned think tank with discourse rights in both international media and academia.

Thirdly, SIIS will broaden its international outreach to Africa and the Middle East, and increase its joint research, survey and publication projects with major think tanks in Asia Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe, and countries along the one belt and one road. SIIS will also invite more high-level visitors, increase its scholar exchange programs, and host more high-quality international events.

Fourthly, SIIS will adapt to the changes and make full use of the opportunities in the information age and reform its own information publicity channels. SIIS will upgrade its website, publicize bilingual journals, and make breakthroughs in database building and information analytic technologies.







## ► Highlights in 2015



## | Boao Forum for Asia

On March 29, instructed by the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, On March 29, SIIIS chaired a side forum on "Asian-Pacific Security Architecture" under the framework of Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) 2015.



## The Launching of the NBD



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## Focusing on Belt & Road Initiative



In order to support the promotion of Belt & Road Initiative, SIIS hosted a series of international and domestic conferences, including an international seminar on how to integrate the economic growth in Central Asia with the proposal of building the Silk Road Economic Belt, an international conference on the Belt & Road Initiative and the Investment Plan for Europe, and a symposium on the Maritime Silk Road and China-Sri Lanka Relations.



## Research on Polar Affairs



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## Focusing on G20



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## CICA Think Tank Roundtable

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## Contribution to the SDG



China has been actively involved in the negotiation on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and making important contribution to reach an equal, inclusive, and sustainable development agenda. SIIS has also been one of the few Chinese institutions to work on this aspect from early on and therefore has become very influential at home and abroad. On October 25-26, SIIS and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation co-sponsored an international conference on "Global Governance and Development Issue for a Shared Future." UN Under-Secretary-General Wu Hongbo and former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremi delivered keynote speeches.



## Taiwan Hong Kong & Macao Studies



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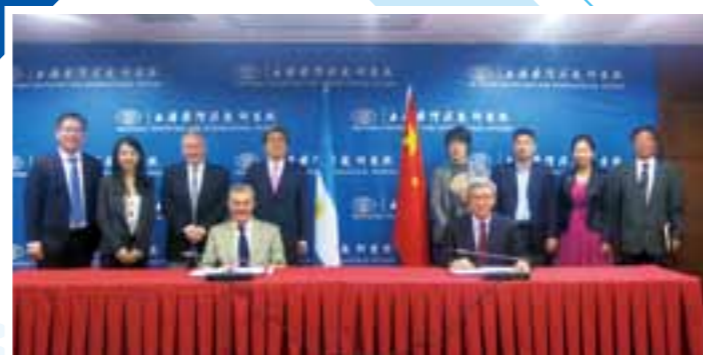
## Research on City Diplomacy



In order to make intellectual contribution to the World Cities Day, SIIS conducted many researches on city diplomacy. On May 14, SIIS published the Index of Chinese Cities International Communication.



## ► Academic Network



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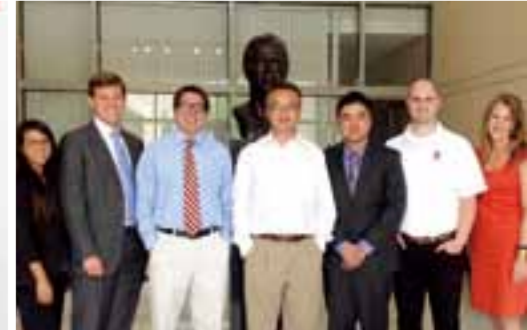
## ► SIIS Publication



In 2015, SIIS major publications include policy reports, academic papers, opinion pieces, and monographs were published on prestigious Chinese and English periodicals. SIIS was rewarded six research grants from the National Social Science Fund of China, including one major research project, one general research project, three projects for young scholars, and one specially-assigned project.



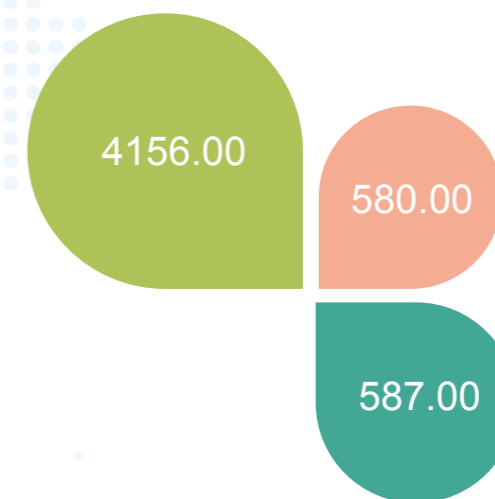
## ▶ Young Talents



SIIS attaches great importance in the training of young researchers. In 2015, SIIS dispatched 4 young scholars to the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cyberspace Administration of China, Chinese Embassy in India, and the China-US Exchange Foundation. SIIS also sent 2 young talents to the United States and the Europe as visiting scholars. All the SIIS graduate students successfully got their MA degree in 2015.

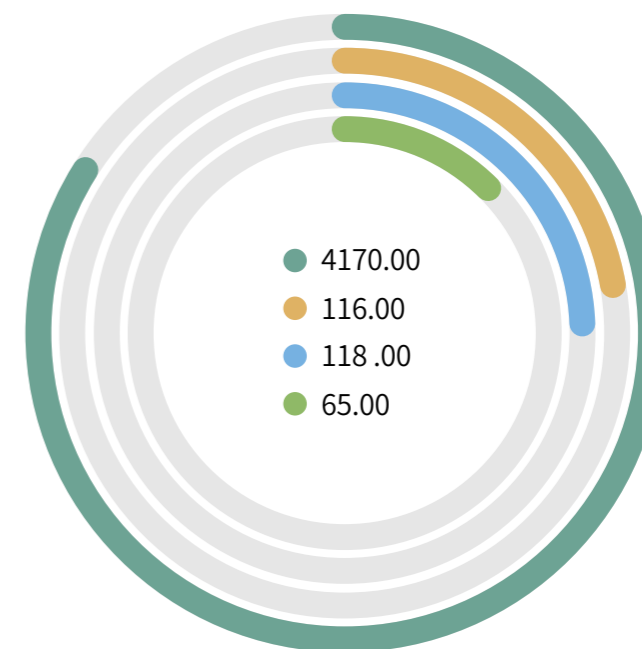
## ▶ Financial Report

Income of 2015 (Unit: 10,000)



- Appropriation by the Shanghai Municipal Government
- Project Funding
- Others

Expenditure of 2015 (Unit: 10,000)



- Research Expenditure
- Social Affairs Subsidy
- Medical Subsidy
- Household Subsidy



## ► About SIIS



The Shanghai Institutes for International Studies (SIIS) was established in 1960. Through unswerving efforts, SIIS has become one of the well-known think tanks both in China and across the world. SIIS dedicates itself to:

- Trans-disciplinary study of present-day international political, economic and security issues and China's foreign relations from a strategic and policy angle;
- Supply of consulting services to the central government and the Shanghai municipal government on international affairs;
- Development and maintenance of contacts and cooperation with overseas research organs through co-sponsorship of academic conferences, joint launch and conduction of research projects, and exchange of visiting scholars;
- Promotion of government, media and popular awareness of trends and hot issues in world development.

SIIS boasts a research team of over 90 members including more than 30 senior researchers. SIIS also runs a postgraduate program as well as a postdoctoral research station. Publications of SIIS include *Global Review*, *China Quarterly of International Strategic Studies*, and some other periodical reports.

### 7 Institutes

- Institute for International Strategic Studies
- Institute for Global Governance Studies
- Institute for World Economy Studies
- Institute for Foreign Policy Studies
- Institute for Taiwan, Hong Kong & Macao Studies
- Institute for Comparative Politics & Public Policy Studies
- Institute for Data Processing and Studies

### 6 Centers

- Center for Asia-Pacific Studies
- Center for American Studies
- Center for Russian & Central Asian Studies
- Center for West Asian & African Studies
- Center for European Studies
- Center for Maritime and Polar Region Studies