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Does Kyrgyzstan Need Think Tanks?

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The answer is simple: theoretically – yes, as, properly speaking, any other modern state, but actual activities of the Kyrgys state during the whole period of its independence prove – that no, not for a time being. I hope that the audience understands that the use of political technologists is something different. I am sure, that the situation in this sense should be changed. Why?

Firstly, the importance of results of review and analytical work is not only having access to different information, but laying a foundation of analysis of the general and specific situation on some issues topical for the government and its bodies, and, which is rather important, modeling of future situations and adopting more correct and competent decisions satisfying the interests of the state.

The scientific and experts’ justification of adopted decisions, planned and implemented projects promotes the confidence of the Government in the actions taken, and, paradoxical as it is, it narrows the space for corruptive offences, as the dense constructiveness of decisions made in many aspects eliminates “vagueness and porousness”, which actually create conditions for theft and bribery. I am far from the thought of making fetish of capabilities of analytical centers and universities and positive impact of their activities in this context, even though due to the fact that at least two most important circumstances shall be in place: the political will of those in power, and the availability of those centers and universities. I assume it is important to add that a serious scientific and experts analysis enables the government to function not in a “hole patching” and hit-and-miss fashion, but as a long-term process, although it will not be smooth in terms of development rates and results.

Secondly, an active use of the capacity of intellectual institutions opens up a possibility of a broader engagement of representatives of the civil society, which are scientists and experts given their specific hypostases in the process of making, and sometimes, implementing government decisions. But not vice versa, when cellular-made and quite often non-professional decisions result into meetings and other protesting acts of the public as a response to activities of the government and ministries. At the same time I would like to emphasize the topic not related to the topic of the speech – participation of a large number of people in such processes, which shall match the policy of socialization of a man in general motivation constructions.

The thing, per se, which is for the government and the civil society to deal with together.

Thirdly, the current practice demonstrated that a number of so-called independent experts and scientific figures almost always reflect the opinions and positions of political associations, including parties, oppositional organizations and even certain political and public figures. In certain cases this can be about the interests of national minorities and confessional communities, which, for sure, shall be taken into account.

The engagement of research centers enables not only to understand one or other issues by influential politicians and public figures, parties and NGOs, ethnic groups and confessional unions, but also to find formula and meanings of national interests. If such work is also supported by the analysis of various social surveys, which can be done objectively only by independent experts' communities, then one can count on success of one or other state or non-state matter.

Fourthly, the scientific and experts' justification and, in some cases, wide public discussions of some planned activities enables the government to identify the most conflict-prone areas in projects and by taking preventive measures and making changes avoid the escalation of unnecessary risks, as well as to control and manage the risks, which are impossible, and sometimes, not required, to be "withdrawn" from the envisaged activities.

As of today more than acute issue is the issue of formation of scientific and experts' space of Kyrgyzstan with all relevant institutes of interaction. However, I would like to note that this is not the problem of the Government only, but also of the civil society. In this sense such a space cannot be homogeneous: the state creates its own experts' and analytical centers, the business community of Kyrgyzstan – its own, etc. And the competition among them is the way to look for a strategic development of the country, and, if you wish, "the moment of truth" for Kyrgyzstan. The last is very important and in this sense I would say openly that we are very much behind, for example, Kazakhstan. Business shall defend its interests, see its prospects and this shall be done not only through incorporation into powerful structures, which in a majority of cases provokes corruption, but through experts' elaborations and not only those related to economy. In this sense local business is passive for a time being due to a number of objective and subjective reasons.

A large number of universities, which is often reprimanded by us and which is a dissatisfaction for us, has, as any other phenomenon in the life of people, a positive side. Any such educational institution is able (and not mandatory with the help of the Government) to set up small experts' laboratories to study, analyze and even simulate local problems, in particular in agriculture, small and medium businesses within the *aiyl-okmotu*, etc. I am sure that the capital's experts' centers will be ready to provide any feasible support for such activities of provincial universities, for example, from the viewpoint of methodological justification of such laboratory works.

Universities are the most optimal platforms for conducting public hearings and various subject-related round tables: the time has passed when it was necessary to wait for instructions and information materials from the capital city. Each university has Internet, and the country, whatever way we assess it, remains within the limits of democratic transit. In relation to universities I'll tell in a broader sense from a conceptual viewpoint – they are and they will be the core of formation of local intellectual communities, which are so acutely needed by the country today. And the government and the civil society shall move together in this direction. There will be contradictions and even conflicts, but this is the truth and the formula of development.