

## *The Rise of China's South China Sea Think Tanks: Nexus, Network, Narrative\**

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### *Abstract*

Foreign policy think tanks are important actors in today's geopolitics, including the South China Sea (SCS) dispute. This article profiles seven SCS think tanks in China: China Institute of Marine Affairs, National Institute of South China Sea Studies, Collaborative Innovation Center on South China Sea Studies at Nanjing University, China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies/Collaborative Innovation Center on Territorial Sovereignty and Maritime Rights at Wuhan University, South China Sea Institute at Xiamen University, Hainan Center for Policy and Law on the South China Sea at Hainan University, and the South China Sea Strategic Initiative Probing Initiative. It discusses their histories, key individuals, staffing, structure, and activities. It argues that these think tanks perform three major roles: to serve as nexuses between knowledge and policy, as platforms for networking, and as communicators of China's narratives and perspectives.

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