

## The Empowering Ideas Forum in Bangkok, 8-9 February 2017



The Empowering Ideas Forum is a joint collaboration of the U.S. State Department, Professional Fellows of Asia Pacific Think Tanks, and the Future Innovative Thailand Institute. Funded by the US, the forum brought think-tank managers and researchers from the Asia Pacific and discussed the region's talent as an engine for peace and development among the varied important foreign policy issues impacting the Asia-Pacific region.

The forum supports think tanks and university centers from the Asia Pacific region and globally to cooperatively engage in fruitful dialogues on public policy topics. These include research quality, policy impact, advocacy, communication, monitoring and evaluation, and institutional collaboration.

Thailand's Former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva spoke on the importance of public roles and how they traditionally exert significant influence in the policymaking process including identifying issues and recommend policies, provide the government with expertise and personnel, and educate the public.



*MIMA Senior Researcher, Ms. Sumathy Permal represented Malaysia at the Forum*