

Brief Introduction to China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD)

China Institute for Reform and Development (CIRD) , established on 1 November 1991, is a public and non-profit research institution mainly specializing in reform and development policy research.

CIRD, with the mission of facilitating China's economic reform and development policy decision-making, follows the guideline of "basing its research activities in Hainan, facing the whole country and marching towards the other parts of the world".

CIRD practices a system of vesting the full responsibility with the president under the leadership of the board of directors and adheres to the operating mechanism characterized with small organization with a large network. Its organizational features of being network-based, international operations and independent research have attracted wide attention.

A Think-tank for Reform Policy Decision-making

With submission of reform policy recommendation reports to the government as its bounden duty, CIRD has been conducting forward-looking and independent research in important theoretical and practical issues in economic transition. It has organized research activities around important, difficult and hot reform topics such as "transformation of the government", "construction of public service systems", "macroeconomic reforms", "state-owned enterprise reforms", "financial system reforms", "rural reforms", "social security system reforms" and "income distribution system reforms"; and have produced a long list of research results. In the past 18 years, it has submitted more 130 sets of reform policy/legislation recommendation reports to relevant departments of the central government. It is the first research institution to have submitted reform policy recommendations on "granting long-term and guaranteed land use rights for farmers", "equalizing access to basic public services", "construction of public service-oriented government" and "speeding up the establishment of a socialist public service system", of which some have been directly adopted into policy documents while many others have been used as references for drafting policy documents, laws and regulations. For these research results, CIRD has won many national and ministerial/provincial awards including "Five One Project Award" (Wu ge yi gong cheng), "Economics Research Awards by Sun Yefang Economics Foundation", and "China Development Research Awards".

CIRD's fruitful research achievements have attracted wide attention from both home and abroad. The "People's Daily" has carried an article titled "Facing the New Century" and the Guangming Daily has carried an article titled "CIRD's Unique Performance" to comment that "CIRD has exerted wide influence in the economic circle both at home and abroad". The "Xinhua News Agency Outlook Weekly" has carried an article titled "CIRD's Experiment with Independent Operations under the Supervision by the Government" to comment that "CIRD, with only 50 people and located in the remote island of Hainan, has been pursuing a research organizing mechanism characterized with "government background, non-governmental organization, institutional legal person and being managed like an enterprise; and has become the first independent think-tank among all the provincial social academies in China". "In short, CIRD's development model has become an interesting 'CIRD phenomenon' in the academic circle of the whole country, with many of its important experiments with the development of China's think-tanks". The CPPCC Newspaper has carried an article commenting that "CIRD, an academic organization located in a remote corner of the country, has the whole world in view and has become an academic institute with a strategically important academic position known both at home and abroad. And as a research institute at the end of the world and in the corner of the heaven, CIRD has radiated its influence to the whole country with great capacity and has become

an important base for reform research”.

In the past 18 years, CIRD has produced more than 170 volumes of reform research publications and many have been exhibited at the FRANKFURT BOOK FAIR. For example, CIRD’s book entitled “30 Years of China’s Reforms and Opening-up in the Eyes of Academics from Both Home and Abroad” was selected as one of the top-quality publications to be contributed to the 30th Anniversary of China’s Reform and Opening-up, which has been published in English, German, French, Spanish, Russian and Japanese, and distributed throughout the world.

Policy Consulting Services for Reform Policy Decision-making

Equally dedicated to policy consulting services for local governments, CIRD has been commissioned with many consulting projects. The most recent include the following:

- “Research and Draft of the ‘China Human Development Report 2007/08’” commissioned by UNDP
- “Research in and Design of Reforms in the 12th Five-year Plan Period” commissioned by the National Development and Reform Commission
- “Research in Post Franchise Regulations” commissioned by the State Post Bureau
- “Research in and Design of Programs for Equalization of Basic Public Services in Guangdong Province (2009-2020)” and “Research in and Design of Programs for Integration of Basic Public Services in the Pearl River Delta (2009-2020)”, both commissioned by the Guangdong Provincial Government
- “Research in and Design of a Master Plan for Comprehensive Reforms to Facilitate the Construction of a Resource-saving and Environment-friendly Society in the Changsha-Zhuzhou-Xiangtan City Group” commissioned by the Hunan Provincial Government
- A number of research reports submitted to the Hainan Provincial Government such as “Policies and Systems for the Construction of the Hainan International Tourism Island”

International Exchange and Cooperation to Facilitate Reform Policy Decision-making

With the support of relevant departments of the government, CIRD has been long implementing international projects sponsored by UNDP and Chinese-German bilateral inter-government projects, and has established long-term and stable academic exchange relations with the International Network of Private Business Organizations and Boao Forum for Asia, as well as with research institutions in Germany, Norway, UK, US, Holland, Sweden, India, Vietnam, Mongolia, Laos, Cambodia, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and a dozen of other countries.

Promoting Training Activities with Reform Research

Since its establishment, CIRD has run more than 100 training programs and has trained more than 9000 government officials and senior business managers. It has launched a Ph. D program in theory and practice of economic transition in collaboration with Northeastern University and established a post-doctoral research program. It has also been long cooperating with Maastricht School of Management to run an MBA program and offering post-graduate courses in collaboration with Shanghai University of Economics and Finance and with Xiamen University.