

2020 세계기자대회

# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020

14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

**Conference Book II**

Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

코로나 19와 각국의 방역 상황 및 대응

Hosted by



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2020 세계기자대회

# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020



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※ World Journalists Conference is funded by the Journalism Promotion Fund raised by government advertising fees.

**Title** World Journalists Conference 2020

**Date** 14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

**Venue** International Convention Hall [20F],  
Korea Press Center

**Hosted by**  JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

**Supported by**  Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism  Global Inspiration GyeongGI-Do  한국언론진흥재단 Korea Press Foundation

## Theme

### • Conference I

Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism

### • Conference II

Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

### • Conference III

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

## Objectives

### • Discuss the development of journalism along with changes in the media environment

- Share national journalism situations and discuss the future of journalism to cope with rapidly-changing media environment around the world
- Seek countermeasures to the global issue of Fake News
- Make efforts to restore media trust and develop business model sharing

### • Discuss status-quo and role of journalism in each country amid the spread of COVID-19

- Share the COVID-19 situation in each country and the quarantine system
- Protect the public's right to know and address human rights issues related to the infectious disease
- Introduce Korea's reporting guidelines for infectious diseases

### • The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Strategy on the Korean Peninsula

- form a consensus on the importance of peace on the Korean Peninsula and the world commemorating in 2020 the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
- Let the world know the willingness of Koreans toward World Peace and gain supports
- Discuss each country's views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and the role of journalists to improve inter-Korean and North Korea-US relations

## Opening Address



**Although we may have different countries, genders and ideologies, we are journalists.**

Fellow journalists from all over the world. It's a pleasure to meet you. And welcome from the bottom of your heart and soul.

I am Dong Hoon Kim, the president of the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on 17 August, 1964 and celebrating its 56th anniversary this year, the Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest association of journalists that has more than 10,000 journalists from 188 media companies as members.

First organized in 2013 by the Journalists Association of Korea with the aim of promoting world peace and contributing to the advancement of journalism, the World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

For the last seven years, journalists from all over the world have been invited to World Journalists Conference (WJC) to provide them with opportunities to personally experience the reality of the divided Korean Peninsula, which is now the only separated nation on Earth. Thus, this reminds journalists of the importance of peace. Furthermore, I can proudly say that the conference is becoming one of the most significant events for journalists globally with each passing year as it expanded into a conference for mutual exchange and gave opportunities to discuss the future of journalism.

However, as COVID-19 continues to spread globally, we inevitably had to hold the event online this year. Therefore, we regret that we cannot show you the beautiful nature and culture of South Korea and the reality of the divided nation in person. Nevertheless it is equally a relief that we could prepare this event to contribute to the development of the journalism by sharing the situation in each country and mutually and healthily meeting in the online space.

Distinguished journalists,

Although we may have different genders, skin colors, and ideologies, we still share some commonalities. We, journalists, all work hard to make the truth known with a warm heart and cold rationality, ultimately for peace and freedom.

We are pleased to hold online World Journalists Conference 2020 with several distinguished

## Opening Address

journalists from all over the world to discuss the themes of fake news and COVID-19, which are global problems, as well as peace in the Korean Peninsula, as we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Korean War this year.

Although we are only meeting online, I hope that you would all exchange opinions and recommendations so that we may all fulfill our calling as journalists as the conference provides us with precious opportunities to discuss major global issues.

Once again, I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your participation despite your busy schedules, and I hope that this conference would serve as a highly meaningful and beneficial event. Moreover, please make your unexchangeable experiences here widely known among fellow journalists and the people of your country as well.

I look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and inviting you all to South Korea to show our beautiful traditional culture and how Koreans, who love peace, live.

-

**Dong Hoon Kim**

President  
Journalists Association of Korea

## Congratulatory Message



### Congratulatory Remarks for the World Journalists Conference 2020

Greetings. Let me begin by extending my congratulations on convening the World Journalists Conference 2020, held online this year due to COVID-19.

Despite its relatively short history of 8 years, the World Journalists Conference has been hailed as a shining example of public diplomacy.

I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of President Dong Hoon Kim and members of the Korea Journalist Association, who managed to put together this meaningful event in these difficult times.

This year's World Journalists Conference looks to the future of journalism through three subjects: fake news, COVID-19, and the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

As you may well know, the world has been besieged by an epidemic unprecedented in our lifetime and subsequent economic recession. Meanwhile, we are grappling with "fake news" that spreads like wildfire.

I am well aware that in order to avoid inhibiting freedom of expression, regulations that address fake news need to be tailored with a high level of precision. This perspective has driven the Korean government's response to COVID-19 fake news. To the extent that such misinformation poses a serious social problem threatening the health and safety of citizens, the government is making the utmost effort in preventive measures to avert an "infodemic." According to a paper published in a prominent U.S. journal, misinformation about COVID-19 has led to approximately 800 deaths and 5,800 hospitalizations.

That "fake news" poses such a real threat to human lives should sound an alarm.

I believe this demonstrates how vital trustworthy information is. In this regard, allow me to extend my respect to all the journalists around the world joining in this worthwhile occasion.

Distinguished guests from the media and press around the world:

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

The two Koreas joined hands two decades ago for the June 15th South-North Joint

## Congratulatory Message

Declaration, and again, two years ago, for the April 27th Panmunjom Declaration, but we have seen no further progress recently.

Nevertheless, our belief remains firm that permanent peace on the Korean peninsula is a noble goal and mission that South and North Korea must achieve.

In fact, the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the reality that the two Koreas constitute not only a shared community of fates but a shared community of life in terms of public health.

I ask for your continued support of our resolute journey towards a 'Korean peninsula of life and peace.'

We now live in an era where digital technology enables everyone to produce news. However, the flood of information paradoxically throws into sharp relief the value of journalism.

I hope this year's event will serve as a venue of wisdom to reaffirm the importance of journalism and promote solidarity in preparation for the post-COVID-19 era.

Thank you.

-  
Prime Minister **Chung Sye-Kyun**

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



A sentence that records history,  
Images that deliver reality of the scene,  
Journalists who are passionately seeking the truth as their calling,  
And always standing behind them, is the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on August 17, 1964 based on the consensus of Korean journalists, the Journalists Association of Korea celebrates its 56th anniversary this year.

The association has advocated five principles which are the democratic development of Korea, the improvement of journalists, the protection of freedom of speech, the promotion of friendship amongst the association's members, the achievement of peaceful reunification and homogeneity between North and South Korea, and the strengthening of ties with journalists around the world. The five principles serve as the Association's reason for being and as its ultimate goal.

The Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest media body, boasting a current membership of 188 company members and 10,500 individual journalists. The association delivers 50,000 copies of its weekly paper across the nation to present various key issues and viable alternatives.

Also, the Journalists Association of Korea makes efforts to enhance capabilities of journalists by hosting various forums and seminars, and providing reporters with financial support for short- or long-term training programs or studies at domestic graduate schools. We present the annual Korea Journalist Award, which is the most prestigious and long-standing award in Korea's journalism, as well as the Award for Journalist of the Month. These help raise the status of journalism by boosting the morale of journalists and by encouraging the production of high-quality news articles.

Recently, the Journalists Association of Korea has been committed to ousting fake news given its escalation into a global issue and formed a committee to strengthen the ethics of press to promote ethical awareness of journalists. In addition, the Journalists Association of Korea is working to restore the public's faith in media by collaborating with journalists associations around the world.

At the same time, with a view to bolster the public role of the press, we have steadily engaged in the so-called "talent donation" by sending reporters to elementary, middle and high schools. We also make donation for less fortunate neighbors every year. To give

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



students a chance to deepen their thinking, we host national students essay contest. To boost members' unity and friendship, we hold national reporters soccer competition and reporters climbing contest every year.

Having recognized early on the importance of strengthening the bond with journalists around the world, the Journalists Association of Korea joined the International Federation of Journalists as a full member in 1966. It also interacts regularly with journalists of other nations by exchanging delegates with journalist associations including the All-China Journalists Association in 1993, the Vietnamese Journalists Association in 1994, the Indonesian Journalists Association in 2013, the Confederation of Mongolian Journalists in 2014 and the Association of European Journalists Bulgaria in 2015, the Russian Journalists Association and Delegation of mutual journalists in 2018. The Journalists Association of Korea is also continuously interacting with the US Society of Professional Journalists.

Regular exchanges with reporters from these countries are role model cases in people-to-people diplomacy beyond conventional diplomacy and greatly contribute to harmony and improvement in bilateral relations. Looking forward, we hope to expand our network with more journalists from foreign countries.

In addition, JAK successfully hosted the IFJ's general meeting for the first time in Asia back in 2001, as well as the East Asia Journalist Forum in 2003, the Asia Journalist Forum in 2005, and the IFJ's special general meeting in 2007. We also held a conference with journalists from Korea, China and Vietnam in 2012. We are interacting with international media organizations like the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for announcing the freedom of speech and the rights of journalists around the world. Organized annually by inviting journalists around the world since 2013, the 2019 World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

The Journalists Association of Korea Would like to strengthen its solidarity with journalists from around the world through this World Journalists Conference. Of course, we share the status and quarantine of the COVID-19, which began late last year and spread around the world. And we're looking for a role in the media for a quick end to COVID-19. And I hope you have a chance to discuss ways to increase the credibility of the media in response to Fake News. Especially, with the 70th anniversary of the Korean War this year, we will let the world know our commitment to peace on the Korean we hope that this will serve as an opportunity for global peace and harmony to spread throughout the world, starting with the Korean Peninsula.

# Overview

## Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



Mr. Dong Hoon Kim, the 47th president of the Journalists Association of Korea, and the Executive Department are determined to communicate with the public, realize social justice and closely monitor those who have power and authorities with keen eyes. Also, we will demonstrate journalism in which we stand by the less-privileged with warm heart. Also, we will take the lead in the efforts for our members' rights and welfare as well as our people's grand unity.

To this end, we will continue to strengthen ties with international outlets and build reliable friendships in the process. And, we will prepare for what lies ahead with constant reform and innovation.

Thank you.

# Overview

## Program

Time	9. 14(Mon.)	9. 15(Tue.)	9. 16(Wed.)
15:00 - 15:05	<b>Opening Address</b>		
15:05 - 15:10	<b>Congratulatory Message</b>	<b>Introduction video</b>	
15:10 - 15:15	<b>Introduction video of R.O.K</b>	<b>Conference II</b> Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods  Presentation & Q&A	<b>Conference III</b> The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula  Presentation & Q&A
15:15 - 17:00	<b>Conference I</b> Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism  Presentation & Q&A		
17:00 - 17:10	<b>Introduction video</b>		
17:10 - 18:00	<b>Debate</b> Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism	<b>Debate</b> Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods	<b>Debate</b> The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula



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# WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020



**WJC** World  
Journalists  
Conference  
2020

2020 세계기자대회

## Conference II

### Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

- Biography
- Presentation Materials

※ The presentation materials are listed in alphabetical order of country.



## Moderator

### Sisoo PARK

The Korea Times / Journalists Association of Korea  
Digital news desk editor / Chairman of the International  
Exchange Division  
Korea

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Park Si-Soo has been working since 2007 as a English newspaper reporter in South Korea. He is also an author of two books, YouTuber, lecturer and translator (KOR-ENG). Park has featured in various TV and radio shows at home and abroad, including BBC, Arab News, Arirang Radio and TBS eFM, commenting on major issues taking place on the Korean Peninsula. He currently serves as head of the international exchange division of the Journalists Association of Korea.



## Special Speaker

### Jun-Wook KWON

National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health &  
Welfare (MOHW)  
Director  
Korea

#### • Curriculum Vitae

2019. 10 - 2020. 02 Spokesperson, MOHW  
2017. 09 - 2019. 10 Director General, Bureau of Health Policy, MOHW  
2013. 12 - 2017. 09 Director General, Bureau of Public Health Affairs, MOHW  
2011. 08 - 2017. 09 Director General, Center for Comm Dis Ctrl, Centers for Disease  
Prevention and Control, MOHW



## Speaker

### Habib TOUMI

Ministry of Information  
Media Consultant  
Bahrain

#### • Curriculum Vitae

A journalist then editor, media consultant and trainer since 1982 with a lifelong interest in the changing world of media, media platforms, mass communication and international relations. Habib Toumi is currently the editor of the English version of Asia N website of the Seoul-based Asian Journalists Association (AJA). He speaks Arabic, French, English and Italian.

### Global responses to COVID-19: From optimistic uplifting to pessimistic grievance

Bahrain: Last year, when I spoke at the World Journalists Conference 2019 in South Korea, I humbly requested the participants to stand up for 30 seconds to pay tribute to all the innocent people who had been killed by cowardly and despicable acts of terrorism.

We did not know in March 2019 that one year later, the world's top enemy would not be terrorism, but a tiny virus 1,000 times smaller than a dust mote that has killed more than 814,000 people and infected more than 23.7 million people across the globe.

These are terrible numbers, and at this age of unprecedented technological and scientific advances, even much smaller numbers of cases and deaths should be seen as humbling the scientific communities and humiliating the politicians and "experts" with their false claims of power and knowledge.

How prepared was the world to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic?

Well, it depends on how "prepared" is defined, but overall, the world was not ready. The pandemic has tested the ability of governments around the world to take action and confront the virus. It also challenged the media, with all its traditional and modern forms,

## | Habib TOUMI

to rise to their responsibilities and counter the "toxic disinfodemic of disinformation and misinformation" that used volume and velocity to become as dangerous as the virus itself. As UNESCO said, "While information empowers, the disinfodemic disempowers. It endangers lives and leads to confusion and discord."

However, it has been particularly challenging for the genuine media to face the huge volume of fake news that became dangerous hotbeds for the disinfodemic as their false emotional content was fueled and spread by influential actors.

Throughout the pandemic, some countries showed they were better ready to handle the situation than others.

As each government had its own considerations and views for the most appropriate way to deal with the virus, it became obvious there would be no universal response to the coronavirus. Also in many ways, I personally was glad because in group action, the weakest invariably pulls the others down.

The following days, weeks and months demonstrated that while some countries leapt into action, others remained passive and vehemently denied the virus was a real threat.

The frustration is that the world did have a head start regarding how to deal with grave international health crises.

In recent years, the world has witnessed and suffered from several epidemics - SARS, MERS, Ebola, H1N1 flu, Zika ... They all painfully showed how new and reemergent pathogens could spell disaster, devastation and havoc across all sectors of society. More ominously, they took many lives.

Countries that learned the lessons and drew conclusions from such calamities adopted, since the outbreak of the pandemic, policies to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and to reduce its dangerous impacts on their population, society, the economy, politics and all aspects of life.

Other countries were not so serious about it, especially in the beginning, and were misguided by "experts" believing they know it all, religious leaders believing they had divine protection and politicians believing they are smart and powerful and possess a healthcare strong enough to deal with the virus if it dared reach them.

## | Habib TOUMI

### Global response

So how did countries behave towards the pandemic that was not just a medical calamity, but also a social and economic crisis and an open-ended, unremitting, and complicated stress among people?

I will cite country examples from two different groups.

In the first group, the national focus was on the people's safety, dignity and right to remain afloat during the sharp economic downturn and on how people cooperated and complied with the temporary precautionary measures.

I will refer to Bahrain, my home country, and to South Korea whose strategy and commitment have been widely praised and applauded.

### Bahrain

Bahrain is a small island (765 square kilometers) and the sixth most densely populated in the world (2,052/km<sup>2</sup>), thus presenting high risks of contagion.

And the "contagion" through social media fake news could also be dangerous to the 1.7 million inhabitants. Internet penetration in Bahrain stands at 99% and social media penetration at 84%.

Early in February, Bahrain set up an ad-hoc multi-ministry national task-force to deal with the spread and fallout of COVID-19. The strategy included a major media component.

While officials were engaged in a survival fight against the pandemic, there was full commitment to confront the threats of misinformation and disinformation that would take advantage of the local addiction to digital platforms to undermine the state efforts.

The task-force urged people to take their information only from trusted sources and not to fall for the brightly and sensationally presented erroneous and misleading claims disseminated across the world by fame-seekers, conspiracy theory supporters and pretentious know-it-all users.

The task-force set up a hotline to ensure smooth communication in seven languages, as more than half of the inhabitants are foreigners from more than 140 countries.

## | Habib TOUMI

Bahrain's newspapers in Arabic, in English, in Malayalam and in Tagalog and Television and radio programs broadcast in several languages comprehended the gravity of the situation and remained committed to printing and broadcasting news and reports only from trusted sources – Official figures, statements from experts and police officers, and announcements by ministries.

The media did not tolerate "doubtful" claims regardless of how sensational they appeared, and often sent reporters to places, including isolation centers, to talk to doctors, mainly infectious and internal disease consultants and microbiologists, who provided scientific explanations to help the people understand the situation.

This succeeded tremendously in denying misinformation the potential to tap into people's emotions troubled by fear and uncertainty.

In line with the local traditions, religious figures in their sermons and speeches equated propagating lies with violating the teachings and values of religion.

The security and justice authorities also regularly issued warnings that people who spread false information would be charged with disrupting social peace and would face legal action that included both prison terms and heavy fines.

The task-force held regular media conferences to give updates on the situation, issue clarifications and calls for a deep sense of responsibility while reminding everyone of the negative effects of rumors and allegations.

The high adult literacy rate (97.5% in 2018) and the "BeAware" application campaign were significant in building trust between the people, the state and private institutions, which helped rule out the dissemination of conspiracy theories that usually thrive across the Middle East.

The overall "resistance" in Bahrain to misinformation and disinformation in all their manifestations has resulted from a combination of prompt action by the task-force, stern warnings against abusers, open communication with medical experts and committed journalists.

One of the greatest merits of Bahrain during this pandemic is that early on, it took seriously enough and moved aggressively enough, announcing the right precautionary measures,

## | Habib TOUMI

including leveraging technology, and moving towards people instead of just waiting and, in the meantime, wasting precious time. At the same time, the infodemic was also tackled without compromises or complacency.

### South Korea

South Korea is also among this first group and its strategy has been often cited as an example to be emulated.

Korea's success factors included having a well-prepared plan to respond to infectious diseases, enlisting the private sector in facilitating responses to the virus, a robust health system, an advanced ICT infrastructure, a relatively high civil responsibility and clear and regular communication from the government (Conferences twice a day).

The preemptive, rigorous and innovative control strategy included three Ts: Test, Trace and Treat.

Under the principle of T.R.U.S.T. (Transparency, Robust Screening and Quarantine, Unique but Universally Applicable, Strict Control, and Treatment), the Korean government "focused on providing information transparently to the public, identifying quickly those who were infected with COVID-19 by facilitating prompt diagnostic tests for whoever wished to test, implementing quick quarantine measures for those infected with the virus, efficient tracing of people potentially exposed to risk of infection, and conducting active treatment of Covid-19 patients."

At the same time, there has been tremendous "cooperation from the general public who exercised vigilance such as social distancing, wearing masks, voluntarily going through COVID-19 diagnostic tests even without visible symptoms."

### A different story at the other end of the global response spectrum

Anti-science approaches and tactics that departed mainly for political, religious, social and economic reasons from expert advice dragged countries into an abyss as they failed to extend their fight of COVID-19 to all segments of society and to protect the most vulnerable people and minorities.

## | Habib TOUMI

### Religious zeal, economic interests

In some cases, excessive religious zeal was a factor in spreading the disease with believers refusing to conform to the precautionary measures, crowding sanctuaries challenging social distancing rules, kissing religious icons despite warnings and holding vigils in defiance of the strict confinement

In other countries, the enthusiasm about restarting the economies was much more important than paying attention to virus control.

In other cases, concern about overwhelming the health system pushed states to allow COVID-19 to spread slowly.

The tragic stories about the deaths of the elderly and the weak in care homes will haunt the world forever.

It is the duty of states to provide human communities, regardless of their age and racial, social or religious backgrounds with the means to protect themselves from this and other viruses.

In the longer term, the new version of this world will somewhat recover financially and economically from this calamity. While some countries will always recall and celebrate their success stories in dealing with the pandemic, others will have a hard time going beyond the multitude of scars left on their communities or attenuating the bitterness of having lost the fight to COVID-19 or comprehending eventually that public health and the economy's health are not really in conflict.



## Speaker

### CHEN Yingqun

China Daily  
Senior reporter  
China

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Chen Yingqun is a senior correspondent at China Daily, China's leading English language newspaper. She is an award-winning writer in several areas, including international relations, the economy, and social media. Over the past decade, she has interviewed many prominent politicians, business leaders, and experts, and has reported on China's most high-profile events, including the Two Sessions meetings, the G20 Summit, China Development Forum and the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation. She has also carried out international assignments in the European Union, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, and other countries.

### Outline of speech for the World Journalists Conference

In 2020, people across the world have met with a common enemy: the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since the outbreak of the virus, I and my colleagues at China Daily have done a lot of coverage about the coronavirus and its devastating influence on economies and society. And one of the most touching moments is one night in May, we found a postcard in China Daily's mail office, which is from a man named Frank Mantova from Bologna, Italy. He mailed the card on Jan 29, when China was amid the most difficult stage in its battle against the virus, to express heartfelt wishes to the Chinese people. It is heartwarming to read the sincere wishes that travel more than three months to reach us, and it is also proud that our newspaper has been trusted as a messenger.

## | CHEN Yingqun

The COVID-19 pandemic is a global public health crisis of a horrific scale, one not seen in generations. It has significantly changed the world and put forward new requirements for the media. As the coronavirus continues to take its toll across the world, global media could play an essential role in putting the pandemic to the end, and there are certain points that I have observed and think might be important in achieving that goal.

First, timely, authentic, scientific, and sufficient information are what the public urgently needs to deal with the pandemic. When the coronavirus lockdown was imposed in Wuhan, Chinese people were in their hometowns spending the most important Spring Festival with families. The virus was unknown to us and Chinese media have made a lot of efforts to offer timely and sufficient scientific information to the public. China's media sent many reporters to Wuhan to make field interviews, produced many videos telling knowledge of the prevention and controlling of the virus...A large number of We-media and individuals have also participated in disseminating all kinds of information and stories through video platforms and social media platforms.

Second, global media could pay more attention to people whose lives have been severely affected by the pandemic. The virus has hit us all, and some people may suffer more than others, such as the coronavirus patients, frontline medical workers, the elderly, the unemployed, and the hungry. Both mainstream media and we-media have focused on ordinary people's lives amid the epidemic. China Daily also launched a column called "behind the mask" to tell how people across the world survive the epidemic in their own ways...

Third, global cooperation is essential in the world's fight against the pandemic. Global media outlets need actively promote international cooperation, share successful anti-epidemic experiences and practices of countries like China and South Korea, and call on people of the world to join hands to fight the virus. Since the coronavirus outbreak, I feel sorry to see that a large number of reports have been politicized, such as attacks on the World Health Organization and the virus stigmatization. These reports are likely to bring hatred among different countries and populations and are not helpful to the containment of the epidemic. Chinese media have made their efforts to promote international cooperation. China Daily published a bilingual report "China's Fight Against COVID-19" detailing China's measures to combat the COVID-19 outbreak to provide health workers and officials around the world a reference and glimpse into the country's herculean effort to overcome the epidemic...meanwhile, Chinese media have also made a lot of reports on the cross-border non-governmental anti-epidemic efforts.

## | CHEN Yingqun

The coronavirus will be with us for some time to come, and frankly, who sent us the postcard, has not been contacted yet. I hope that all journalists will strengthen self-protection while reporting about the virus and make joint efforts to contribute to the victory of the world's fight against the epidemic.



## Speaker

### **Khatuna CHAPICHADZE**

Georgian Technical University; San Diego State University  
Professor  
Georgia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Ph.D. in Social Sciences (Political Science), Associate Professor, Deputy Director, Supervisor of the Bachelor's Educational Program in European Studies at Georgian Technical University (GTU), Adjunct Faculty Member at San Diego State University (SDSU), San Diego, CA, USA, Politics Professor at San Diego State University - Georgia (SDSU-G), Visiting Professor at AGH University of Science and Technology (AGH UST), Krakow, Poland (2015-2020)

### **Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods: Case of Georgia**

First of all, according to the official website of the Prevention of the Spread of the Coronavirus in Georgia, as of August 31, 2020, there are 1487 confirmed Coronavirus cases, 1240 persons recovered, 19 are fatal cases, 5828 individuals are under quarantine, 232 – under hospital supervision, and 41 persons are Georgian citizens brought from abroad for medical treatment.

Even before any case of COVID-19 was confirmed in Georgia, on January 22, Amiran Gamkrelidze, head of the National Centre for Disease Control and Public Health (NCDC), warned Georgian travellers from visiting Wuhan, China, the point of origin of the COVID-19 outbreak. He claimed that there was a “small, but theoretical” chance that the virus could reach Georgia. In the following days, Georgian doctors started examining passengers arriving from China at airports for coronavirus-related symptoms; NCDC started monitoring Chinese workers operating on the construction of a highway in Georgia; the country announced that it would be evacuating its citizens from the Hubei Province of China, and banned the import

## | Khatuna CHAPICHADZE

of live animals, including turtles and ornamental fish, from China, until the WHO declared the latter free from the coronavirus. On January 29, Georgia suspended direct flights with China for two months. The country and its leadership first of all in healthcare system, as well as political leadership, started monitoring every suspicious situation, mainly connected with the Georgian or foreign travelers coming from the countries of high risk, in terms of the COVID-19 potential entrance in Georgia. And they kept doing it in individual manner, carefully following the international and national guidelines for disease control and prevention. On January 30, Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia alleged that the country's healthcare system was ready to respond to the new coronavirus if it entered Georgia. On February 1, the Georgian Foreign Ministry expressed solidarity to China as the outbreak continued to expand there, and thanked Turkey for offering evacuation of the Georgian citizens from Wuhan. Turkey and France soon evacuated 5 Georgian citizens from the Hubei Province of China, initial center of the coronavirus outbreak. Since February 4, the Lugar Center of the NCDC started testing for the coronavirus after receiving reagents from Germany. It previously had to send test samples to Germany or the Netherlands for confirmation. On February 23, Georgia called the outbreak of the coronavirus in neighboring Iran a "serious concern" and suspended direct flights with the Islamic Republic. The next day, Georgian citizens have been warned from visiting Italy, in particular northern parts of the country, to avoid public places and regularly wash their hands as Italy became the newest center of the epidemic.

After the very first case of contamination with the COVID-19 was confirmed on the Georgian territory on February 26, when a Georgian citizen returning from Iran was diagnosed at the Georgia-Azerbaijan border, President Salome Zourabichvili and the Health Ministry stated there was no need for panic. At the same time, Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia set up an Inter-Agency Council for Coordination Against the Coronavirus (IACC), made of representatives of every major government agency, to manage the situation. The IACC's first decision was to ban flights to Iran. The Economy Ministry predicted a loss of 30 million GEL per month in the tourism industry due to the coronavirus spread. The IACC instructed every Ministry to draft an action plan against the coronavirus. So-called South Ossetian de facto authorities closed down the Kartsmani crossing point in the Georgian western region of Imereti to prevent Georgians from entering the breakaway republic out of fear for the outbreak. Airline Wizz Air reduced its flight frequency to Italian destinations, including a full cancellation of flights to Milan.

As the third case of the COVID-19 was revealed, the Georgian government closed kindergartens, schools, and universities down firstly until March 16, however with the continuous spread of the infection, till in fact indefinite period. At the same time, most of

## | Khatuna CHAPICHADZE

the universities and schools switched to the online format of teaching and learning, thus avoiding termination of the academic semester and year.

On March 12, President Salome Zourabichvili, in a televised appearance called for calm and unity, while on March 16, the spokesperson of the Government of Georgia Irakli Chikovani announced special measures and recommendations. The Government of Georgia banned entrance to Georgia for any foreign nationals for the next two weeks. The Coordination Council recommended all elderly citizens of Georgia to avoid mass gatherings and isolate themselves. The government also recommended cafes, restaurants and bars to offer customers the take-away service, and disseminated a special sms to all phones in Georgia informing population about special measures and recommendations regarding prevention and testing with the infection.

On March 21, Prime Minister Giorgi Gakharia, on behalf of the Government of Georgia, called on the President of Georgia to declare a state of emergency throughout the entire country for a month, until April 21, 2020. President Salome Zourabichvili, as well as the Parliament of Georgia despite its general inner tensions between the ruling party and opposition representatives, has approved the proposal the same day. A delegation from the World Health Organization visited occupied Abkhazia following a phone conversation between President Salome Zourabichvili and the Director-General of the WHO, during which the need for a fight against the spread of the COVID-19 amongst the population living in Georgia's occupied territories was discussed. The President thanked the WHO via Twitter for its rapid response and for bringing elementary medical assistance to combat the Coronavirus in occupied Abkhazia. "We stand with our citizens in this common struggle," wrote the President.

NCDC headed by Dr. Amiran Gamkrelidze, Director General, and Dr. Paata Imnadze, Deputy General Director, as well as the head of the Lugar Research Center, Georgian AIDS and Clinical Immunology Research Center under the leadership of Professor Tengiz Tsertsvadze, Marina Ezugbaia, all the state and private clinics of the country led by Tbilisi Infectious Hospital, are working in a non-stop regime to provide solid healthcare for the infected patients, as well as in a preventive direction, while the Georgian media and journalists are constantly reporting on and analyzing each case, and spreading the detailed information, including concerning recommendations how to avoid spread of the infection in the broader society.

In addition, the government has emphasized several directions in fighting against the new Coronavirus. The first dimension is healthcare, under the full responsibility of the Ministry

## | Khatuna CHAPICHADZE

of Healthcare. The second is public order, under the charge of the Minister of Internal Affairs and Secretary of the National Security Council Vakhtang Gomelauri. The third is food supply management, logistics, and transportation, under the responsibility of the Minister of Agriculture, Levan Davitashvili. The fourth is the direction of the economy, under the responsibility of Deputy Prime Minister Maia Tskitishvili. Stable prices have been announced to be maintained on the basic products for consumers in parallel with the process of the obvious devaluation and general inflation. Some banks proposed postponing of credit payment for a certain period of time for their clients, under the given circumstances of emergency, while infrastructure and economic projects of vital importance are also declared to keep functioning in the country as usual. Groceries, pharmacies, gas stations, post offices, and bank branches stayed open; however, most part of the public and/or private companies and institutions kept, and in some cases still are, providing their services remotely.

Georgia, being considered as one of the most successful examples of fighting against COVID-19 through employing complex disease control methods and preventive approaches, administered by the healthcare professionals, but not less by the political leadership itself, has lifted the State of Emergency as of May 23, with the government gradually easing other internal restrictions on movement, commerce, and gatherings since then. The country keeps suspended entry into its territory for most foreign citizens though, with limited exceptions, and the government has not announced a date yet when this will be lifted.



## Speaker

### Hassan HUMEIDA

University of Kiel  
Doctor  
Germany

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- **Person:** Dr. Hassan Humeida, Date of Birth: April 08, 1970, Place of Birth: Aborukba, Sudan
- **Education:** Universities of Jena and Giessen: Diploma and PhD in Nutritional Sciences
- **Institutions:** Senior Lecturer and Scientist by GEOMAR, Universities of Kiel and Flensburg
- **Fields:** Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Toxicology, Hygiene, Nutrition and global Sustainability
- **Activities:** Consultant at BtE<sup>1</sup>, Lecturer of confidence at FNF<sup>2</sup>, Associate Member of AJA<sup>3</sup>, Journalist, Book writer and Publisher

1. BtE\*=Education Meets Development, 2. FNF\*=Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom, 3. AJA\*= Asia Journalist Association

## Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

It has almost been a year since the coronavirus (termed COVID-19) hit the world with full force. This epidemic first occurred in Wuhan, China. This turned like wildfire into a pandemic (across borders). In the case of corona infection, no distinction was made between strong or weak countries, rich or poor countries.

The response to the corona crisis came from different parts of the world as far as infection control was concerned. But similar were in many ways the long-term effects, whether concerning health, society, economics or politics. This unexpected virus infection led the world to believe that despite many differences, cooperation is vital for all people on earth. Luckily, the children and young people appear to be spared during this crisis.

## | Hassan HUMEIDA

The different approaches, whether they are about closing borders, isolation or hygiene measures, vary in intensity from country to country. China declared Wuhan a no-go area early on, South Korea was a pioneer in Covid-19 testing and wearing masks and Germany decided after the South Korean advice to enforce tests and masks. Other countries like Great Britain and the Scandinavian countries followed the principle of herd immunization.

In the fight against corona, virus and infection, the results were very different. The number of sick people in some countries was alarming, especially in the countries Brazil, United States and Italy. The poor developing countries were also badly affected by the infection and resulting in diverse disease patterns. It should be mentioned that the pandemic caught these countries asleep, which were rather preoccupied with other worries. It was not possible to build an intact health system for these countries overnight.

The corona will certainly not be the last infection of its kind. The world should be prepared to continue to need each other. Each country should benefit from the other from their innovative systems, for example through the establishment of functioning systems in the field of health and prevention. These tiny organisms (viruses) are so small that we cannot see them, and yet can bring a planet to a standstill. We all saw that very clearly during this crisis, and we have to take this or similar situations even more seriously in the future. It is high time to develop effective medication and vaccination which should be made accessible to all people at realistic costs.



## Speaker

### Neelima MATHUR

Spotfilms TV News Features Agency  
Executive Producer  
India

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- NEELIMA MATHUR has worked in the field of media as researcher, writer, executive producer and now trainer for nearly four decades.
- She is an Audio-visual Strategist, Development Communicator and Mentor for Documentary and NGO films.
- She writes as a columnist for daily English newspapers in India.
- She is Festival Director & Curator for the Lakeside Doc Festival of international documentaries.
- She is Executive & Project Director for Utsah Toli, a Community Cultural Centre in a semi-rural area addressing school-going children for targeted personality enrichment.

## COVID-19 IN INDIA – DIFFERENT NARRATIVES

The vigilance since India reported its first case of COVID-19 in January 2020, cut across every sector from health to industry to the plight of migrants. Responses developed based on analysis, evidence and long-term planning.

India is stated to be the country with the third largest number of COVID-19 cases in the world. This figure needs to be perceived in context of its population number. The number of cases in India is 2.7 million in a population of 1.3 BILLION. In comparison, the reported figures of death are about 65,000 (August 30 figures).

There are just about 30 COVID-19 cases per 100 thousand people in India. This is considered the lowest and is in context of the population density of the country. The global average of cases per 100 thousand is three times higher.

## | Neelima MATHUR

There are other factors that are unique and noteworthy in context of the COVID-19 status. India is a complex whole of diversity. Language, religion, custom, food habits, dress codes. In effect, India is not a country but a sub-continent of 28 states and 8 union territories. Health is a state subject in India and each state can choose its own path. The COVID-19 crisis showed that the Central and State Governments need to work co-operatively to fight the battle. This has been a unique experience in independent India.

India's health credentials are a mixed bag of dichotomies. Infant and maternal mortality rates and related matters of poverty, hunger – there is a lot to be said in each case.

Pitted against this, are India's achievements in eradicating smallpox and polio and reversing and stemming the HIV / AIDS spread. This too, in a country where illiteracy still stood at almost 25%, and nearly 35% specifically in rural India. How can such complicated health-related achievements be attained in such a large illiterate society?

In 1975, New York Times correspondent stated that it is a "fantastic achievement" and "the greatest accomplishment" by India in eradicating smallpox from the globe. In 2014, India was declared polio-free after no cases were reported for three consecutive years. According to World Health Organization, this was one of the biggest achievements in global health. India has the third largest HIV epidemic in the world. Even so, India's HIV epidemic slowed with a 57% decline in new HIV infections in a one decade period.

These case studies are examples of India's resilient capacity as of the character of rural India. The rural Indian is actually the Common Man of Bertolt Brecht with sensibilities and intuitiveness that guide their decision-making process in their own best interest.

Until May 2020, 216 of the 739 districts of India had reported no COVID-19 cases. The story did change when migrants returned to their hometowns / villages. Even then, the rural population showed exemplary preventive behavior capacities of their own. They were fully alert even to a single person slipping into the habitation under cover of night and took to strict restrictions and continuous information flow and vigilance.

The Corona story of the big metropolises and cities of India is quite different from that of rural India. Consequently, India, the sub-continent, cannot be described with a single definition, the Corona story in India cannot be easily bracketed into a single narrative.



## Speaker

### Hayim ISEROVICH

Maariv Daily  
Foreign Affairs Correspondent  
Israel

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Dr. Hayim Iserovich is a journalist with more than 16 years of experience in covering world news. Currently, he is the Foreign Affairs Correspondent for the Maariv daily in Israel and he is writing articles for leading Israel magazines, covering a wide range of current world affairs. Hayim Iserovich holds Ph.D. degree in Political Sciences from Bar-Ilan University in Israel.

## The Media during the Coronavirus Pandemic – The Israeli Case

The Covid-19 pandemic is rattling the world for seven months and Israel is no exception. Israel was considered one of the success stories in fighting the coronavirus during the first wave of the outbreak, between March and May, with low infection and low mortality rates and about 16,000 cases and 300 deaths. Unfortunately, the second wave, which began in late June and still going on, is much harder and now there are more the 100,000 cases and about a thousand deaths.

We had to scarify a lot. For example, the Passover Seder, one the holiest nights for the Jewish people, was during the total lockdown in April and we had to confine ourselves to our homes instead of family gatherings. But the real high price was the economic impact with more than a million unemployed, thousands of closed businesses and huge recession.

Although the pandemic is far from over, it already possible to identify several aspects of the role of the media, and I would like to describe it, using the Israeli example.

#### 1. Reporting and explaining:

It is the main task of the media on a daily basis, but this crisis, which has more unknown

## | Hayim ISEROVICH

than known facts, gives greater importance to the media in transmitting information to the public.

Besides giving the daily updates about the numbers (new cases, deaths, recovered people) and describing new regulations and restrictions, the media also has been keeping clarifying about all is known about the pandemic, e.g. what is the coronavirus, the symptoms and the consequences, different kinds of tests, effectiveness of treatments. Nevertheless, sometimes the media used the data to make the situation more dramatic than it, which can be attribute to reasons of ratings.

The media not only used medical experts to explain it, but some journalists – mainly foreign affairs editor because of the worldwide dimension of the pandemic – became "coronavirus professionals" themselves, learning the subject and bringing to their audience every new data and new researches about the coronavirus.

Unfortunately, there were instances where the media turned the serious subject to a show. It gave too much airtime to people who presented positions that are contrary to the scientific opinion and it hurt the efforts to convince the public to keep with the important steps to prevent much broader outbreaks.

### **2. Accountability and transparency:**

In democratic societies, the parliaments and the government are being elected by the public and the public need and must know how its elected officials working, how decisions are being made and if they are the best for the common good. It is especially true during crises like the current one. The media is one of the main tools to achieve this accountability, and it must ask the decision makers and the relevant authorities all the tough questions and uncover failures, mismanagements, and wrong decisions.

In Israel, the Prime Minister controlled the whole process – he got the major decisions while the cabinet was like "a rubber stamp", and he made the daily briefings without taking any questions from journalists. At a later stage, after the formation of the new government, it moved a radical legislation which gave the government much broader authorities to deal with the crisis.

Most of the Israeli media did not align itself to the governmental line. There was a lot of criticism about the decision-making process which sometimes was full of zigzags, about the fact that the public cannot get a direct answer from the Prime Minister and about the fact

## | Hayim ISEROVICH

that there was no professional coordinator.

The media also examined the government decisions in depth and its consequences for the public, especially around the controversial decision to allow the Internal Security Service to track people who might have the virus, using a technology designed to combat terrorism.

The media worked to achieve transparency and accountability through in-depth investigations, such as uncovering the real preparation of the health system for outbreak of an epidemic or the functioning of the testing and detection system.

The media also uncovered failures in dealing with crisis, for example in retirement homes which were the center of the outbreaks during the first wave, the lapses in tracking people who could have the virus and reporting about public figures – from leading officials to celebrities – who failed to respect the coronavirus restrictions, including the President and the Prime Minister who hosted family members for the Seder dinner although it was forbidden.

### **3. Bringing the personal dimension:**

The pandemic affected all of us, one way or another, but the personal stories help making the crisis even more realistic. The media has been bringing several aspects of the personal dimension – stories of victims, stories of people who got hurt by the financial crisis which accompanied the pandemic and stories of how people has been dealing with the lockdown.

An unfortunate point worth noting is that during the first wave of the pandemic, the Israeli media published daily stories about all the deceased patients, but it did not do it during the second wave and they became only "numbers with no name".

The bottom line, in every crisis – especially in that kind of one-in-a-hundred year crisis – the media has an important and crucial role in reporting, explaining, and demanding full accountability in the name of the public. But it also needs to remember not to exaggerate the real picture or give space to spreaders of fake "facts", but to present the public with the most updated, completed, and reliable information.



## Speaker

### Moscatello ANTONIO

Askanevs News Agency  
Journalist  
Italy

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Antonio Moscatello is a journalist in Italian News Agency ASKANEWS. He worked as a war correspondent in Iraqi War and as a correspondent in Tokyo and in Budapest for East Europe. Now is responsible for Asia in Askanevs News Agency. He wrote several books. The last ones are: Megumi – Storie di rapimenti e spie della Corea del Nord (Megumi - kidnapping and spies from North Korea), Napoli, 2018; Forse non tutti sanno che in Giappone (Strange Things from Japan), Rome 2019.

## ITALIAN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19

I'm glad to take part to this World Journalist Congress, although just online. The pandemic COVID-19 made us impossible to be in Seoul to meet personally colleagues from all over the world. Many people in our countries died or became sick. The global transportations collapsed, all of the countries suffering with overwhelming losses for economies.

We have been through difficult times during the first half of 2020 and just now many of our countries are experiencing another spread of disease since new difficulties are rising in containment of the coronavirus.

Indeed epidemic containment's adopted strategies, (while now waiting for the second wave and in some country the third wave of disease) are linked to what happened in the first half of this year in every nation. The experience and procedures accumulated in early response to the Covid 19 are essential now, but also it's important to stress that common people of our countries are getting more and more used to a certain behaviour we need to adopt for our safety and for the safety of the people more fragile, as elders or sick people. About this issue Italy, my country, has now gained a very strong know-how.

## | Moscatello ANTONIO

We were among the first countries to be attacked by COVID and we made, in my opinion, different mistakes. I hope that authorities will not repeat the same mistakes that are at the base of knowledge indeed, if correctly understood.

We don't know when COVID-19 came in Italy for the first time. There are studies saying the virus spread in Lombardy Region, in the north of Italy between November and December of 2019. becoming this the most affected area. Some physicians reported unusual influenza cases at the end of 2019. We had an official alert about a new "influenza" strain from China, Wuhan, at the end of December, as the European Center for Disease Control (ECDC), an agency formed by EU after the SARS epidemic, gave to the EU Member States his first assessment. And in January 17th the European Commission Committee for Health Security held a meeting where only 11 of the 27 Member States shown. Italy was not there. It was very unfortunate, because at this meeting, experts advised Governments to carry out tests on passengers coming from China.

At the end of January, the European Commission was very concerned about the new coronavirus, but Member States were more interested in Brexit than in epidemics.

Italian Government showed the first sign of concern on January 30th, when a couple of Chinese tourists were isolated after being tested positive at Spallanzani Hospital for Epidemic Diseases in Rome. So the "new SARS" became newsworthy. From that day, the Italian Government stopped the flights from China and asked a meeting of EU Health Ministries. But the Croatian Presidency didn't convene that meeting until February 13th. Three weeks waiting for a crucial response meeting!

This was not enough. Until the last week of February, many European Countries sent a large quantity of PPE, in particular protective and respirator masks, in China, but they didn't have protective equipment for themselves.

When the emergency became clear, many countries – France, for example – ordered the requisition of all the protective equipment inside the national boundaries, also in ports, taking also the PPE directed to other States more affected, as Italy was. In the next days Germany also ordered the export ban of PPE.

Italy had no stock of PPE. And for many weeks we had a deep lack of these equipments crucial for the fight against the coronavirus.

## | Moscatello ANTONIO

Another big mistake was the lack of leadership among the officials who had to seal, as soon as possible, the most affected area of the country.

Lombardy Region is the most industrial strength of the country. It is more integrated, more connected with rest of the World than other areas of Italy. In the second half of February big clusters arised in this region. No authority – the Central Government, or the Regional Government – sealed the affected counties with due promptness. Furthermore the central and the regional authorities argued between them. In consequence of these mistakes, in the first half of March, the Central Government had to close in a tight lockdown the whole country, with devastating economic losses.

Italian lockdown was enforced by a broad presence of Police and the whole population was forbidden to go out of their homes without “justified reason”. The list of “justified reasons” was written in the Prime Minister’s decrees all this seeming controversial from a Constitutional point of view.

Bars, restaurants, amusement parks, theaters, concert halls, barber shops, monuments were closed. So were the offices, and 'not essential' industries. Schools and universities were closed too. It was an hard and a contradictory choice indeed. When the rules were enforced, in fact, many industries – in particular in the more affected Northern Italy – remained operating, so employees had to go everyday to workplaces, often using crowded subway or buses. On the other hand, in some of the regions of Southern Italy, more rural areas, and so less affected by the coronavirus, the lockdown was tighter.

In Italy the Health System is organized on regional basis. There are 20 Regions and 20 autonomous Health Systems. In the framework of rules given from Rome, different Regions adopted different approaches to the fight against COVID-19. In this panoply of rules, some deathly mistakes were made. The Lombardy Region decided to shelter the people with weak symptoms inside the residencies for elders. On the other side, Veneto Region decided to carry as many tests as possible, and this was a good strategy. The Region of Campania, with Naples as capital city, ordered adjunctive measures to the national ones, because they feared that the regional health system would not be able to afford a fight with a large pandemic. The result was a containment of the epidemic, but also an heavier economic cost. In short, we had a blatant lack of coordination.

So, if the performance of public authorities in Italy were so poor, why is the Country now seeming more resilient to the second wave than other better organized countries such as

## | Moscatello ANTONIO

Germany or France? In my opinion, the answer is because of the People. Generally in Italy there is a lack of trust in authorities. But in the months of the lockdown – from March to May – Italians adhered very strictly to the tight rules dictated from the Government. It was amazing to view the normally crowded streets of Rome, Naples, Milan, Venice, completely empty. No people walking, no shops open. And even now, many people are using masks also in open places when is not mandatory to wear protections. Social distancing, for Italians, is somewhat of unnatural. But they adopted the social distancing and, many months later, they are still respecting, to some extent, these rules. In the summer, of course, it was more difficult for young people, so we had a resurgence of cases in particular among the under-30s. But this cases are in large extent with light or no symptoms. The crucial challenge, now, is to contain this second wave, in order to stop it without affecting the older generations health.

Another key to understand the bright side of the Italian response to the COVID-19, is the deep sense of commitment of medical class and health operators. In the most affected area of the country, nurses and physicians worked without rest for days and days. They created COVID-wards in the hospitals, and in some case, they formed rapid response teams going to the residence of patients to treat them. In my report I'm stressing the dark side of our response, the mistakes our authorities made, but it could be unfair to ignore the hard work of our medical staffs, that in Italy are viewed now as heroes.

It is very difficult to summarize the strategy adopted from Italy to fight the coronavirus. The health system is too articulated. But, in conclusion, I want to say that a lesson we had learned from the mistakes of the first covid 19 wave in Italy is that without a prompt and coordinated reaction, it is impossible to spare lives and to contain the economic cost of a pandemic as this. Saving lives and safeguard economy isn't a contradiction. In my opinion with a timely and efficient response, it will be possible to in the future to minimize either the human and economic losses.

### ITALIAN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19, (RESUME)

Italy was hardly affected by COVID-19 in the first half of 2020. Now, with the second wave hitting Europe, it is crucial for the country to understand the mistakes made during the first wave. There was a lack of promptness and a blatantly weak coordination among the decision-makers. On the other hand, Italian people showed responsibility and Italian medical class a strong commitment. This was the bright side of Italian fight against COVID-19.



Special Speaker

Jun-Wook KWON

National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health & Welfare (MOHW) Director Korea

Curriculum Vitae

- 2019. 10 - 2020. 02 Spokeperson, MOHW
2017. 09 - 2019. 10 Director General, Bureau of Health Policy, MOHW
2013. 12 - 2017. 09 Director General, Bureau of Public Health Affairs, MOHW
2011. 08 - 2017. 09 Director General, Center for Comm Dis Ctrl, Centers for Disease Prevention and Control, MOHW

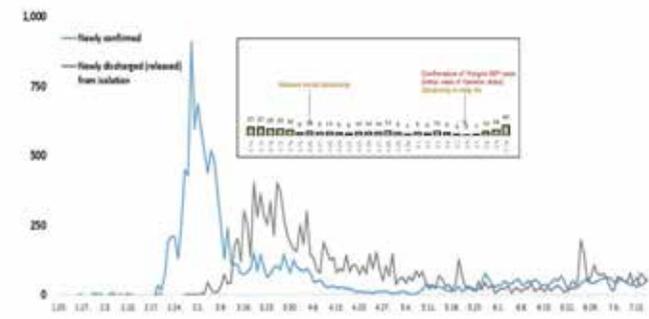
Korea's Response to COVID-19 from the Public Health Perspective



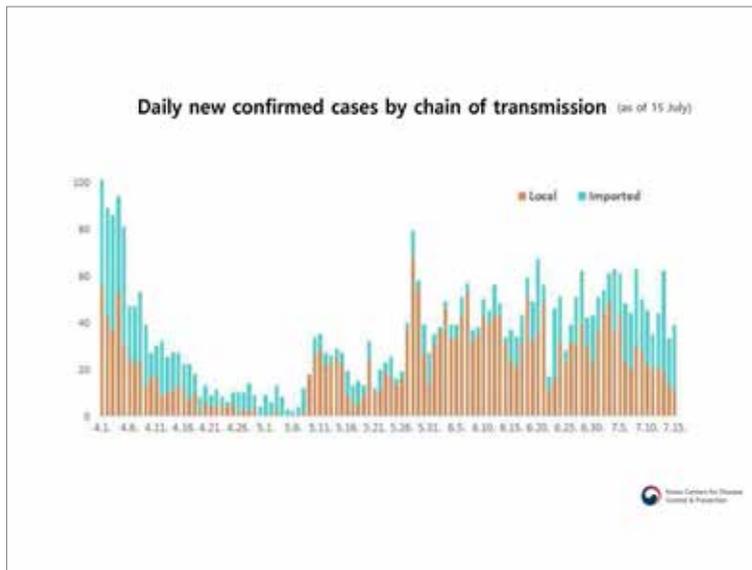
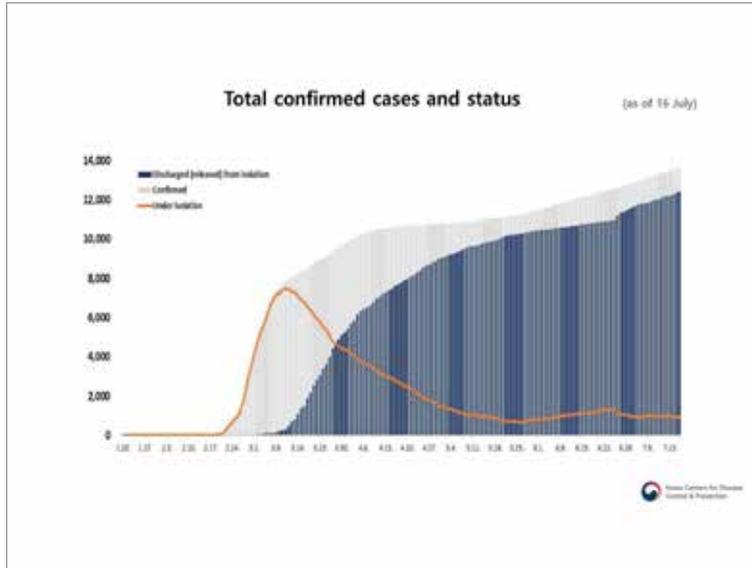
Jun-Wook KWON

Current Situation

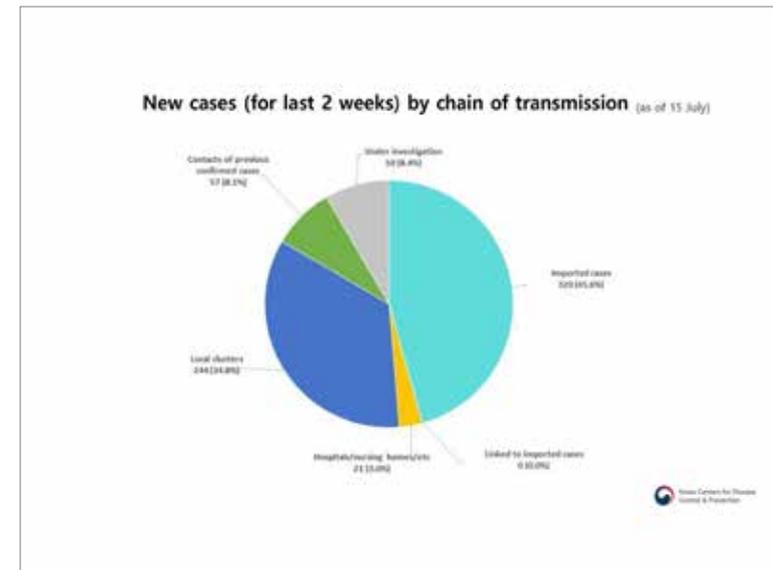
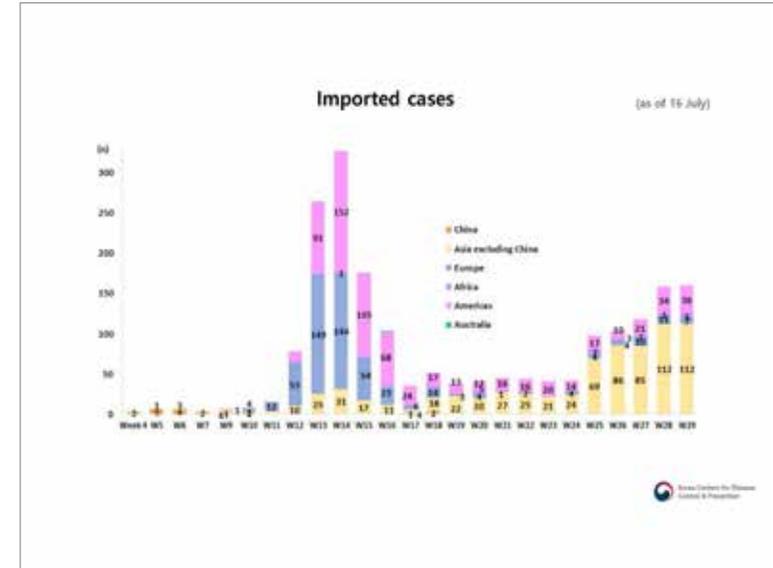
Daily new confirmed and discharged cases (as of 15 July)



| Jun-Wook KWON

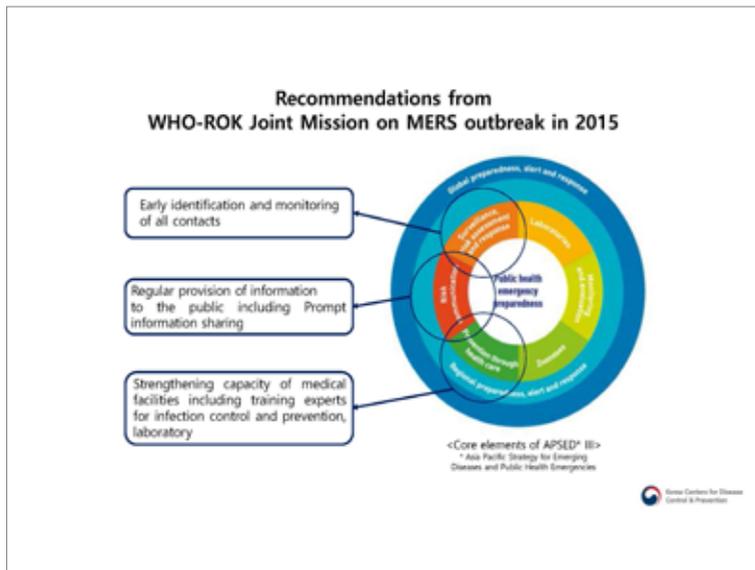


| Jun-Wook KWON

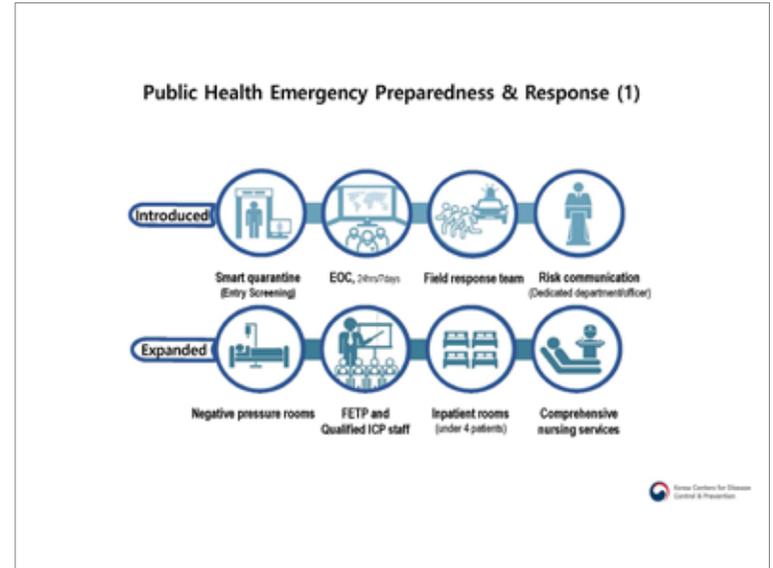


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Preparedness & Response

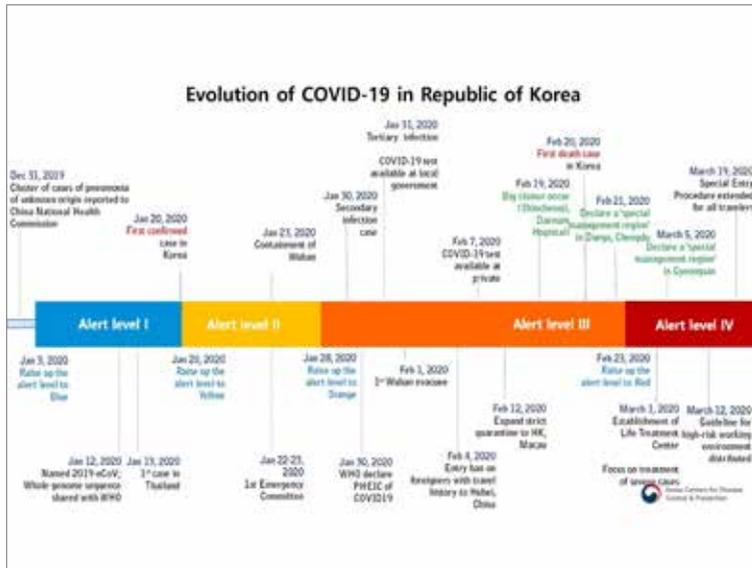


| Jun-Wook KWON



- Public Health Emergency Preparedness & Response (2)**
- Surveillance, risk assessment and response
    - Risk assessment for decision-making of response measures (national crisis level as well)
    - Immediate notification and sharing situation report through IHR with WHO regional office
  - Risk communication
    - Media briefing by KCDC Director
    - Prompt disclosure of updated information
  - Public health emergency response
    - Full engagement of local government and multi-sectoral collaboration in contact tracing
  - Prevention through health care
    - Rapid identification of the case and reporting from healthcare facility
    - Improvement on Infection Control and Prevention practice

| Jun-Wook KWON



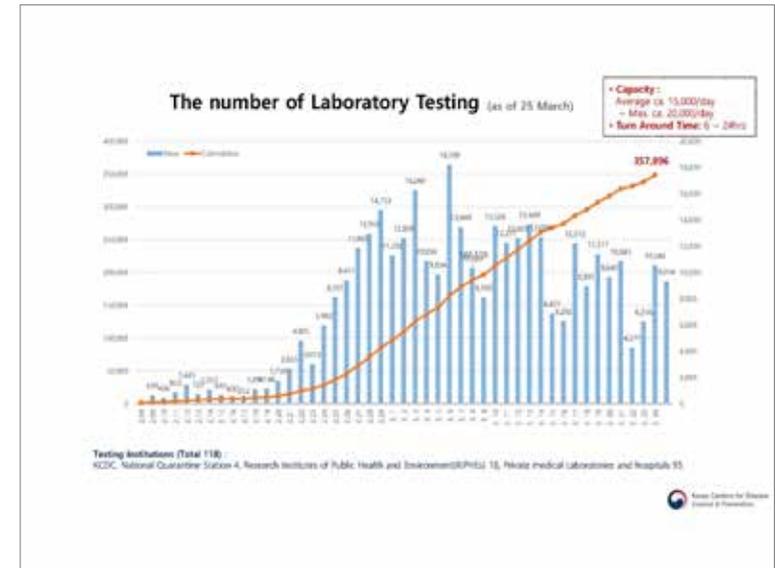
### National Laboratory System establishment before COVID-19

- Operating tiered laboratory network from the national to the local level that is evenly distributed throughout the country
  - Hospitals and other commercial facilities → 256 Public Health Centers → 18 RINs → KCDC
- Establishing specimen transport arrangement
  - Specimens can be transferred to the KCDC within 24 hours for confirmatory testing
- Development of laboratory capacity to diagnosis of infectious diseases
  - KCDC is able to test 86 nationally notifiable infectious disease
  - Developing laboratory test methods to identify unknown and emerging infectious diseases
- Operating Emergency Use Authorization(EUA) system
  - EUA permits temporary use of unapproved in vitro diagnostic devices during infectious disease outbreak

**Legend:**

- KCDC
- RIN (Research Institutes of Health and Environment)

| Jun-Wook KWON



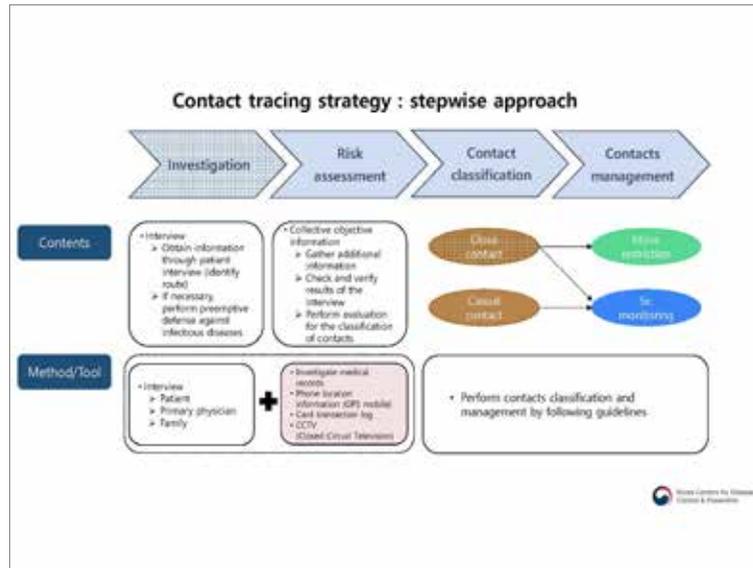
### Ensuring early patient detection through screening clinics and diagnostic testing

- Operation of Drive-Thru Sample Collection & Screening Clinics

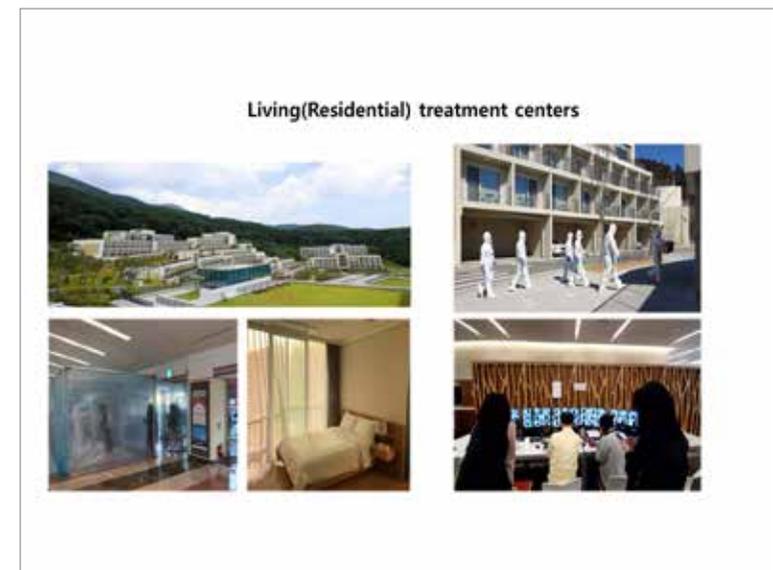
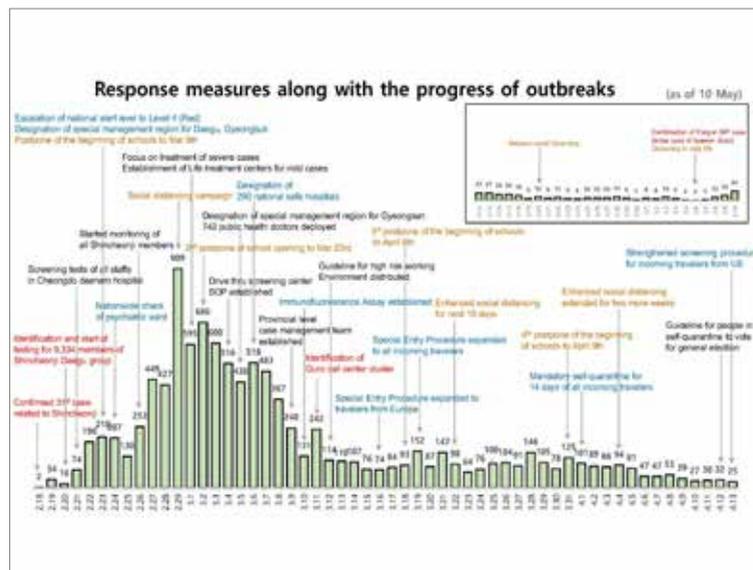
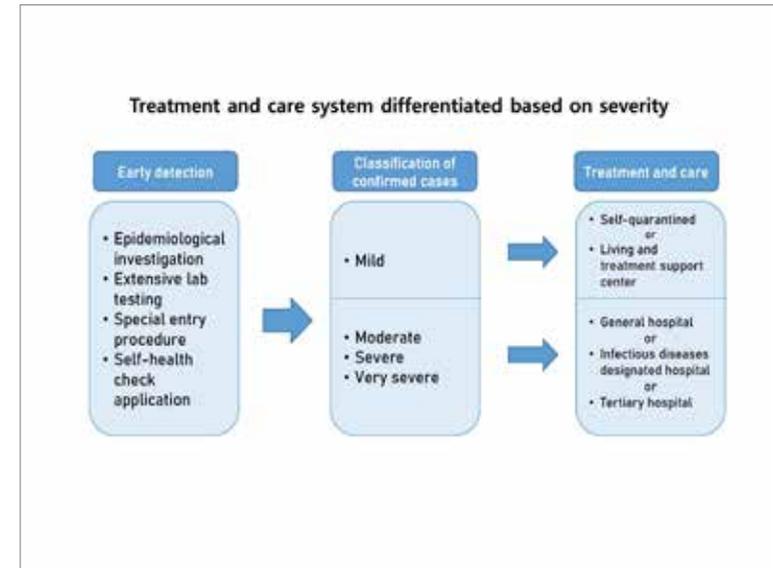
**Legend:**

- KCDC
- RIN (Research Institutes of Health and Environment)

| Jun-Wook KWON



| Jun-Wook KWON



| Jun-Wook KWON



Speaker

**Hye-Gul HONG**

After the rain  
CEO  
Korea

• Curriculum Vitae

Born in 1967.  
Graduated from Seoul National University Medical School in 1991.  
JoongAng Ilbo Korea's first medical reporter in 1992.  
Current CEO of YouTube Medical Channel After the rain.

**The Reasons Why South Korea Is Considered Successful in Preventing COVID-19**

Korea's COVID-19 quarantine is globally well-received. As of September 1st, 2020, the number of confirmed cases is 19,974 and the number of deaths is 324 out of 51.6 million people. It is one of the countries with the lowest incidence and fatality rate. Until early March 2020, just before the World Health Organization declared coronavirus as a global pandemic, Korea once had the highest incidence rate in the world due to the outbreak of Daegu-Gyeongbuk. But now, despite the possibility of a second wave, Korea is generally regarded as one of the countries that successfully quarantined coronavirus. There are three reasons.

First, people are well-trained in wearing masks. Due to the air pollution caused by fine dust since several years ago, Koreans are very familiar with wearing medical masks that filter fine dust instead of regular cotton masks. Purchasing dozens of masks beforehand and using them whenever the air pollution is severe is not unusual in Korea. Korea was ranked ninth in the 2019 Global Health Index published by the Johns Hopkins University. However, the reason the United States, which ranked first, has become one of the countries with the worst results from the coronavirus is because it neglected the importance of masks in the early

## | Hye-Gul HONG

stages of the epidemic.

Apart from the cultural background of Western society that detests wearing masks, US experts asserted that wearing masks is not necessary just because there was no clear evidence from well-organized, large-scale clinical studies. Unfortunately, the medical plausibility of reducing the virus density by filtering saliva drops was neglected. This led to the comical situation where the Surgeon General belatedly demonstrated the process of making a mask by cutting a shirt to encourage people to wear masks. This incident clearly shows how helpless evidence-based medicine can be in a crisis like a global pandemic where quick decisions are necessary.

Secondly, it is the commitment of health care providers. In Korea, 90% of the medical services are provided in the private sector. Doctors in these private sectors have overcome the low medical charge imperatively set by the government by increasing working hours and improving productivity. For instance, a single professor at Seoul National University Hospital individually performs 1,000 cases of highly difficult “ERCP (Endoscopic Retrograde Cholangiopancreatography)” annually. An entire American hospital of a similar size performs 150 cases annually. This is because the medical charge differs by a factor of 10. As a result, Korean doctors are proficient at performing numerous medical tests and procedures in a short time. Public health doctors, which is Korea’s very unique medical system, also play a big role. Instead of going to the military, they are obligated to take charge of public health care in rural areas for three years and three months. There are about 3,500 of them. They were dispatched to large-scale outbreak areas, including Daegu-Gyeongbuk, to fill the gaps that the private medical sector was unable to take care of.

Lastly, it is the leadership of the Korean CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Through daily briefings, they reported the current situation in real-time and continuously emphasized the importance of wearing masks and keeping social distance. Also, by encouraging private companies to mass-produce diagnostic kits in the early stages and employing the movement tracking system with proficient epidemiological investigators, CDC was able to quickly identify confirmed cases and reduce the rate of dispersion. Paradoxically, the experience of swine flu in 2009 and MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome) in 2015, which were two large-scale foreign virus outbreaks, was a huge help. Of course, there was criticism.

First, there was no ban on entry when the virus was rapidly spreading in China in the early stages. It could have been a policy that took the economy and international relationships

## | Hye-Gul HONG

into account, but most experts agree that there should be no compromise on issues directly related to the lives of the people. Countries like New Zealand, Taiwan, and Vietnam, which imposed an early ban on entry, still show the best quarantine results in the world in both incidence and fatality rates.

Secondly, in the process of quarantine, there was a possibility of an invasion of privacy such as public disclosure of personal travel history. In the case of high-risk groups such as large gatherings and club participants, even their personal communications were tracked through cell phone base stations. Extremely personal privacy such as an affair or homosexuality was exposed and the parties had to suffer. Unnecessarily closing department stores and restaurants was also a problem. The public disclosure of travel history was simply intended to inform people who have been there that if symptoms appear, then they may have been infected. But unfortunately, people conceived those places as “places-to-avoid” even after sterilization, which severely hurt the businesses near the area.

Lastly, the division of the media was highly criticized. The politics were undoubtedly involved in the issue of COVID-19. The pro-government media excessively praised the government’s quarantine policy and the anti-government media overly criticized it. For instance, when the initial supply of masks was insufficient, pro-government media stated that masks could be continuously used for several days whereas the anti-government media argued that masks should not be reused and accused the government of lack of preparation. Readers were also divided according to the media. If they did not like the opinions of certain experts, although those opinions were well-founded, they made excessive personal attacks by posting negative comments or making inappropriate phone calls. Just like the U.S. Republican and Democratic parties which constantly conflicted over the issues regarding coronavirus, Korean media and readers repeatedly disputed with each other based on their political beliefs. In this process, it was disheartening that experts were excluded and not able to freely express their opinions.



## Speaker

### Norila MOHD DAUD

Malaysia World News  
Senior  
Malaysia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Qualification : Graduated from University Technology MARA (UiTM), Degree in Mass Communication (Journalism) in 1979.
- Present position : Senior editor of Malaysia World News (media online) ; Owner of Media Path Ent : Vice-president, Asian Journalists Association (AJA) committee member of Mass Communication Alumni University Technology MARA(UiTM) ; Auditor, Utusan veteran club.
- Previous position : President of Confederation of ASEAN Journalists (CAJ), President of National Union of Journalists Malaysia (NUJM) represented Nujmat International Forums and Seminars , attended International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) congress in Korea. Greece, Russia and Spain  
Presented papers on media situation in Malaysia in Sydney, Australia, Belgium, China, Bangladesh, Egypt, India, United States of America (USA) and ASEAN countries.

## Global responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

Visit Malaysia Year 2020 with the target of 30 million visitor arrivals and a revenue of RM100 billion had to be cancelled on March 18 because of COVID-19 pandemic.

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture had to make such decision as the pandemic had a detrimental effect on the tourism sector in Malaysia and the world in general.

Following the government's decision to impose the Movement Control Order (MCO) from March 18 to March 31 to check the spread of the corona virus, the ministry had to freeze many tourism related services and this include all counter and online services at the Tourism

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

Licensing Division and ministry offices in the states, licensing of tour companies, tour guides, tourism accommodation and spas and foot reflexology centres.

With the imposition of the MCO since March 18, all Malaysian citizens have been prohibited from leaving the country while foreigners are also prohibited to enter the country.

In response to the 2020 corona virus pandemic in mainland China, the government had banned travellers from three provinces namely Hubei, Jiangsu and Zhejiang from entering Malaysia with effect from February 9.

On March 13, the government announced that all Malaysians, permanent residents, and people with long term residence permits from that date, must be self-quarantined at their homes for 14 days after returning from Italy, Iran and South Korea.

On March 14, due to the lockdown imposed in Denmark, the government had announced the travel ban for Malaysians to the country.

Up to-date the Malaysian government is still closing the international borders from the foreigners except those with special immigration permits while couples with children who are non citizens could apply for long stay passes upon arrival.

However on September 1, 2020 the government has decided to restrict the entry of long term pass holders from India, Indonesia and the Philippines effective from September 7 following the surge of new COVID-19 cases in these countries.

The restriction to stop the entry to Malaysia includes a) Permanent resident; b) The Malaysia My Second Home Programme Pass holder (MM2H); c) All categories of expatriates including Professional Visit Pass (PLIK); d) Resident Pass; e) Wife or Husband to Malaysian (Spouse Visa); e) Students from the three countries .

The government through the Foreign Ministry is constantly discussing with other countries to have mutual standard operating procedure (SOP) before the citizens from both countries could travel for official and business purposes.

Foreign ministers from Malaysia and Singapore on July 26 had agreed on the SOP involving the Reciprocal Green Lane (RGL) and Periodic Commuting Arrangement (PCA) which will facilitate cross-border travel for official, business and work purposes between the two nations.

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

Foreign Minister, Hishammuddin Tun Hussein met his counterpart, Foreign Minister of Singapore, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan at the Johor-Singapore Causeway recently to realise the RGL and PCA implementation effective from August 10, 2020.

The Malaysian government had also made agreements with countries such as Indonesia, Bangladesh and others to send illegal immigrants that are from the countries concerned after they had been screened and treated for COVID-19 in the local hospitals.

Malaysia had faced with COVID-19 infections among detainees at the immigration detention camps where illegal immigrants were placed before they were sent back to their countries.

The methods used to control COVID-19 from spreading are:-

1. The public is prohibited to mass gather or attend massive events including religious, sports, social and cultural activities. All worshiping locations and business premises are closed except for supermarkets, public markets, grocery stores and convenience stores that sell everyday necessities. For Muslims, all religious activities in the mosques including Friday prayers are adjourned in line with the decision made on March 15, 2020 by the Special Muzakarah Committee Meeting of the National Fatwa Council.
2. Malaysians returning from abroad are required to undergo health check and self-quarantine for 14 days.
3. Tourists and foreign visitors are restricted to enter the country.
4. Closure of all kindergartens, government and private schools, including daily schools, boarding schools, international schools, tahfiz centres and other primary, secondary and pre-university institutions.
5. Closure of all public and private higher education institution (IPTs) and skill training institutes.
6. Closure of all government and private premises except for essential services (water, electricity, energy, telecommunications, postal, transportation, irrigation, oil, gas, fuel, lubricants, broadcasting, finance, banking, health, pharmacy, fire, prison, port, airport, safety, defence, cleaning, retail and food supply).

The MCO that was to be in effect from March 18 till March 31 has been extended four times

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

as additional two weeks phases over the period of two months.

- Phase 2, announced on March 25, extended the MCO to April 14, due to new cases continued to increase.
- Phase 3, announced on April 10, extended the MCO to April 28 as the number of cases was projected by the WHO to peak in mid-April.
- Phase 4, announced on April 23, extended the MCO to May 12.
- On May 10, the Conditional Movement Control Order was extended until June 9, the fourth extension since March 18. Unlike the others, this extension was scheduled to last about a month.
- On June 6, the Director-General of Health, Dr. Noor Hisham Abdullah confirmed that the movement control order (MCO) would remain in force since Malaysia was still being monitored under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988.
- On June 7, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin announced that the Conditional Movement Control Order would end on June 9, with the country moving into the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO) phase until August 31.

However on August 28, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin had announced the extension of RMCO until December 31, 2020 following the emergence of COVID-19 new clusters in three states namely Kedah, Perlis and Sarawak.

As of August 30, it was reported that two more new clusters were formed in Selangor and Kedah with cumulative total of 9,334 cases, 9,048 cumulative totals of patients discharged from the hospitals; 126 cumulative total of deaths and 160 active cases under treatment in the hospitals.

Specific methods to control COVID-19

From 27 March, specific locations were subjected to a stricter order, dubbed the "Enhanced Movement Control Order" (EMCO or Enhanced MCO), for 14 days if a large cluster was detected within the area in order for the government to conduct a thorough COVID-19 test towards all residents, and to curb the spread of the virus out of the areas. The orders included:

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

- all residents and visitors within the area are forbidden from exiting their homes during the order;
- non-residents and visitors outside the area cannot enter into the area subjected to the order;
- all businesses are shut down;
- adequate food supplies will be given by the authorities during the 14 day-order to all residents;
- a medical base will be established within the area;
- all roads into the area are blocked.

On March 27, two areas in Simpang Renggam, Johor were subjected to the order till April 9 as those areas alone contributed to 61 positive cases. On March 30, this order was applied to a few hamlets in Sungai Lui, District, Selangor due to a detection of a cluster involving a “madrassa” with 71 positive cases.

City One, a residential complex in Jalan Munshi Abdullah, Kuala Lumpur with its residents mainly foreign workers was subjected to the extended order on March 31 as 17 cases involving residents of the tower were detected with COVID-19. Selangor Mansion and Malayan Mansion, apartment buildings located at Jalan Masjid India, Kuala Lumpur, were subjected to EMCOs on April 7, as 15 positive cases were detected within the two buildings, while Jalan Masjid India and its surrounding areas were subjected to EMCOs on April 14. Similarly, an EMCO order was placed for over 15,000 residents living around the Kuala Lumpur Wholesale Market in Selayang on April 20 until May 3, following the detection of 20 cases and one fatality from the area.

Masjid India of Kuala Lumpur was completely sealed off during EMCO.

On April 6, Malaysia's Security and Senior Minister, Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, said that to the EMCO.

However in the recent new COVID-19 clusters formed in several states in Malaysia, the government had imposed the Targeted Enhanced Movement Control Order (TEMCO) to contain the spread of corona virus infections.

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

Under TEMCO, residents will undergo health screenings and all routes in and out of the areas affected will be closed when the screening process was done. Roadblocks were set with police personnel on guard. The TEMCO adopts the standard operating procedure (SOP) of the Recovery Movement Control Order (RMCO).

The health screening is compulsory and if members of the public fail to do it then the authorities will go to their homes to ask them to be tested.

These measures will allow the tracing of close contacts to be carried out to contain further spread of COVID-19 in the society. Residents in the affected areas are asked to stay at home as the quarantine period will be on until the TEMCO ends. The head of the family will be allowed to go out to get necessities, limited to the inside TEMCO area.

The pandemic of corona virus disease (COVID-19) has brought much fear and anxiety worldwide due to the rapid transmission rate and mortality. The exponential surge of COVID19 cases need to be addressed aggressively to flatten the epidemic curve.

Due to the extensive spread of COVID-19 across the world not excluding Malaysia, the government has to take drastic strategic actions and measures to avoid the pandemic from growing.

A literature search via the Science Direct and Google Scholar databases of published articles and official statements from the Ministry of Health, Malaysia from December 2019 to May 2020 was conducted.

The first wave of COVID-19 outbreak in Malaysia started in late January involving 22 cases but the second wave involved more cases due to the massive religious gathering that occurred in late February.

Malaysia implemented the Movement Control Order (MCO) on 18th March 2020 and other well-coordinated response action plans to prevent community transmission.

The reproduction number (R0) was successfully reduced from 3.6 to 0.3 due to the MCO. Malaysia's risk communication strategies that include daily press conference by the Director General of Health and dissemination of information through national television and social media played a crucial role in dealing with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The general opinion of the Malaysian public is effective response actions and mitigation

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

plans should be the main priorities to combat this pandemic. The immediate direction will need to be focused on development of vaccines for COVID-19.

According to the World Health Organization's (WHO) report, the corona virus will stay as long as two years until early or end of 2021 as the vaccine for COVID-19 has not been found.

### Vaccine research

In mid-March, the Malaysian Vaccines and Pharmaceuticals (MVP) reportedly has pleaded for co-operation and support from the Federal Government, with its executive director claimed their company has faced multiple postponed meetings in an attempt to meet the health minister to request for a sample from the Institute of Medical Research (IMR) of Malaysia.

By March 25, the IMR has set to begin testing existing local vaccines in collaboration with the MVP and University of Malaya's Tropical Infectious Diseases Research and Education Centre (TIDREC). The local vaccines testing will be conducted in UM's TIDREC laboratory, which is one of Malaysia's modular biosafety level 3 (BSL3) facilities previously used to study highly pathogenic agents such as MERS coronavirus and Nipah virus with the vaccines to be firstly tested on the infectious bronchitis virus (IBV), which is an avian corona virus, as previous research shows that the IBV in poultry has high genetic similarity with the human corona virus.

Meanwhile the Solidarity trial, launched by WHO to compare the safety and effectiveness of treatment protocols which included chloroquine, hydroxychloroquine, interferon-beta, lopinavir/ritonavir and remdesivir, would be conducted in nine government hospitals across the country.

### Latest development in controlling COVID-19

On July 3, Minister of Health Adham Baba announced that both Malaysian citizens and foreign nationals travelling to Malaysia would be required to pay fees when undergoing COVID-19 tests under the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases (Fee for Corona Virus Diseases 2019 (COVID-19) Detection Test) Regulations 2020, which came into effect on June 29.

Regarding the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases Act 1988 or Act 342, any person not complying with the SOP of the MCO will be fined not more than RM1, 000 or jail not more than six months or both.

## | Norila MOHD DAUD

Due to the increasing number of non-compliance activities relating to MCO, the Ministry of Health had suggested the fine be increased to RM10, 000 but it has to be tabled and debated in the Parliament and takes a long process before it could be passed and implemented.

In another development, with effect from August 1, the government of Malaysia had decided the use of face mask as mandatory in crowded public places where social distancing cannot be practised. The rule had been earlier implemented for public transport passengers.

On August 8, the Prime Minister of Malaysia, Muhyiddin Yassin had launched the campaign themed "Embracing the New Norms" to counter COVID-19 pandemic.

The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness and empowering the people to protect themselves, families and the community and to help the front liners to fight the pandemic.

The Prime Minister also launched the book "New Normal Culture for the Community" published by the Ministry of Health to enhance the campaign in fighting COVID-19. - Ends



## Speaker

### Kuber CHALISE

TBi Publications Pvt Ltd  
(The Publisher of Karobar National Economic Daily)  
Editor  
Nepal

#### • Curriculum Vitae

A Kathmandu-based working journalist Mr Kuber Chalise (print name: Kuvera Chalise), with journalism experience of two-and-a-half-decade in print and electronic media, is currently Editor at the first economic daily newspaper of Nepal, Karobar National Economic Daily (Tbi Publications Pvt Ltd). The Nepal Press Institute (NPI) graduate Mr Chalise started his career with a vernacular Janata weekly, and continued working with vernacular dailies Himalaya Times, Annapurna Post, Nagarik, and monthly vernacular Dibya Gyan; and english dailies including The Himalayan Times and Republica, english fortnightly Nepal Times, apart from Himalayan Broadcasting Corporation (HBC) 94 FM. Mr Chalise, who also worked for The Independent, the first english daily newspaper in Mauritius, is one of the few journalists in Nepal, who works for both Nepali and English newspapers at the same time.

### Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

1. The COVID-19 pandemic has shattered global order of nations, and also the mankind
2. Since the COVID-19 has been a global pandemic, it called for a global response. Almost all the countries across the globe went on for lockdown making the earth stand still, of course, bleeding the global economy.
3. According to World Bank forecasts, the global economy will shrink by 5.2 percent this year, sending an estimated 100 million people into extreme poverty and turning into a depression – from recession – in the most challenged parts of the globe.
4. According to ILO, the COVID-19 crisis is expected to wipe out 7.20 percent of working hours or 125 million full-time workers in Asia and the Pacific. Remittances to South Asia are projected to decline by 22 percent to \$109 billion in 2020, following the growth of

## | Kuber CHALISE

6.1 per cent in 2019. The deceleration in remittances to the South Asian region in 2020 is driven by the global economic slowdown due to the coronavirus outbreak as well as oil price declines.

5. According to WHO, the prevention and control of the COVID-19, starts from an individual, him/herself, by maintaining physical distance, regularly washing hands, sanitizing oneself, and wearing masks, as a precautionary measure.
6. Some countries including South Korea and Singapore handled COVID-19 pandemic competitively, which could have been replicated in other countries. But most of the countries failed to replicate the best practise.
7. Since the coronavirus has no vaccine till date, many countries including India, China and Russia are competing to bring the vaccine as soon as possible. But, the poorer countries may have less chance to get the vaccine as there will be a lots of competition among the countries.
8. The COVID-19 has, apart from a disease, also become global and local politics and business. The wealthy and politically dominant nations will compete to get the patent right so that they can exploit the global market monopoly. Likewise, the COVID-19 are being used as a political tool to win elections in some parts of the world.
9. There are some positive aspects of the COVID-19 also as it has also taught human beings to spend more on health, education and youth, apart from creating a new work culture. The coordination among the countries in fighting for the COVID-19 pandemic will create positive synergy for the future too.
10. The COVID-19 has also forced the world to go digital, and the new-normal is supposed to create a faceless system that is going to lessen corruption in the third world country giving governments a space for more spending in health and education.
11. The common problem of the COVIS-19 pandemic may also help create harmony among the nations, realizing the importance of unity in fighting such pandemic.



## Speaker

### Abubakar ADAM IBRAHIM

Daily Trust Newspaper Abuja  
Assistant Editor  
Nigeria

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Abubakar Adam Ibrahim is the Features Editor and columnist at Daily Trust newspaper, one of Nigeria's leading newspapers.
- He is a winner of the 2018 Michael Elliot Award for Excellence in African Storytelling awarded by the International Centre for Journalists, New York.
- He is an Ochberg Fellow for Journalism and Trauma at the Dart Centre, Columbia Journalism School, New York and a recipient of The Gabriel Garcia Marquez Fellowship in Cultural Journalism.
- His novel Season of Crimson Blossoms won the lucrative Nigeria Prize for Literature in 2016 and has been translated into several languages. He has authored two other books.
- He has given talks on journalism and literature at major international journalism and literature festivals around the world and is a recipient of several international writing fellowships across the world.

### Global Responses to Covid-19: Nigeria's Unique, complicated approach

The moment Covid-19 became a global pandemic, Nigeria reactivated its Ebola Viral Disease (EVD) protocol, which was put in place in 2014 to combat an outbreak in the country that year.

As early as February, passengers flying into Nigeria were screened at airports for symptoms of Covid-19, when such screenings were not done in countries such as the US and the UK. On February 27, an index case was recorded. In the seven months since, cases have risen to over 50, 000 and a little over one thousand deaths. We all feared it would be worse.

Nigeria has always had a poor healthcare system, which has suffered years of neglect. Billions were raised in donations by corporate Nigeria, business moguls and donor agencies

## | Abubakar ADAM IBRAHIM

to help build isolation centres across the country and procure PPE and ventilators. These centres went up quickly in the two major cities of Lagos and Abuja. Other cities followed. The National Centre for Disease Control, NCDC expanded its call centres to monitor persons of interest, meaning those returning from foreign trips.

These are challenging times for the Nigeria and for the rest of the world. They are even more interesting times for journalists. With a lot of money invested in the fight, and considering the government's reputation for mismanaging funds, journalists had to keep an eye on the spread of the virus and the disappearance of the funds into private pockets. It is a tricky balancing act to pull off. Especially considering that with the lockdown and the attendant economic impact, media houses were forced to cut down their workforce, cut wages and ordered majority of their staff to work from home, if possible.

The few journalists on the frontlines have to contend with doing stories on the spread of the virus, the human impact, the economic woes and how government is managing the finances to fight the virus.

As expected, it didn't take long for discrepancies in the accounting to emerge. The amount budgeted for treatment and care of each individual case in most of states in is not in anyway consistent with the reality or the care that these patients received.

In the northern state of Kano, for instance, where the governor had been caught on tape taking graft before, the state went about without any precaution or social distancing and once an index case was recorded, cases rose from zero to 60 in no time. It soon became clear that the daily increase in confirmed cases in the state is not commensurate with the testing capacity. The state government was doctoring the figures because they want to receive money from the Federal Government. The moment they got this money, the number of confirmed cases fell drastically and the lockdown in the state was eased.

In several other states, similar discrepancies became apparent in the number of confirmed cases and the finances around the pandemic.

In the coming weeks and months, when this pandemic is over, journalists will have a field day auditing the accounts and figuring out exactly how monies meant to fight Covid-19 were spent.



## Speaker

### Rahul AIJAZ

Freelance journalist

Freelance writer / journalist and filmmaker  
Pakistan

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Visiting faculty at IoBM, Karachi.
- Freelance writer/filmmaker/journalist.
- Writer/editor at Film N' Chips
- Former Life&Style reporter at The Express Tribune
- Former deputy editor at The AsiaN, Seoul"

## Pakistan's Response to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods

Pakistan's example is that of a college student procrastinating until the last day of the deadline and still managing to finish the assignment. We had a similar response to Covid-19. While the world took it seriously from day one and a few countries even took measures to control it in the beginning of the year, we waited until March to realize the potential threat it posed.

Early on, Prime Minister Imran Khan believed Coronavirus was only a flu and people need not be worried. Then he would impose a lockdown, and then change his mind again.

The government established National Command and Operations Center (NCOC) – a center to monitor Covid19 response, headed by Planning Minister Asad Umar.

However, by end of March, Pakistan had around 6, 000 active cases. In mid-March, Pakistan imposed the lockdown in that month so the numbers were not as high as they could have been.

Despite that, the numbers almost tripled in April. From May onwards, the numbers increased drastically. As most people didn't even believe in Coronavirus, they didn't follow the SOPs.

## | Rahul AIJAZ

Multiple religious festivities, such as Eid ul Fitr in May also brought people together as families and friends celebrated together and caused further spread of the virus.

"This virus will spread more" he had said in his address. "I have to say it with regret that there will be more deaths." But Pakistan could not afford to remain shut any longer, he had argued, and people "will have to learn to live with the virus ... we cannot feed the poor indefinitely."

The result was obvious. On June 13 and 19, Pakistan reported the highest single-day increases since the outbreak – 6,825 and 6,604 respectively. A study conducted by the Imperial College of London predicted Pakistan could see up to 2.2 million cases by end of June.

Meanwhile, the lockdown was lifted, people disregarded any and all SOPs. There was pressure from the clergy. The lockdown was seen as an attack on Islam, preventing Muslims from shaking hands and praying together in mosques.

With government's advice to "learn to live with the virus", people rejected the masks and gloves and pretended everything was okay. Until it wasn't. It reached a point where the World Health Organization had to write a letter to all provincial governments advising against lifting of the lockdown.

The predicted doomsday almost happened when on July 1, we had 108,642 active cases. In narrative fiction, there is a technique called 'dues ex machina', meaning an unexpected power saves a seemingly hopeless situation. Therefore, July onwards, we saw our very own 'dues ex machina' when the numbers suddenly, steadily started to decline. It was almost a miracle.

Predicted to have over 2 million cases, we have had no more than total 9,000 active cases by mid to late August. Recoveries have miraculously been higher and hospitals aren't pushed to their limits anymore.

4,400 deaths were reported by the end of June. It's a shocking number considering the government was planning for hundreds and thousands. Until August 29, Pakistan has conducted around 2.6 million coronavirus tests, has had nearly 300, 000 total Covid19 cases and 6,284 deaths. And while it can be said for sure that there have been many unreported and unregistered Covid19 deaths, the number can't be much higher or even in the predicted range.

## | Rahul AIJAZ

But how did it happen? Pakistan, even with the government's confused response and the public's utter disregard of following precautions, managed to keep the number of cases and subsequently deaths way below the world average. How? A lot of Pakistani Muslims believe the virus would only affect non-Muslims. It's a catastrophe on unbelievers for not following the word of Allah. But it definitely isn't that.

In terms of fatality rates, 88 countries have fared better than Pakistan so we aren't really that blessed as we initially thought. 103 countries have fared better when it comes to total number of cases.

However, we are still number 15 on the list of countries that are still reporting new infections daily. The number of cases in Pakistan has dropped from thousands to a mere 500 on a daily basis.

Unsurprisingly, the common perception is that we have defeated Covid19. You go out in the street and 80% of the public doesn't even wear masks. For them, it's back to normal... almost. But it's too early to celebrate this victory when we don't understand what really happened.

The media also played an interesting role. From hyping up the number of cases and scaring people into complying to the government's orders to becoming less aggressive in the last couple of months. Apart from traditional media, it was social media that really took it to another level. It's hard to tell between real and fake news on Facebook and WhatsApp groups as it is. But people shared how their family members were being treated and in other cases, disregarded by hospitals. There was even a theory about how hospitals were forging numbers to show more cases in order to receive more funds. People shared about how they took their family members to hospitals for other checkups and the hospital now wouldn't let them go saying they were Covid-positive and how they died in a couple of days. That also scared people into not getting tested or reporting infected cases.

Regardless, with all the theories and the talk about numbers and recoveries, it's apparently true that cases have gone down. Pakistan is recovering. But as mentioned before, it'd be too early to celebrate victory until the virus is completely eliminated. The country has reopened to a degree. But... winter is coming. And with that, we don't know what to expect. The best possible way is to continue following precautions, maintain social distancing and tackle it one day at a time.

**Resources:** Dawn, The Nation



## Speaker

### **Gorethy Maria KENNETH**

South Pacific Post-Post Courier  
Senior Political Reporter  
Papua New Guinea

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Bachelors Degree in Journalism and Diploma in Media Studies
- 20 years working with Post Courier in various rounds and areas.
- 15 years of stringing for various international news organizations
- 2007 News Limited Scoop of the Year Finalist Award
- 2003 Pacific Island News Association –Journalist of the Year Award
- Various awards with the Post Courier
- Have written for 20 years in various fields/rounds for Post Courier
- Edited books for various Papua New Guineans including writing an article for China “A Bright Shared Future”

### “Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods”

The effect of Covid-19 has brought on an onslaught of responses from countries around the world to counter the harmful effects of the disease, although the swift counter-measures were mainly from developed countries, which the low infection rates like in Europe can be attributed to, the Pacific for example, has managed to provide an adequate response in terms of existing medical capacities.

Papua New Guinea, the Pacific's largest island country with the population of about 10 million, 850 languages and land of a thousand tribes had it all covered despite with great difficulty, but effectively.

With the economy down in the region, donor partners were “the next best friends” in assisting PNG counter its response to this world pandemic disease.

## | Gorethy Maria KENNETH

The Media in PNG also played a major role from day one in helping the Government, the donor partners and the community at large in creating awareness on the responses to counter the Covid 19 with its Disease Control Methods.

PNG swiftly took responsibility of the situation at the start of 2020 with Immigration blocking all entry points and borders as early as January 2020. A State of Emergency was announced with a Controller in the country's Police Commissioner David Manning appointed to take charge and the Health Secretary Dr Paison Dakulala, his second in Command.

PNG, geographically a nightmare had nothing compared to the world arena, but the tight cultural relationship they have with the Pacific and the surrounding world partners were a case in point.

Strict measures were released and that was one reason that made it more effective to counter the response to this pandemic as compared to the world global standard.

Ends



## Speaker

### Ivan LIM

Environment Communicators of Singapore (Ecos) /  
Asia Journalist Association  
Chairman / Senior Correspondent  
Singapore

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Ivan Lim Sin Chin, is a senior correspondent of the Asia Journalist Association (AJA) news portal, the <http://www.asian.asia> (English version) and its honorary president. He is a graduate in social science from the National University of Singapore.

In The Straits Times (S) Press, he made his mark as a labour correspondent.

As secretary-general of the Singapore National Union of Journalists, he did a stint in the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC).

## Global Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic Singapore's Crisis and Fight Back

Backdrop to Onslaught on COVID-19 Pandemic: Coming out of Wuhan, the Chinese city with close links to Singapore, the COVID-19 plague swiftly thrust the city-state into a crisis as the overhang of traditional Christmas New Year festivities and school holidays was fading and 2019 was drawing to a close.

Even then, Singaporeans, like people in mainland China, were looking forward to ring in the Lunar New Year of the Zodiac Rat on January 25, 2020, and were hopeful that the outbreaks thought to be just pneumonia and would not be contagious.

Unfortunately, it turned out to be a novel Coronavirus and highly infectious.

The story of Singapore's COVID-19 crisis management was characterized by the World Health Organization (WHO) as a 'model'---for its 'whole-of-government' effort--- that morphed, like the virus, into a cautionary tale. The sub-plot is of a government that sought to capitalize on a crisis for political gain.

## | Ivan LIM

Singapore response followed WHO guidelines

In tackling COVID-19 outbreak, Singapore took its cue from the WHO, which declared a global emergency (Public Health Emergency of International Concern) on January 30. (WHO called it a pandemic in terms of its world-wide spread on March 11.)

Trouble-shooting by a multi-agency task-force

Battle-tested from combating the deadly predecessor, SARS (Severe acute respiratory syndrome) the government was confident in nipping this SARS II pandemic. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong had declared that if there is any country capable of taming the disease, it would be Singapore.2/...

(2)

This was to set the tone in the Republic's handling of the pandemic, the achievement-oriented government quickly seizing the opportunity to garner brownie points from its efforts to bust COVID-19.

On being alerted by China that the Coronavirus was contagious, Singapore immediately formed a multi-ministerial task-force.

The battle group was led by Health Minister Gan Kim Yong and National Development Minister Lawrence Wong as co-chairmen, instead of medical experts unlike during the Sars pandemic in 2003.

The ruling People's Action Party, which had to call general elections by 2021, wanted its young ministers to show their mettle in a crisis.

First line of defense: Monitoring China visitors

In the early phase of COVID-19 tracking, the Task-force focused on monitoring Chinese nationals arriving by air. Temperature-scanners at Changi Airport checked passengers for fever. Anyone found having symptoms of pneumonia were given swab tests and positive ones would be quarantined at the National Center for Infectious Diseases (NCID).

Contact-tracing a Key Step in Curbing Virus

## | Ivan LIM

The first cases began to show up in late January. The Task-force adopted a containment strategy, seeking to ring-fence people who came down with the killer-bug and traced their close contacts who could have been infected and enforcing measures to isolate them for 14 days, the incubating period of the virus.

Aggressive contact-tracing-entailed mobilizing personnel from the Health Ministry, National Environment Agencies, Singapore Armed Force and Police. Every case was to be followed through to arrest the spate of virus infections.3/...

(3)

Sars-era disease Warning Code Activated

At the same time, the government re-activated the Disease Outlook Response System Condition (Dorscon) to track any escalation of the virus threat from green through yellow and orange to red.

Code Orange Warning of Coronavirus Spreading in Community

The task-force fired its first salvo in the COVID-19 war on Feb 7 when the Dorscon was raised to orange, prompted by a spike in COVID-19 cases to 33, of which three had no links to previous ones and no record of travel to Wuhan.

Panic-buying Breaks Out

Seeing orange, not red, Singaporeans rushed out to stock up on rice, Maggi mee and toilet rolls. Such was the adverse popular reaction to the warning that government leaders had to come out to restore calm with assurances on Singapore's food stockpiles.

That episode showed that households feared a long siege by the more contagious Sars-Cov 2 pathogen.

As the virus jumps from persons to persons via droplets, the task-force took steps to stop mass activities in schools, sports and entertainment centers. Precautions like temperature checks for staff became the order of the day in workplaces. Telecommuting was practiced by some establishments.

Stay-indoor Rule Compared to Rodents' Life

## | Ivan LIM

Later in March, as tougher stay-indoors and safe-distancing restrictions like stay-home kicked in, some people mused that they seemed like rodents hiding in holes and sneaking out to find food before scurrying back to safe havens underground. 4/...

(4)

At the tail-end of Lunar New Year festival in February, the first local transmissions cluster was detected.

(This was at a Chinese medical company, Yong Thai Hang, in Lavender Road visited by Wuhan tourists. The tour guide and employees later tested positive for the virus, together with family members and a house-maid.)

Moving at a faster clip, the virus was also spreading in churches, hotels and worksites where people tend to congregate.

This rising trend was paralleled by more COVID-19 outbreaks in several Asian and Western countries. As an international financial hub, the Republic constituted a link in the initial international transmission chain. An international business meeting held at the Grand Hyatt hotel in the city's tourist belt of Orchard Road turned out to be a COVID-19 spawning ground when a British, a Malaysian and two South Korean participants tested positive for the virus after returning home.

As the virus threat from overseas expanded, Singapore banned flights from Asian neighbors as South Korea, Europe, Britain and Iran.

On March 21, the first deaths from COVID-19 in the city proved to be a tipping point, pushing the Task-force to enforce restrictions on social activities. Within the week, entertainment places were closed and tours were suspended. This was followed up by enforcement of a 1-meter safe distancing rule and limited gatherings to no more than 10 people, later reduced to a maximum of five.

But both imported and local outbreaks of COVID-19 showed no sign of abating. On April 3, PM Lee announced "Circuit Breaker (CB)" measures that fell short of a complete lockdown. (Key provisions included: \*stay-home order requiring the elderly or "senior citizens" to stay indoors with two household members allowed to go out to buy food and seek medical help; \*food and beverage outlets can only provide take-away or delivery food service; \* schools

## | Ivan LIM

and universities and colleges switched to home-based and e-lessons.\* 5/...

(5)

Face Mask Policy Change: From Optional to Mandatory

Where previously, wearing of face masks was optional and meant for those who are sick, it was now made compulsory outdoors on pain of fine( \$300) and court prosecution. \*Safe distancing of 1 meter was enforced and orders were issued for selective closure of factories, businesses and services based on official definition of "essential and non-essential" services)

New Battle Front In the Migrant Worker Community

The CB lockdown came as the Task-force' valiant campaign to contain the virus was shaken by a sudden upsurge of outbreaks in the overcrowded dormitories housing thousands of migrant workers, mainly from India and Bangladesh.

For several months, NGOs had warned the authorities about the risks of exponential transmissions among foreign workers cramped an unhygienic multi-level dormitories. The media's highlighting of mass infection on board cruise ship Diamond Princess in Hong Kong and Yokohama, Japan, should have sounded alarm bells. Critics believed that the governing PAP was blindsided by its preoccupation with planning for the general election amid the COVID-19 emergency.

As early as March 27 PM Lee had spoken of calling early elections "knowing we are going into a hurricane to elect a new government with a fresh mandate and a full term ahead of it." ( The first-ever COVID-19 general election took place on 10 July with online broadcasts and Zoom-style debates in place of open air rallies as physical campaigns were frozen under CB restrictions. The PAP was returned to power with 83 of the 93 seats at stake while the Opposition won 10).

The electoral victories did not burnish the PAP' reputation as the exponential outbreaks in the midst of the migrant workers had pushed the national COVID-19 tally to cross the 55,000 mark. The saving grace is that COVID-19 fatalities have held steady at 27 and the recovery rate is high. 6/...

(6)

## | Ivan LIM

In the face of peril, the government scrambled to defuse an explosive situation. A separate multi-agency task-force led by Ministry of Manpower and Ministry of Health mounted a major operation to deal with the plight of the migrant workers, whose vital roles in the city's infrastructure development are publicly acknowledged by the people and government.

All those tested positive for COVID-19 have been treated in NCID and hospitals, and many have recovered.

Those who are well have been isolated and transferred from the cramped dormitories to better accommodations in floating hotels, Housing Board apartments and even cruise ships.

The MOM also began working with employers and dormitories owners to deliver food for migrant workers in isolation centers. They have continued to be paid salaries while waiting for work to resume as businesses and industries resume operations.

Migrant workers have been given swab tests to screen them for the coronavirus. In striving to keep the foreign workforce safe, the authorities is seeking to prevent a spill-over of the virus into the domestic fief.

Eights months into the pandemic, and in phase two of loosening up Circuit Breaker restrictions and having pumped \$40 billion into reviving jobs and businesses, the Singapore government could claim some credit for keeping down the raging coronavirus menace. Even so, new COVID-19 cases continue to be reported daily, down to single digits in the local community but still in double-to-triple digits among migrant workers. The protracted struggle with the lingering virus was a costly and even painful lesson on caution and political expediency for the incumbent government.



## Speaker

### **Khadar Awl ISMAIL**

**National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)**  
Information Secretary and Human Rights Officer  
Somalia

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Khadar Awl Ismail a Well-known Journalist in Somalia, more than 10 years of Media Experience. University Degree. And the winner of several awards in Journalism.
- 2008 to Present Radio Daljir as a programme producer and Investigative Journalist.
- 2015 to present Secretary of Information and Human Rights at National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)
- Senior Journalist, analyst, And, Human rights and principles of Journalism defender.

### **The Impact of COVID-19 on Somali Journalism and Journalists**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, On behalf of The National union of Somali journalists (NUSOJ Somalia), it is my great pleasure to attend the World Journalists Conference, I would like to appreciate the largest organization of professional journalists in Korea (Journalists' Association of Korea) and its leadership.

You really deserve compliments, for the effort you put into organizing this important conference during the world is facing a very critical situation by COVID19 pandemic. I wish all journalists around the world safety from COVID 19 pandemic, I pray for those already infected quick recovery.

Somali journalists continue to face difficult situations & persistent problems,

Somalia is one of the most dangerous countries for journalists. A report by the London-

## | Khadar Awl ISMAIL

based rights group Amnesty International found media at risk from al-Shabab and the government over coverage, and at least eight journalists have been killed since current President Mohamed Abdullahi Farmajo came to power.

NUSOJ's latest annual report also states the Incidents of Attacks against Journalists and News Media Organizations.

JOURNALISTS KILLED 6  
JOURNALISTS ARRESTED 6  
JOURNALISTS THREATENED, TORTURED, INTIMIDATED OR CENSORED 9  
NEWS MEDIA ORGANISATIONS ATTACKED 11  
WORKING CONDITIONS OF JOURNALISTS 11  
JOURNALISTS' REPRESSION DURING DISPUTED JUBBALAND ELECTIONS 12  
LEGAL ACTIONS AGAINST JOURNALISTS 14  
INSISTENT IMPUNITY 14

Violence against journalists from all Power sides Perpetrators of Media Freedom Violations are following.

Al-Shabaab 3.6%  
Federal Government 11.7%  
Somaliland 31%  
Puntland 17.9%  
Southwest 3.6%  
Hirshabelle 16.7%  
Jubbaland 15.5%  
Total 100%

An analysis of the oppression experienced by journalists in 2019 reveals that almost 89.7% of violations were committed against journalists working in the regions outside Mogadishu as opposed to the 10.3% of journalists working in Mogadishu. This is a chilling conclusion with regard to the current state of journalists' safety and freedom of expression in Somalia. Journalists working in broadcast and electronic media were most victims of these violations as opposed to print and online journalists.

### **Impact of COVID19 on Somali journalism and Journalists.**

As many countries in the world done also Somalia's authority both Federal Government of Somalia and Federal member states are increasing politicization of the pandemic and efforts to blame its effects on political opponents, have led to threats, arrests and smear campaigns

## | Khadar Awl ISMAIL

against journalists who maintain fact-based information about the spread of COVID-19 and the adequacy of measures to prevent it.

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) has registered more than 10 Journalists after testing positive for covid-19.

Access to state-held information about the coronavirus crisis was more and more difficult and closely controlled in Somalia. In Mogadishu, the federal government's ministry of health and human resources set the tone on 3 March when it summoned journalists to explain what to do and not to do during Covid-19 crisis. The minister told them that Covid-19 related information could only be obtained from the deputy minister and the coronavirus task force spokesperson. But reporters have found it difficult in getting the information they need from these sources. At the same time, NUSOJ have established that other relevant sources have been told not to talk to journalists.

This means that journalists were been unable to report vital information to the public or have been forced to use pre-recorded video clips and statements prepared by the health ministry.

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) has published new guidance (advices) setting out how journalists and media houses in Somalia can meet their media duties as they navigate the effects of the coronavirus pandemic.

### **NUSOJ Distributed PPE for protecting journalists from the risks of COVID- 19**

To improve the safety and protection of media and journalists from the ongoing contextual risks as well as the immediate risks posed by the Covid-19 pandemic.

The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) has distributed Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to more than 500 of its members operational all over the regions of Somalia.

NUSOJ has organized, purchased, and distributed the Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) to last for three months from June, July, and August to our members specially reporters and technical individuals.

The purchased Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) consisting of Face Masks, Hand Sanitizers, and gloves were intended to be distributed to the journalists working for most dangerous regions to ensure their protection from the pandemic coronavirus disease.

## | Khadar Awl ISMAIL

Finally The National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ) reminds journalists across the country to maintain professionalism and responsible reporting ahead of the upcoming regional and national elections in the country and stay away any activities that could endanger their safety.



## Speaker

### Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI

Alarabiya News Channel  
Writer Reporter  
United Arab Emirates

#### • Curriculum Vitae

1. News TV Writer Report at Al-Arabiya News Channel since 2013.
2. Al-Arabiya News Channel Correspondent in South Korea
3. Media Bachelor Graduate from The American University in Dubai
4. The first Arab reporter/Arab News Channel to conduct an interview with Seoul Government Office
5. Native Arabic Speaker – Fluent English Speaker – Intermediate Korean Speaker

## UAE's Efforts on the Prevention of COVID-19

The spread of the novel coronavirus COVID-19 in the UAE started in March 2020. The governmental have done tremendous efforts to contain the spread and maintain continuity of businesses and education. By 3rd of September 2020, UAE has conducted a total of 7,324,874 tests with an average of 67,821 tests per day.

UAE following the steps of South Korea government of rapid wide testing had provided Drive-through National Screening Centers for COVID-19 across all emirates. On 14 July 2020, Ministry of Health and Prevention introduced the laser-based DPI technology (Diffractive Phase Interferometry) to detect COVID-19 cases. The DPI technology is based on laser technology using blood samples for examining the virus. It allows the health authorities to carry out large-scale screening within a few seconds. It serves as a first step to detect suspected cases of infections before they undergo a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) swab tests. It is user-friendly, non-invasive and low-cost.

Starting with the basic prevention, wearing masks in the UAE is mandatory for all in public

## | Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI

places, public transportation or commercial centers. International flight services were discontinued in mid-March 2020 and resumed in July 2020 gradually.

The UAE launched the National Home Testing Programme for People of Determination, for citizens and residents, to ensure all segments of the community have adequate access to testing facilities. It is especially for those who are unable to move normally or who have difficulty communicating with others.

On 24 April 2020, Dubai Corporation for Ambulance Services announced the launch of Mobile Laboratory Unit (MLU) as part of the initiative to provide free testing for the elderly and 'people of determination' at their homes.

In line with the efforts to contain the spread of the new coronavirus (COVID-19) on 22 March 2020, Ministry of Education started educating students of schools and higher education institutes through distance learning. This month school reopened with adopting the new prevention regulation such as minimizing students' number and giving the option of distance learning. Also, prayers were temporarily suspended in all places of worship across the nation from 16 March 2020. It was resumed recently with following the regulation of social distancing.

The federal and local governments in the UAE adopted a remote working system in a bid to ensure the health and safety of its employees and customers.

National Media Council has decided to stop temporarily the distribution of all print newspapers, magazines and marketing material with effect from 24 March 2020.

The UAE Government has decided to close all commercial centres, shopping malls along with fish, meat and vegetables markets from 25 March 2020. The decision excluded pharmacies, food retail outlets, cooperative societies, grocery stores.. Under the decision, restaurants were not allowed to receive customers and limited to deliveries only.

The UAE government has called upon the public to stay at home unless it's absolutely necessary such as: to get essential supplies, food and medicine or perform essential jobs. The public was also urged to use their own cars with a maximum of three individuals seated in each vehicle. They were also advised not to visit public places and maintain social distancing protocols during family gatherings as a precaution to ensure public health and safety.

## | Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI

By the end of March, the ministry of health prevention and the ministry of interior have announced, in collaboration with relevant federal and local authorities, the 'National Disinfection Programme' which entails a complete sterilization of all public utilities, public transport and metro services from 8 pm to 6 am every night.

Public across the UAE who need to step out of their homes during the 'National Disinfection Programme' need to apply online for a movement permit to Ministry of Interior. The permit allows citizens and residents in all emirates to step out for essential work without facing penalties during the restricted hours.

President of UAE Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed has issued Federal Decree No. 95 of 2020 establishing the Frontline Heroes Office. The new entity aims at raising awareness of the key role played by the frontline workers during crises and emergencies. Looking after their needs and addressing their priorities.

The UAE became one of the first few nations to go ahead with human trials and reach phase III of testing a vaccine for COVID-19. The first Phase III trials of an inactivated vaccine for COVID-19 in the United Arab Emirates are among the largest in the world in volunteer recruitment having reached 31,000 vaccinated volunteers from more than 120 nationalities in only six weeks.

As the trials move forward thousands of volunteers have already received their second shot of the vaccine and will continue to undergo regular monitoring and health checks, with full ongoing support provided by the health services to ensure their wellbeing.

As part of the health and safety compliance programme, 'Dubai Assured' stamp was issued to hotels, retail establishments, F&B outlets and entertainment attractions that have implemented all public health protocols for the prevention and management of COVID-19. The programme is part of the efforts to showcase Dubai as one of the world's safest destinations as it has started to receive tourists in July 2020.

The UAE's post COVID-19 strategy it is reviewing the government structure and size and accordingly may merge ministries to make way for a more agile, flexible and speedy government as part of its strategy to deal with the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The six main areas of focus were health, education, economy, food security, society and government. Each Ministers presented their vision and the UAE's readiness for the future of the said sectors in the post COVID-19 stage.



## Speaker

### Dilmurod DJUMABAEV

Asian Journalist Association  
Correspondent  
Uzbekistan

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Dilmurod Djumabaev - born in 1978 in Uzbekistan. Founder of Uzbek news website Vodiymedia.uz. Works also as the head Namangan regional department for tourism development. Winner of several national contests on journalism. Member of Asian Journalists Association since 2017 and Afro-Eurasian Journalists Association since 2018. Dilmurod Djumabaev also represents Turkish IHA News Agency in Uzbekistan. In addition to his career in journalism, he also runs a publishing house specialized in English books. He has an MA degree in Linguistics at Namangan State University, Uzbekistan.

### Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods: Uzbekistan's experience

First identified in the eve of New Year Covid-19, or simply coronavirus has reached Uzbekistan on March 15. Today, after six months, the country with a population of 36 million people and no experience in responding to outbreaks of other infectious diseases, has managed to keep its cases to less than 50 thousand and recovery rate reaches to 95 percent. It is important to note here that big part of these are citizens who found themselves in a difficult situation abroad. Tens of thousands have returned on state-organised flights since the pandemic began.

While the healthcare systems of some wealthier countries have come close to collapsing under the strain of COVID-19, Uzbekistan was quick to respond and remains in control. It should be emphasized that Uzbekistan provided free testing and treatment opportunities, thus showed readiness to be flexible in transferring available resources to the needs of

## | Dilmurod DJUMABAEV

people. This action also demonstrates country's sustainable healthcare system.

On the same day, the first COVID-19 case was reported in the country, The Uzbek government said that it was shutting down educational establishments and cancelling all public events. A week later, Uzbekistan closed all its borders and the government ordered special quarantine centers set up for people who returned to Uzbekistan on charter flights as well as residents who have been in contact with coronavirus patients.

10,000-bed infectious diseases hospital outside the capital Tashkent and same-type hospitals with more than 1000 beds in the centers of 12 regions have been built in Uzbekistan. A large number of additional medical equipment and ambulances were purchased. Medical workers who worked in quarantine hospitals for 14 days were allowed to go home, receiving extra payment – 2,5 thousand dollars for doctors and 1,5 thousand dollars for nurses. Other employees also received extra payments to their salaries.

Citizens were told to work from home whenever possible. Special local offices for combatting coronavirus were established in each region. The strict lockdown went into effect. The restrictions were efficiently enforced and had the desired effect.

Like many countries, Uzbekistan had to shut down all schools and universities to prevent the spread of the virus. Appeared a question: How to continue teaching, when online learning might not be equitable for all students in the country due to not having internet access or high-speed internet in rural areas. Ministry of Public Education launched unprecedented project for its 6.1 million school students during the lockdown - video lessons started to go live on national TV channels, beginning March 30 till the end of academic year. The lessons were available in both Uzbek and Russian, with sign language interpretation. At the same time, they were posted on the Ministry's social media platforms.

The Republican Special Commission for combatting coronavirus divided administrative territories into "green", "yellow" and "red" zones. In this case, registered cases of the disease, the presence of patients or recurring cases of the disease were taken into account. The "green" zone had no patients or all patients have fully recovered and were undergoing rehabilitation. The "yellow" zone included regions where no one has been infected with coronavirus during the last 14 days, but there were people with this disease, the "red" zone included regions where the coronavirus disease was diagnosed in the last 14 days.

Highly qualified specialists from Russia, Turkey, China, Germany and South Korea were

## | Dilmurod DJUMABAEV

invited to Uzbekistan to share their experiences treating COVID-19.

In the current difficult situation, Uzbekistan has effectively solved two important, extremely urgent tasks at once: issues of protecting the health and life of the people and restoring the economy, delivering conditions for all to work and earn for living. The government has paid special attention to supporting socially vulnerable segments of the population and ensuring the full functioning of industrial enterprises, the construction industry and infrastructure. A wide range of economic support packages were introduced to mitigate the negative impact of the pandemic on socio-economic stability. Urgent measures were also implemented to ensure adequate support for domestic businesses, including an immediate set-up of anti-crisis fund of \$1 billion.

Despite the great challenges for its economy and social sphere the country is living with a motto: "Not a single person, not a single family in the country should be left without the attention and care of the state and society during the pandemic".

With the initiative of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, there was created a nationwide movement, "Kindness and Support". This community, whose members have already become thousands of entrepreneurs from all over the country, is actively contributing to the expansion of the targeted supply of needy families and temporarily unemployed people with financial assistance, food and medicine. Hundreds of thousands families received such support. In turn, the state is providing entrepreneurs supporting citizens with appropriate compensation through various taxes, leasing, loans benefits and preferences as well as access to necessary resources.

From the beginning of September, Uzbekistan step-by-step has started to ease lockdown measures, allowing businesses such as theaters, cinema halls, restaurants and cafes, hotels, bazaars to reopen from Sept. 5 with strict sanitary rules. The Republican Anti-Coronavirus Commission has defined clear rules for each type of activity within the framework of sanitary requirements. Schools provided with basic necessities in accordance with sanitary requirements have started new school year yesterday. Uzbek business has become adapted to pandemic situation.

In short, the country learned to live and work in a pandemic with iron discipline.

## Speaker



### Lan CU

Dan Tri Online Newspaper under the Ministry of  
Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs  
Editor- Deputy Head of the World News Desk  
Vietnam

#### • Curriculum Vitae

Cu Thi Lan, journalist working and living in Hanoi, Vietnam.  
Deputy head of the World News Desk at Dantri Online Newspaper, sub-editor at Dtinews.vn.  
Writing as a freelancer for several newspapers in Vietnam, focusing on culture and tourism.

### Preventive measures, full mobilization and committed media help Vietnam in successful fight against COVID-19

Vietnam has been praised by international friends for its first success in combating the coronavirus. While many countries across the world are still struggling to deal with the spread of the virus, Vietnam, which reported the first cases on January 23, has been able to control it effectively.

There are different factors that have contributed to the first success of Vietnam in the fight against coronavirus.

#### Prevention better than cure.

So far, Vietnam has gone through two main outbreaks with total infection cases of 1,038 by the end of August.

The first outbreak was reported on January 23 when two Chinese men were found infected in Ho Chi Minh City. They successfully curbed the first outbreak in less than two months with a total of just 268 infection cases and zero deaths.

## | Lan CU

Starting April 16, the country went through 100 days without reporting any new cases in the community until the second outbreak occurred on July 25.

We are now making all efforts to curb the new outbreak and believe that we will win again thanks to the timely and sound measures by the government and the support of the public following a call from local doctors: Prevention better than cure.

Learning invaluable lessons from the hard experiences of the SARS epidemic outbreak in 2003, Vietnam was determined to carry out prevention work since the epidemic was first reported in neighboring China late last year.

With limited healthcare resources, Vietnamese authorities encouraged people to follow strict preventive measures to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus and to avoid the large number of infections.

Nguyen Thanh Phong, chairman of Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's biggest city with a population of nearly nine million, warned that the city's health sector can provide treatment only for a maximum of 1,000 coronavirus patients at a time. If the patient tally exceeds 1,000, the local healthcare system would collapse.

### **Major roles for military forces in virus prevention strategy.**

Fighting COVID-19 pandemic was like fighting an enemy. Many forces have been mobilized for the virus prevention work, mainly the military staff.

On March 4, the Vietnamese military was actively involved in a large-scale joint exercise to practice the necessary procedures to respond to different scenarios of the epidemic.

Speaking at the exercise which was directed by Deputy Prime Minister Vu Duc Dam, the head of the National Steering Committee for COVID-19 Prevention and Control, and Minister of National Defense, General Ngo Xuan Lich, the deputy PM said that this was the first time in history that the military was mobilized to combat an epidemic.

"We must not get too comfortable after successfully treating the first patients and reporting no new cases. We will be safe only when the epidemic is completely eradicated," he noted.

Although Vietnam confirmed 233 coronavirus infection cases at that time, the large-scale exercise included five scenarios based on five levels of severity of the epidemic.

## | Lan CU

In the most serious scenario, there are more than 30,000 confirmed cases in the country and the virus has spread to several military units.

The Ministry of National Defense has helped in setting up check-points at a number of border gates and trails, building makeshift hospitals and state-run quarantine areas, spraying disinfectant, and receiving, caring and implementing medical quarantine for people entering Vietnam from virus-hit countries and territories.

Addressing various meetings on COVID-19 prevention and control, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc often called on the whole country, especially the military, to fight the pandemic like fighting the enemy.

### **Mainstream media have important role in gathering public support**

Amid mushrooming misinformation and disinformation about the coronavirus outbreaks that cause worries among the public, official media agencies in Vietnam have played an important role in explaining the true situation on the ground and gathering support from the public in the virus combat.

In an interview with the Vietnam News Agency on the role of local media in the fight against fake news about the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Tran Ba Dung from the Vietnam Journalists' Association stressed that official media agencies have made lots of efforts in providing fast and accurate coverage of the pandemic's development as well as in refuting false information.

"Immediately after the first coronavirus infection cases were reported in China, Vietnamese media agencies actively provided objective and true information to the public and made recommendations to competent agencies on how to respond when the epidemic arrived in Vietnam," Dung told the newspaper. "And since it came, media agencies have worked closely with concerned agencies to provide constant update on the pandemic situation, popularize disease prevention regulations and measures and counter false information about the pandemic."

"Besides, journalists have taken the initiative in writing about the work of various forces involved in the fight, from medical workers, to the police, army and volunteers," he added. "Through their coverage, the media has spread the message on human compassion and mutual support in the community in the time of difficulty, thus consolidating community linkages in order to overcome the pandemic."

## | Lan CU

### Controlling the pandemic in a new normal state

With the new outbreak that started in the central coastal city of Danang and has spread to 15 other provinces and cities, Vietnam is also applying social distancing, curfew and blocking measures but on a smaller scale in order to maintain the macro economy.

Speaking at a government meeting held on August 3, PM Nguyen Xuan Phuc instructed that virus-hit cities and provinces have to "consider the scale of social distancing and make it reasonable' to avoid impacting areas free of infection."

The PM also emphasized that local authorities have to decide on measures that ensure in tandem the effectiveness of preventing infections from spreading and minimizing the impacts on people's lives and socio-economic activities.

The new measures are also turning out to be effective as the number of new infections have gradually decreased after a month since the second outbreak occurred.

## Speaker



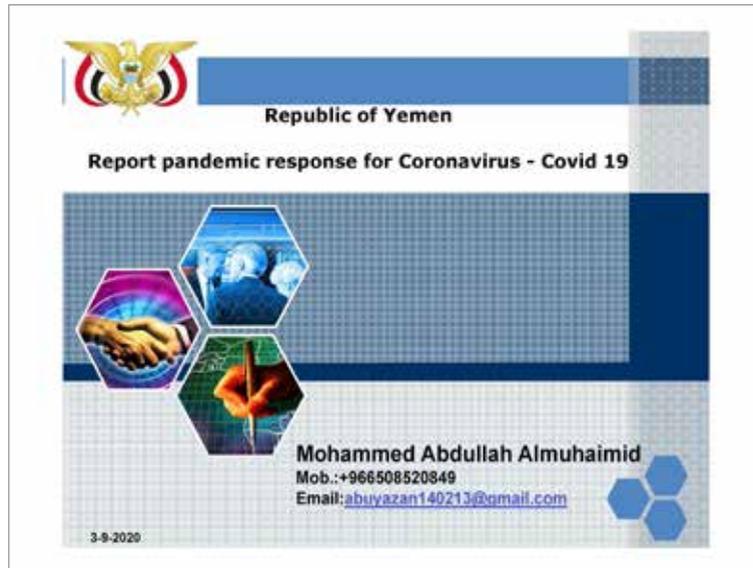
### Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID

Salam(peace) Initiative  
Communication Engineer  
Yemen

#### • Curriculum Vitae

- Mohammed Almuhamid is a Yemeni Engineer, Political Activist and Journalist, Currently living and working between Yemen and Saudi Arabia. He is a member of AJA, Asia Journalist Association in South Korea. Gain a master degree in Industrial Engineering from King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA, 2015.
- Bachelor of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Communications from King Abdulaziz University, Jeddah, KSA, 2008.
- He was Working at Contracts Signing Management, Commercial support Department, Business Unit, Etihad Etisalat Company (Mobily) between April 2016 and June 2017.
- Working at the Permanent Committee for Academic Promotions of King Abdulaziz University with effect from 1-3-2008 to 08-03- 2015, as an Assistant Researcher.
- Star of King Abdulaziz University, 2007
- Representing Yemen in European Broadcasting Union Week of Technology and the 54th meeting of Engineering Committee of Arab States Broadcasting Union in Tunisia ( from 10 to 14-10-2018).
- Representing Yemen in the WJC2019, South Korea.

## | Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID



**Republic of Yemen**

**Report pandemic response for Coronavirus - Covid 19**

Mohammed Abdullah Almuhaimid  
Mob.: +966508520849  
Email: [abuyazan140213@gmail.com](mailto:abuyazan140213@gmail.com)

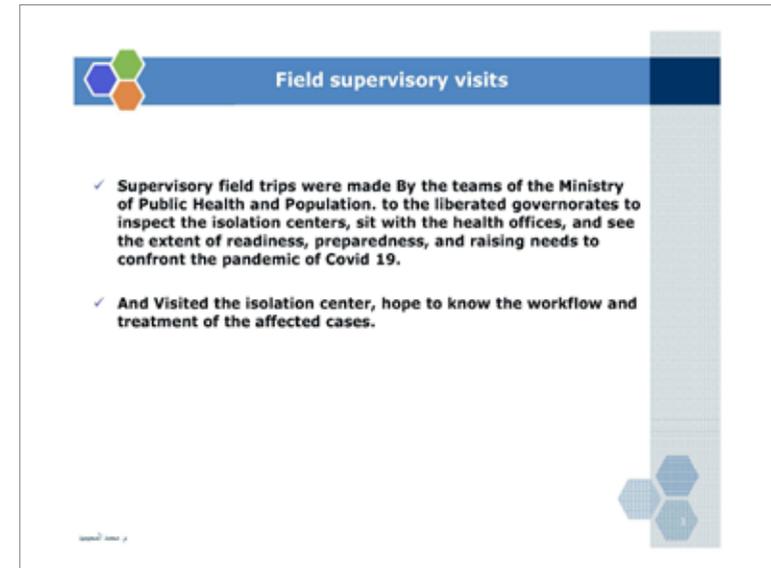
3-9-2020



**Most important interventions to confront**

- ✓ Opening isolation centers to confront Covid 19 in all liberated governorates.
- ✓ Providing a budget to meet Covid 19 for all health offices in the liberated governorates.
- ✓ Make supervisory trips to assess readiness and raise needs for isolation centers in the governorates.
- ✓ Providing the needs of the isolation centers (devices, equipment, and supplies) to meet Covid 19.
- ✓ Follow-up and coordination with international and local organizations in the interventions to confront Covid 19 and operate health facilities.
- ✓ Follow-up to the provision, receipt and distribution of donor assistance to counter Covid 19.
- ✓ Meetings with supportive partners to meet Covid 19
- ✓ Challenges, constraints and recommendations.
- ✓ Response plan to confront the Covid 19 pandemic / Aden governorate.
- ✓ Activating flags and raising awareness of health education to confront Covid 19.
- ✓ Carrying out precautionary measures in air, sea and land outlets by providing thermal detection equipment and thermal examination devices

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**Field supervisory visits**

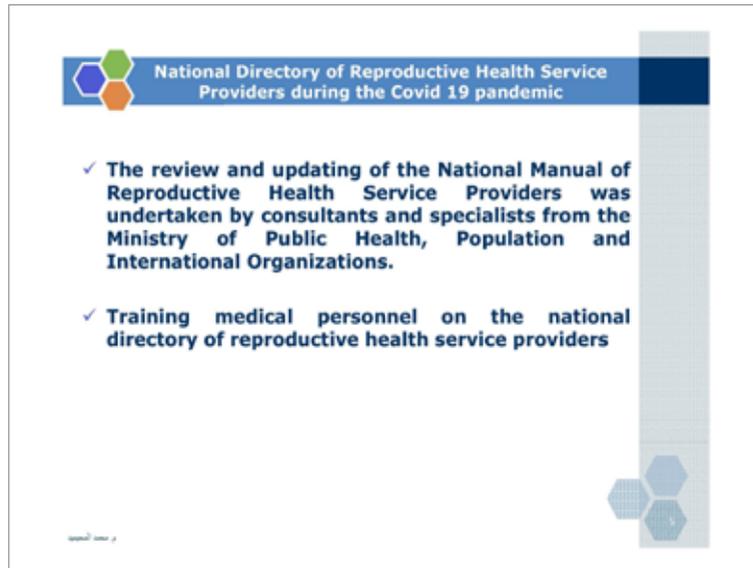
- ✓ Supervisory field trips were made By the teams of the Ministry of Public Health and Population, to the liberated governorates to inspect the isolation centers, sit with the health offices, and see the extent of readiness, preparedness, and raising needs to confront the pandemic of Covid 19.
- ✓ And Visited the isolation center, hope to know the workflow and treatment of the affected cases.



**Follow-up and coordination with partners in the face of the Covid 19 pandemic**

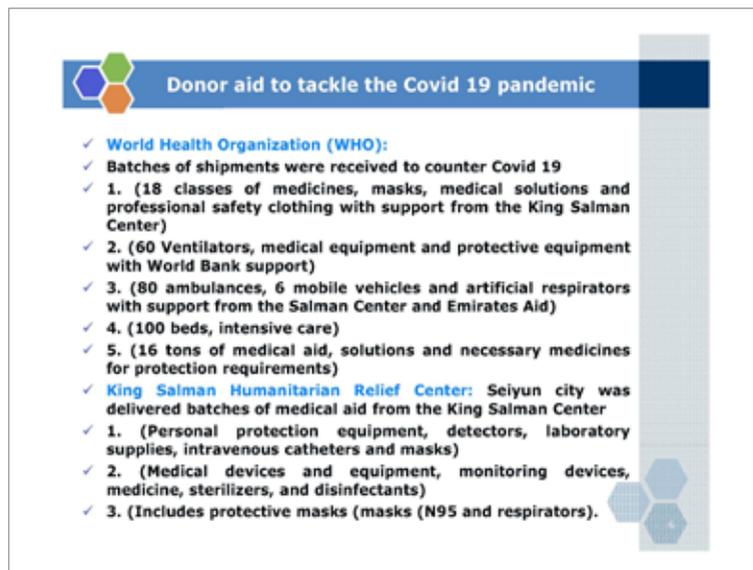
- ✓ WHO - Securing needs in response to a pandemic.
- ✓ French MSF - Administration of the Isolation Center Hope.
- ✓ Belgian Médecins Sans Frontières - Administration of the Isolation Center M / El Gomhoria.
- ✓ Saudi Arabia Queen's Alliance Leadership - Providing a field hospital in Al-Wadiah.
- ✓ The Gulf of Aden Authority / Aden Charity Ovens - Opening a Diet Center / Al-Razi - Abyan.
- ✓ IRC - Opening isolation for obstetric emergencies m / friendship - Aden & supporting medical staff incentives - Abyan.
- ✓ Cuban Center - Opening a fever center in Aden and Lahj provinces.
- ✓ UNFPA - Securing the facilities supported in the reproductive health project with preventive supplies, sterilization and hygiene items
- ✓ International Child Welfare Organization - providing incentives for doctors in Lahj governorate & securing the targeted facilities in the family planning project with preventive supplies, sterilization materials and hygiene.
- ✓ initiative for helping Aden- running health facilities.
- ✓ Sanitary spraying and sterilization by Ministry of Health teams and partners in some governorates.

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### National Directory of Reproductive Health Service Providers during the Covid 19 pandemic

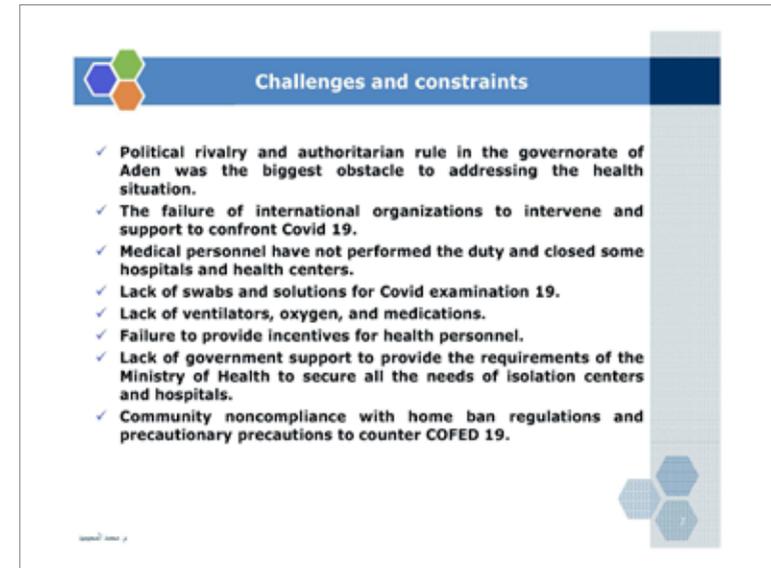
- ✓ The review and updating of the National Manual of Reproductive Health Service Providers was undertaken by consultants and specialists from the Ministry of Public Health, Population and International Organizations.
- ✓ Training medical personnel on the national directory of reproductive health service providers



### Donor aid to tackle the Covid 19 pandemic

- ✓ World Health Organization (WHO):
- ✓ Batches of shipments were received to counter Covid 19
- ✓ 1. (18 classes of medicines, masks, medical solutions and professional safety clothing with support from the King Salman Center)
- ✓ 2. (60 Ventilators, medical equipment and protective equipment with World Bank support)
- ✓ 3. (80 ambulances, 6 mobile vehicles and artificial respirators with support from the Salman Center and Emirates Aid)
- ✓ 4. (100 beds, intensive care)
- ✓ 5. (16 tons of medical aid, solutions and necessary medicines for protection requirements)
- ✓ King Salman Humanitarian Relief Center: Seiyun city was delivered batches of medical aid from the King Salman Center
- ✓ 1. (Personal protection equipment, detectors, laboratory supplies, intravenous catheters and masks)
- ✓ 2. (Medical devices and equipment, monitoring devices, medicine, sterilizers, and disinfectants)
- ✓ 3. (Includes protective masks (masks (N95 and respirators).

## | Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID



### Challenges and constraints

- ✓ Political rivalry and authoritarian rule in the governorate of Aden was the biggest obstacle to addressing the health situation.
- ✓ The failure of international organizations to intervene and support to confront Covid 19.
- ✓ Medical personnel have not performed the duty and closed some hospitals and health centers.
- ✓ Lack of swabs and solutions for Covid examination 19.
- ✓ Lack of ventilators, oxygen, and medications.
- ✓ Failure to provide incentives for health personnel.
- ✓ Lack of government support to provide the requirements of the Ministry of Health to secure all the needs of isolation centers and hospitals.
- ✓ Community noncompliance with home ban regulations and precautionary precautions to counter COFED 19.



2020 세계기자대회

**WORLD JOURNALISTS  
CONFERENCE 2020**



**WJC** World  
Journalists  
Conference  
2020

2020 세계기자대회



**Participants List / 참가자리스트**



## 참가자 리스트



No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
1	Bahrain	Habib TOUMI	Ministry of Information	Media Consultant
2	Nigeria	Austine JONATHAN ODO	Daily Trust Newspaper	Deputy Editor
3	Georgia	Khatuna CHAPICHADZE	Georgian Technical University; San Diego State University	Professor
4	India	Ranjit KUMAR	Rakshak news	Chief Editor
5	Costa Rica	Dennis Jose MORA GUZMAN	HorizontesTV	Director
6	Egypt	Ashraf DALY	Asia Journalist Association/ The silk road literature series	President /Editor in chief
7	Nigeria	Abubakar ADAM IBRAHIM	Daily Trust Newspaper Abuja	Features Editor
8	Colombia	Angel Fernando GALINDOO ORTEGA	El Tiempo	Freelance Journalist
9	Kazakhstan	Dogan IYLDYZ	Kazakistan.kz	Editor in Chief
10	India	Sabina INDERJIT	IFJ	Vice President
11	Russia	Timur SHAFIR	Russian Union of Journalists	Vice president
12	Russia	Vladimr SOLOVYEV	Russian Union of Journalists	President
13	Pakistan	Salim BOKHARI	City News Network	Chief Editor/Director
14	Turkey	Sinem VURAL	Hurriet	Journalist
15	Turkey	Mehmet Fatih OZTARSU	Former Asia N/ Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Freelance Journalist
16	Cyprus	Petros SOUTZIS	Phileleftheros newspaper	Editor in Chief
17	India	Ambica GULATI	Independent Journalist	Independent Journalist
18	Nepal	Arun RANJIT	The Rising Nepal	Managing Editor
19	Pakistan	Rahul AIJAZ	Freelance journalist	Freelance writer/journalist and filmmaker
20	Bangladesh	Mashiul ALAM	The Daily Prothom Alo	Senior Assistant Editor

# Participants List

## 참가자 리스트

No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
21	Iran	Alireza BAHRAMI	ISNA News Agency	Head of art and culture desk
22	Papua New Guinea	Gorethy Maria KENNETH	South Pacific Post-Post Courier	Senior Political Reporter
23	Saudi Arabia	Yasir ALGHAMDI	Riyadh newspaper	Executive Editorial secretary
24	Bangladesh	Mahbub MORSHED	The Daily Star	Assistant News Editor
25	Cambodia	Rethea PANN	The Post Media.Co.ltd	Sub-editor/Reporter
26	Kyrgyzstan	Nurzhan KASMALIEVA	Kabar News Agency	Chief of international affairs department
27	Pakistan	Nasir Ahmed Memon AJJAZ	Sindh Courier	Chief Editor
28	Nepal	Kuber CHALISE	TBi Publications Pvt Ltd (The Publisher of Karobar National Economic Daily)	Editor
29	Palestine	Abdulahman B. M. KHRAISHI	Palestinian Journalists Syndicate (PJS)	International Relations Officers
30	Poland	Boguslaw ZALEWSKI	Polish Media Association	Advisor to the Board
31	India	Pragya SAINI	Indiatimes   Times Internet Pvt Ltd.	Senior Video Producer
32	Israel	Hayim ISEROVICH	Maariv Daily	Foreign Affairs Correspondent
33	Venezuela	Francis Elena Zambrano ESPINOZA	Ministry of Culture	Press Director
34	Spain	Santiago CASTILLO RODRIGUEZ	ASIANortheast.com	Director
35	Kazakhstan	Bayan RAMAZANOVA	The Union Of Journalists Of The Republic Of Kazakhstan	Executive Secretary
36	Romania	Tinica-Octavia GALESCU	Romanian Broadcasting Company	Musical Editor/Producer
37	Nepal	Gokarna AWASTHI	Freelance	Freelance
38	Dominican Republic	Luis Francisco BEIRO ALVAREZ	Listin Diario Newspaper	Editor
39	Uzbekistan	Dilmurod DJUMABAEV	Asian Journalist Association	Correspondent
40	Kenya	Kagure Mwhiki GACHECHE	Standard Group PLC	Editor

# Participants List

## 참가자 리스트

No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
41	Egypt	Rasha M.Abdellah ABDELRAHMAN	Ajman University	Head of psychology department
42	Bangladesh	A K M ZAKARIA	The Daily Prothom Alo	Deputy Editor
43	Lebanon	Bilal BASSAL	Asia Journalist Association	Journalist & Art Critic
44	Panama	Alma Misilet Solis RODRIQUEZ	Panamá	SNIP Noticias de Panamá
45	Nepal	Keshab Prasad POUDEL	New Spotlight News Magazine	Editor
46	Philippines	Rosalin GARGANERA	Asian Journalist Association	Chief of Staff/ Broadcaster
47	Germany	Hassan HUMEIDA	University of Kiel	Doctor
48	Kazakhstan	Zhanat MOMYNKULOV	Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan	Director of regional branch
49	Mexico	Rafael Enrique ROBLEDÓ CÁNO	Nest Taller de Comunicación	Deputy Director
50	New Zealand	Tim McCREADY	NZ Inc	Business Journalist
51	India	Neha BANKA	The Indian Express	Senior Sub-Editor
52	Malaysia	Norila MOHD DAUD	Malaysia World News	Senior
53	Sri Lanka	Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM	Express Newspapers (cey) LTD	Asst. News Editor
54	Bangladesh	Md. Tawfique ALI	The Daily Star	Sr. reporter
55	United Arab Emirates	Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI	Alarabiya News Channel	Writer Reporter
56	Myanmar	SAN Yamin Aung	The Irrawaddy	Senior Reporter
57	Paraguay	Benjamin FERNANDEZ	Radio Libre	Director
58	United Kingdom	Daniel John DAMON	BBC World Service	Presenter
59	Kuwait	Reaven Gerrad D' SOUZA	The Times, Kuwait	Managing Editor
60	Somalia	Khadar Awl ISMAIL	National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)	Information Secretary and Human Rights Officer

# Participants List

## 참가자 리스트

No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
61	Italy	Moscattello ANTONIO	Askanews News Agency	Journalist
62	Nepal	Purna Bahadur BASNET	Nepal Khabar	Editor-in-chief
63	United States of America	J. Alex TARQUINIO	Society of Professional Journalists	Immediate Past National President
64	Saudi Arabia	Hani HAZAIMEH	Arab News Daily	Assistant Editor In Chief
65	Yemen	Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID	Salam(peace) Initiative	Communication Engineer
66	Colombia	Margaret OJALVO	Oja Noticias, El Mundo al intante, Free Lance	Director and Journalist
67	India	Neelima MATHUR	Spotflim TV News Features Agency	Executive Producer
68	Kyrgyzstan	Kubanychbek TAABALDIEV	Kabar News agency / WS BBC radio	Director General / producer
69	Singapore	Ivan LIM	Environment Communcators of Singapore(Ecos)/Asia Journalist Association	Chairman/Senior Correspondent
70	Sri Lanka	Nisthar CASSIM	Daily FT	Editor
71	Lebanon	Ghena HALIK	Iaha magazine & asia N	Journalist
72	Honduras	Rosa Maria PINEDA	Newspaper the tribune	Journalist
73	Latvia	Aivars OZOLINS	Weekly Magazine IR	Commentator
74	Indonesia	Bob ISKANDAR	Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia(PWI)/ Indonesian Journalists Association	Senior Director of Confederation of Asean Journalists(CAJ)
75	Indonesia	Mohammad NASIR	Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI)	Director of Public Services of PWI
76	Cambodia	Rinith TAING	Khmer Times	Lead Journalist & Feature Writer
77	United States of America	Lynn WALSH	Trusting News, Society of Professional Journalists	Assistant Director of Trusting News, Ethics Chair for Society of Professional Journalists
78	Ireland	Frank MCNALLY	The Irish Times	Columnist
79	Vietnam	Lan Cu Thi	Dan Tri Online Newspaper under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs	Editor- Deputy Head of the World News Desk
80	Indonesia	Eddy SUPRATO	Masagar News / RCTI	Managing director /Former Chief Editor/ Former Alliance Journalists independence Indonesia President

# Participants List

## 참가자 리스트

No.	Country	Name	Organization	Job Title
81	Iran	Pooneh NEDAI	Shokaran Magazine / Asia Journalist Association	President and Editor-in-chief/ Vice President
82	Cambodia	Sophal CHHAY	Club of Cambodian Journalists	Executive Director
83	Australia	Brett MASON	Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)	Chief Political Correspondent and Parliament House Bureau Chief
84	India	Gunjeet Kaur SRA	Sbcltr Media (subculture)	Editor
85	Ghana	Malik SULLEMANA	New Times Corporation	Journalist
86	China	ZHU Jing	All China Journalists Association	Journalist
87	Brazil	Angela PEREZ	O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper	Editor of International Affairs
88	Germany	Tobias KAISER	Die Welt	EU Correspondent
89	Argentina	Fernando KRAKOWIAK	Pagina 12	Journalist / Economy section editor
90	China	CHEN Yingqun	China Daily	Senior reporter
91	Vietnam	NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi	The Journalists and Public Opinion Newspaper, Vietnam Journalists Association	Reporter / Deputy Head of International Affairs Division
92	Mongolia	Bolortulga ERDENEBILEG	Confederation of Mongolian Journalists	General Secretary
93	Mongolia	Ariunbileg OYUNBILEGT	GoGo.mn news website, Mongol Content LLC	Editor-in-Chief
94	Indonesia	Atal S Depari	PWI Pusat	Chairman
95	United Kingdom	Jim BOUMELHA	International Federation of Journalists	Honorary Treasurer, Former President