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In order to fulfil its role MiDAS generates dialogue, undertakes research, networking and publication on defence and security related issues with a focus on defence diplomacy, defence policy, comparative technology contemporary security, as well as maritime security. Its publications are a valuable resource for education researchers, planners, policy-makers and practitioners.

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MIDAS-KAS

Conference 2020

Pandemic Response And Beyond

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This report is based on the MiDAS – KAS Conference 2020 titled Pandemic Response and Beyond that was organized and cosponsored by the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), and the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Malaysia Office.

The conference was co-chaired by Mr. Noor Hisham (Acting Executive Director, MiDAS) and Mrs. Miriam Fischer (Director, KAS Office Malaysia). Staff support was provided by: Captain M. Saravanan a/l M. Muthusamy RMN, Cdr Muhamad Azwandi bin Azlan RMN, Major Harun bin Ramli, Mrs. Fuzaimah binti Yusof, Mrs. Wan Suzie Juliani binti Wan Ismail, Sjn Norazman bin Nasri, Sjn Mohd Noor Rudhuan b Ghazali, Mrs. Norjuliana bt Md Daud, Mrs. Zubariah bt Hj Kassim and Cpl Mohd Akmal b Mad Nooh.

The conference planning committee consisted of: Colonel Kieron Singh a/l Santa Singh RMAF (MiDAS), Lieutenant Colonel Dr. Nizlan bin Mohamed (MiDAS), Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin (MiDAS), Ms. Ng Chen Chen (KAS) and Ms. Woo Swee Foong (KAS)

We would like to especially thank all 12 invited speakers and moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi who came on board to contribute to our online conference, as well as the nearly 245 people who participated in the intensive two days of discussions.

This report was prepared by a team consisting of: Mr Gerard George and the conference planning committee.

This conference's videos, may be found on the MiDAS Malaysia Youtube website: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqGUjbyMZTVYqkD103BBjNA>

INTRODUCTION

The MiDAS – KAS Conference 2020 was held virtually from 9-10 December, 2020 entitled, “Pandemic Response and Beyond”. About 245 participants representing various government departments, especially from defence, national security, healthcare and related agencies; academia; research and think tank organizations; international agencies and the diplomatic corps, joined the two-day international conference.

For almost a year, the world, including Malaysia, plagued by the Covid-19 pandemic, has been grappling with myriad challenges. Almost a year into the pandemic, drastic changes have occurred affecting the way we live, work, and learn. Covid-19 has been the headlines for almost a year. Even with the dawn of vaccines, the pandemic is not yet over. The battle is not just national but one that has to be fought together globally. While the implementation of counter-pandemic measures is different in each country, there are surely lessons to be learned from each other.

The conference pulled together a brilliant line-up of experts involved in the planning and deployment of measures to manage the pandemic and to shed light on how to move forward. The organizers capitalized on technology and produced a timely, virtual conference, broadcast live from Kuala Lumpur. It was interactive with panellists fielding questions from local and international participants after each session. Virtual polls on some key issues were conducted to ascertain the participants' response to some key issues.

After welcoming remarks and the keynote address, the presentations and deliberations were covered under four sessions over the two-day international conference.

Session one covered the *Pandemic Response* with initiatives from both the Malaysian Defence Forces and the Ministry of Health, and from the German Ministry of Defence. There were some similarities and some differences from each country in addressing the pandemic's challenges.

Session two on the *Development of SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)* highlighted the multi-sectoral efforts in developing effective SOPs to mitigate the rapid spread of the pandemic. Guidelines from the WHO (World Health Organization) and Malaysia's and Germany's inputs in the development and implementation of SOPs were discussed.

The Effect towards Security, in Session three, showcased Malaysian, German and European experiences in confronting security threats posed by the pandemic, and managing disinformation, and counter-terrorism measures.

Session four, entitled, *Impact beyond Health*, reviewed the pandemic within the context of international relations and big power strategies, socio-economic and political challenges in Malaysia, and the ramifications for human rights, especially for vulnerable groups, including refugees.

The conference concluded that to effectively combat the Covid-19 pandemic, international cooperation and solidarity are crucial and emphasized the fact that everyone bears responsibility in confronting the challenges of the pandemic. The mantra is, "*no one is safe until everyone is safe*".

Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung (KAS)



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e.V. (KAS) is a German non-profit organisation and think tank with partners and projects in more than 120 countries worldwide. KAS Malaysia facilitates a platform for dialogue among all stakeholders and across various topics, such as good governance, sustainable and economic development and international security dialogue. With its activities and projects KAS provides analyses as well as a forums for exchange, and with that it contributes actively to international cooperation and understanding. KAS Malaysia and MiDAS partnered together in order to conceptualize and facilitate this conference.

MiDAS



The Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) is a think tank and research organization of the Malaysian Armed Forces under the Ministry of Defence. It spearheads issues on defence and security through research and knowledge sharing. MiDAS has developed strong cooperation with academicians, think tanks and government organizations in Malaysia and internationally.

Further information is available at:
www.midas.mod.gov.my

Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin
Assistant Director Maritime Security
Malaysian Institute of Defence and
Security (MiDAS)
Ministry of Defence, Malaysia



Representing the principal organizer, MiDAS, Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin welcomed the panel of speakers and the audience of the MiDAS-KAS virtual international conference. She presented the rationale, an overview of the two-day conference 9-10 December, 2020, and briefed the speakers and participants about the format for the virtual deliberations which were going to be distinctly different from the in-person conferences organized prior to the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Nor Aini then introduced Ms. Nadia Azmi, an eminent Malaysian public relations specialist, who was to serve as the conference moderator.

Ms. Nadia Azmi
Conference Moderator
Newscaster
Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Berhad



Ms. Nadia started by welcoming the audience to MiDAS-KAS Conference 2021. She then highlighted with the need for social distancing due to current pandemic it has pushed forth the importance of technology and the day event that is being conducted online is its proof. She also shared that the current pandemic is not just a national issue but a battle that requires cooperation globally in order for it to be overcome. She also shared that the conference has put forth a list of experts that are ready to share their knowledge and thought with the audience. She then invited the Acting Chief Executive of MiDAS to deliver his Welcoming Remarks.

WELCOMING REMARKS

Mr. Noor Hisham bin Rosle
Acting Chief Executive of MiDAS
MiDAS, Ministry of Defence, Malaysia



The Acting Chief Executive of MiDAS Mr. Noor Hisham bin Rosle welcomed General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Effendi Buang, MAF, Chief of Defence Force, Malaysia; Ms. Miriam Fischer, Director, Konrad

Adanaeur-Stifting Office, Malaysia; the distinguished panellists; and participants, to the MiDAS-KAS Conference 2020 entitled, "Pandemic Response and Beyond", 8-9 December, 2020. He was impressed that despite the Covid-19 pandemic, MiDAS and KAS were able to co-organize the conference and provide a platform for the discussion on the effects of the pandemic on our daily lives.

Overview

Mr. Noor Hisham then informed the audience that YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, the Honourable Minister of Defence (Malaysia) would be delivering the keynote address. He registered his sincere appreciation to the Minister for taking time off to commit to the conference. He also expressed his sincere appreciation to the distinguished panellists, i.e., experts from the government sector, think-tanks, and from international organizations in Malaysia and abroad, who would be presenting their perspectives on the various responses to the pandemic, challenges in developing ad hoc SOPs, the effects of the pandemic towards security, its impact towards the social, political and international relations spheres, and on the global economy.

Conference Timeliness

He emphasized that the virtual conference was timely as the world are witnessing lockdowns, countries closing borders, slump in consumer spending, and jobs disappearing almost overnight. He highlighted how a tiny bug has managed to strike the world economy with the biggest shock since the Second World War as well as causing emotional distress to many. He shared that the government psycho-social hotlines have received nearly 12,000 calls seeking emotional support and counsellings for stress, anxiety, and loss of hope. He sadly highlighted that the trend in suicide has also rosed during this pandemic. He than summarised that although the pandemic has created a in social unrest, and an increase in crime all over the world, the situation in Malaysia was the opposite with the public adhering to SOPs and a low crime rate during the Movement Control Order. He however does acknowledged that despite the positive changes, terrorist activities still remained, with an active capitalisation of social media. The Government responded to these challenges. The impact will be realized within six months to a year from now.

Positive Outlook

He shared that there are avenues to obtain a breakthrough in confronting the pandemic phenomenon and he was glad that the virtual conference organised would be addressing the issues further as well as provide an extensive beneficial outcome for all. He regretted that he was not able to meet and thank everyone in person owing to the restrictions of the pandemic but he was also glad that the foreign and local speakers were not flying in, thereby reducing carbon dioxide emission and global warming.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Noor Hisham thanked the Honourable Minister of Defence, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, for his unwavering support for the conference, despite his busy schedule. He then thanked the participants for their support and the KAS Office in Malaysia for choosing MiDAS as their local partner for the important and timely conference.



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

MIDAS-KAS
Conference 2020
Pandemic Response And Beyond

YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob

**Minister of Defence (and Senior Minister, Security Cluster)
Ministry of Defence, Malaysia**

Scene Setter

At the outset, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, the Honorable Minister of Defence (Malaysia), thanked MiDAS and KAS Office (Malaysia) for having invited him to deliver the keynote address for the conference, and congratulated both organizations for organizing it. He informed the audience that he noted that over 100 policy makers, and professionals from think tanks and academia, from Malaysia and various other parts of the world were participating. He informed audience that Covid-19 had taken an overwhelming toll on nations around the world with a loss of over 1.54 million lives. He then invited all those attending the conference to observe a moment of silence to express condolence to their families. (Silence observed.)

Assuming Charge

The Minister shared that he assumed office on 10th of March 2020, as Minister of Defence and Senior Minister for Security. The next day, the World Health Organization (WHO) announced the Covid-19 pandemic outbreak. On 16th March 2020, the Prime Minister announced the implementation of the Movement Control Order (MCO). As Senior Minister for the Security Cluster, he was responsible overall for Malaysia's pandemic responses, and it was a whirlwind experience.

YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri further stated that he had held other ministerial responsibilities (before becoming Minister of Defence) but that all the past experience had not prepared him to deal with the current Covid-19 pandemic. However, this new experience requires working with multiple ministries and agencies, civilians as well as uniformed, in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic. The whole-of-government and society approach, he added, Defence White Paper has been certainly reflected in the responses we have taken against the Covid-19 pandemic.

Inter-agency Cooperation and Unity

In Malaysia, said the Minister of Defence, we have a saying, “Bersatu kita teguh, bercerai kita roboh” which means, “Together we are strong, divided we fall”. This also reflects Malaysia’s civil-military cooperation in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, he added. Ever since he was appointed to be in charge of the response (to the pandemic), the Minister was constantly engaged in meetings with the National Security Council (NSC) and partner agencies responsible for managing the pandemic.

Top Management Oversight

The Minister of Defence shared that the Prime Minister’s office and other NSC members are on his speed dial. Together, the team works on the details of each phase of the MCO and the development of SOPs. He informed that each of them are responsible in managing the health and security of the nation (Malaysia) so that the people’s well-being are maintained. He acknowledge that the recent resurgence of the pandemic indicated that even a small lapse in control is extremely detrimental. Hence, the Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) in certain states has been implement to break the chain of transmission, save lives, and also safeguard essential health services.

Covid-19 Pandemic’s Impact

He reiterated IMF, that Covid-19 has an uncommon nature and the pandemic is an emergency like no other that impacts all nations at the same time, in terms of public health, socio-economic well-being and security worldwide. The Minister proudly announced that Malaysia has been recognised as one of the most successful countries in handling the socio- economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

He recalled that according to the Malaysian Ministry of Finance, Malaysia’s gross domestic product (GDP) is expected to contract by 4.5 percent in 2020, before beginning its growth in 2021, by 6.5 percent to 7.5 percent. In recent weeks, Malaysia has witnessed the pandemic continuing to peak in some countries while lessened in others. Amidst this uncertainty, the steps for the reopening and reinventing (the economy) remain unchanged. Countries must now consider how the pandemic impacts the recovery strategies across different geographies.

He noted that the Covid-19 pandemic has radically modified the maritime domain by emphasizing social and political gaps that exist along Asia-Pacific food lines such as internal political and financial insecurity. These gaps have spilled over into the maritime domain. Reports of wrong-doing such as illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, piracy, armed robbery as well as illegal immigration have increased the onset of the pandemic.

Managing the External Threat

He emphasise that illegal migration is not just a case of a person crossing borders without documentation as it has become more complex with uncertainty that illegal migrant could also be a vehicle for the virus to harm the locals. In Malaysia, statistics has shown a rise in several illegal immigrants detention centres and the infection has spread to the local masses. To overcome such threats, Malaysia has implemented inter-agency operations, such as, “Ops Benteng” to protect maritime borders—an example of the whole-government approach and civil-military cooperation.

Other examples of the whole-government approach are the MAF (Malaysian Armed Forces) Field Hospital in Tawau which has increased the number of hospital beds by 25 percent, the integrated enforcement immigration operation which has increased the numbers of illegal immigrants caught as well as the joint road-blocks operations with the Royal Malaysian Police in enforcing the MCO.

He also highlighted that civil-military cooperation has been and will probably be the future norm. In Malaysia and other ASEAN member states, the military has been deployed to assist. He suggested that it would be beneficial for ASEAN to tap on the resources from the ADMM-PLUS expert working group in military medicine and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. The Minister pointed out that the ASEAN Military Ready Group as an example and stressed that it would be advantageous now to explore how the military resources could be utilized to address the pandemic challenges across the region.

The Way Forward

He then cautioned the audience that these challenges (illegal migrants) will harm long-term security, society and the economy. He highlighted the Malaysian government's 6R technique for economic recovery: Resolve, Resilience, Restart, Recovery, Revitalise and Reform. He stressed that to succeed in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, cooperation beyond the national level is imperative. The Minister emphasised his fervent hope that the online conference (9-10 December) could discuss (the issues) extensively and all participants could gain knowledge.

Concluding his keynote address, YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri placed on record his appreciation and thanks to MiDAS and KAS for organising the virtual conference, and looked forward to its outcome.

On behalf of MiDAS and the KAS Office, the Conference Moderator, Ms. Nadia Azmi, thanked the honourable Minister for Defence (and Senior Minister, Security Cluster) YB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri for his eloquent keynote address and for his service to the country, especially during the current trying times posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. Ms. Nadia then stated that the last time the WHO declared a pandemic was for the H1N1 virus, i.e., the Swine Flu pandemic in 2009. While scientists did discover new viruses we did not anticipate what 2020 had in store for us: the Covid-10 pandemic.



Speakers and Format

Ms. Nadia informed that the first panel of speakers would discuss how countries responded to the pandemic and would examine what improvements can be made. She reminded the audience about participating in Q&A concluding the session by using the chat facility. Ms. Nadia also informed the participants to join a poll preceding the Q&A session to register their thoughts on some key questions. She provided a brief before each of the four sessions, introduced each speaker, gave directions on the virtual format, invited participants to join the intermittent polls and to type-in any question for the panelists using the chat facility provided on the virtual platform, and moderated the entire conference.



MIDAS-KAS

Conference 2020

Pandemic Response And Beyond

SESSION 1

Pandemic Response MAF Perspective



5,527 deployed

Capabilities and
Special Operation

01

Flexibility to Shift
Priorities

02

MAF Relevancy:
Money Spent & Inter-
agency Cooperation

03

Managing External
Threat:
Whole Society
Approach

04

Pandemic Response German Perspective



10,000 deployed

Challenges Faced

01

Bundeswehr Strengths

02

Pandemic Lesson
Learned

03

Wayforward: Mental
Shift from Health
Security to Health and
Security

04

Current Risk

Pandemic Cause
Criteria

Covid-19
Timeline



Pandemic Preparedness and Response

WHO Situational
Analysis

Malaysia:
Scenario & Strategy

Wayforward

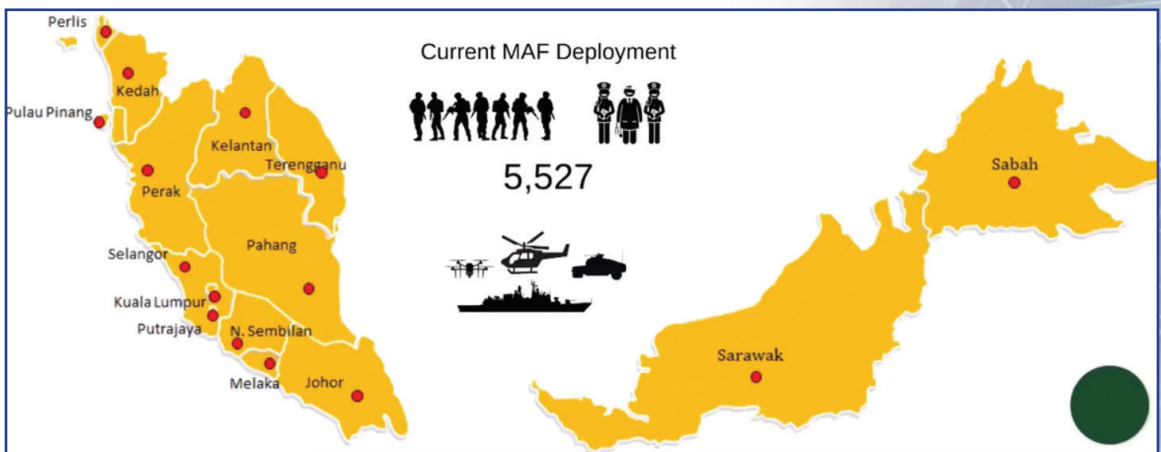
Pandemic Response from Malaysian Armed Forces Perspectives

General Tan Sri Affendi Buang (Royal Malaysian Air Force) Chief of Defence, Malaysia.

General Tan Sri Affendi Buang gave kudos to the conference organizers, appreciated the invitation by the organizers, and then began his presentation with a brief history of the RMAF's effort to contain the Covid-19 pandemic as front liners.



He said, about 5,527 Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) personnel were either directly deployed or were supporting various aspects of the national plan to mitigate the problem. For the past nine months, assets of the land, air, and maritime were deployed daily and would continue until the government declares that the battle with the pandemic is no longer a threat to the nation.



Capabilities and Special Operations

General Tan Sri Affendi then emphasized that the MAF helped stave off the worst effects of the pandemic essentially by two operations, Op Penawar (to minimize Covid-19 contact spreading) and Op Benteng (to mitigate imported Covid-19 cases by illegal immigrants), along with the whole-of-government approach. General Tan Sri Affendi pointed out that the MAF's primary role is to protect and defend the sovereignty, national interest and territorial integrity from any threats. The MAF has the capacity to organize, the flexibility to form and reform, and the ability to mobilize. The General was confident that the MAF is ready with the full spectrum of capability befitting a modern, robust, military formation, and that the MAF has multi-domain capabilities.

Next, General Tan Sri Affendi described how the MAF demonstrated, throughout its efforts to mitigate the challenges of the pandemic, protect the nation, and prove its relevance vis-à-vis the money spent on it. To this end, he spoke of the MAF's capabilities and capacities, its adaptability and self-sufficiency, and relevancy and efficiency. The MAF has the capacity to organize, the flexibility to form and reform, and the ability to mobilize its resources which other agencies of the government could afford.



Flexibility to Shift Priorities

The General was proud that the MAF was able to shift its priority from defending the nation to civil authority and security assistance to ensure the safety of the population at all times. He gave the example of the MAF supporting the Royal Malaysian Police during the first phase of the Movement Control Order (MCO). Furthermore, during subsequent MCOs, the MAF logistics support rapidly mobilized personnel and assets at inter and intra-state levels and across two theatre operations, that is, the peninsular, and Sabah and Sarawak.

The General explained that the MAF is adaptable and a self-sufficient organization, highly suited for crisis response and management. The personnel are trained for various specializations to achieve full spectrum combat capability and the same expertise can then be reorganized to support humanitarian relief efforts. From the lowest technical staff such as drivers and technicians to the highest specialist level such as doctors and engineers, the MAF is able to optimize its presence in varying levels of crisis response and management.

MAF Relevancy Vis-à-vis Money Spent and Inter-agency Cooperation

General Tan Sri Affendi gave the example of how the MAF personnel were deployed in red zones during the CMCO and EMCO. With infantry soldiers deployed securing the parameters with engineers in tow to deploy concertina wire barricade overnight beginning with the EMCO in almost every Covid-19 targeted hot spot. Concurrently, military medical personnel were deployed across the nation to assist the front line in Covid-19 treatment facilities. The MAF was called upon repeatedly to assist the nation's need due to

the rapid deployment capability it possessed. It also complements the National Security Council and National Disaster Management Agency (NADMA). MAF's National Resilience College supported the National Security Council in developing various responses to mitigate the pandemic. Together, they developed templates for the current SOPs and for joint common operating procedures for the future. These initiatives portray the self-sufficient and rapid mobilization capabilities the MAF had to manage the Covid-19 mitigation efforts and was able to prove its worth to the citizens of Malaysia. The MAF was, and continues to be, often called upon to assist government structures such as the National Security Council and National Disaster Management Agencies.

Managing External Threats: Whole-of-Society Approach

MAF has the capacity to operate in an environment of multi-domain threat. The General pointed out that for the MAF to sustain during long periods of high tempo operations; it needs more surveillance personnel to protect Malaysia's porous borders from rampant penetration by illegal immigrants and transnational criminals. These people threaten Malaysia's social and economic stability, and worse, they have the potential to transmit Covid-19 to the local population.



With adequate equipment and other resources, the General said, MAF personnel will be better able to piece information and intelligence derived from continuous surveillance and border monitoring. The local population needs to be aware that illegal immigrants are a threat to the nation and should not be given sanctuary. The General concluded his presentation stating that the MAF cannot resolve the crisis alone. Instead, he emphasized that success of the campaign against the pandemic is predicated on the concerted efforts of the Military and civilian organizations.

The Pandemic Preparedness & Response

Dr. Wan Noraini Wan Mohd Nor

**Public Health Physician,
Head of Surveillance Sector
Disease Control Division
Ministry of Health, Malaysia**

Note: Datuk Dr. Norhayati's presentation was delivered by Dr. Wan Noraini Wan Mohd Nor, Public Health Physician, Head of Surveillance Sector, Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health.



Covid-19 Pandemic: Did Bill Gates' Prediction Come True?

Dr. Wan Noraini rendered apologies on behalf of Datuk Dr. Norhayati's absence (attending a parliamentary meeting) and then gave kudos and thanks to the conference organizers. She then projected a slide portraying Bill Gates at a Ted Talk in March 2015. At that talk, he feared the onset of a highly infectious virus rather than a nuclear war that would kill over 10 million people, more devastating than the Ebola outbreak in West Africa in 2013.

Current Risks

Seven Reasons We're At More Risk Than Ever Of A Global Pandemic

Source: Meera Senthilingam, 10 April 2017, CNN (<http://edition.cnn.com/2017/04/03/health/pandemic-risk-virus-bacteria/index.html>)

- Growing populations and urbanizations
- Encroaching into new environments
- Climate change
- Global travel
- Civil conflict
- Fewer doctors and nurses in outbreak regions
- Faster information

Dr. Wan Noraini then presented seven reasons why we are more at risk now than ever before and gave details on growing populations; urbanizations, expansion into new environments (e.g. previously forested areas with animals, microbes, inevitable new infections); climate change dangers (e.g. flooding and water-borne diseases like cholera, mosquitoes breeding); global travel (bacteria or virus infected, asymptomatic people traveling during incubation period); civil conflict (infections flourish in weak health systems) few doctors in civil unrest and outbreak regions (as many health care personnel move on to other locations for better prospects); and "Infodemic", i.e., today's instant information age (newer levels of communication bring newer levels of fear and hate messages). Dr. Wan Noraini opined that false rumours will spread during a crisis and panic situations hinder emergency responses. Currently, she said we confront both the dangers of the virus and viral news (bad/ false/hate messages).

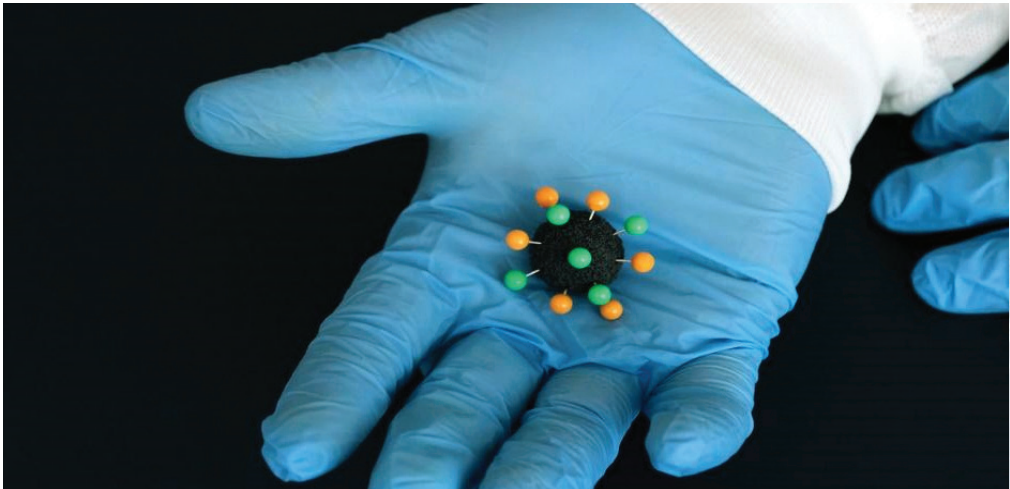


Photo credits: "Coronavirus" by [danielfoster437](#) is licensed under [CC BY-NC-SA 2.0](#)

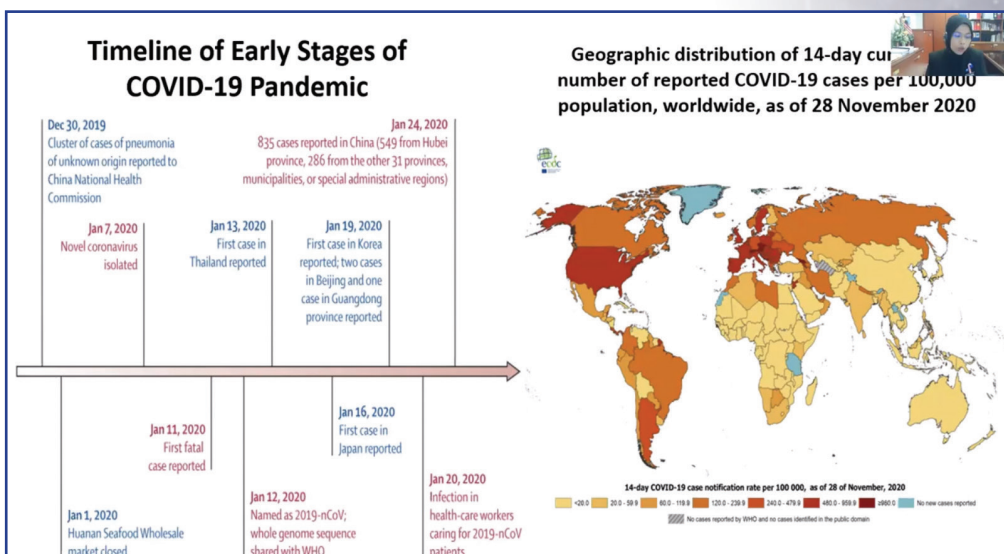
Criteria that Cause a Pandemic

Experts anticipate highly pathogenic avian influenza A viruses will be the source of the next pandemic influenza virus strain. Dr. Wan Noraini added that criteria would include the emergence of a novel virus that can affect humans, has the ability to cause serious illness, and has the ability to sustainably spread it among humans. She then presented a brief history of influenza pandemics from the Spanish Flu (1918) to the Influenza A (H1N1 2009).

International Health Regulations (IHR, 2005)

Next, Dr. Wan Noraini presented a summary of the IHR published by the WHO. She walked through the guidance of how the world could prevent and respond to the international spread of diseases without encumbrances to international traffic and trade. Dr. Wan Noraini then spoke of the IHR coming into force (2007) and how the world experienced the first influenza pandemic in 2009 with the then new Influenza A in the 21st century.

Timeline and Statistics of Early Stages of Covid-19 Pandemic



In December 2019, China's National Health Commission had to deal with a cluster of cases of pneumonia of "unknown origin" from the city of Wuhan in the Hubei province in China. Dr. Wan Noraini noted that China announced the novel Coronavirus on Jan 7, 2020. She then guided the audience through the passage of the pandemic from then on, providing a historic timeline and statistics of cases for Thailand (first international Covid-19 case Jan 13, 2020), Korea (first case Jan 19, 2020), rising statistics back in China (Jan 24, 2020 recorded 835 cases from different regions), and in Japan (first case Jan 16, 2020). Dr. Wan Noraini informed the audience that on 9 December, 2020 there were more than 67 million confirmed Covid-19 cases worldwide, including more than 1.5 million deaths. For Malaysia, as of 8 December, we had 75,306 cases, as of 8 December, 2020.

WHO Global Situational Analysis

Dr. Wan Noraini then quoted from the WHO Director General's media briefings where EPI Curves as of 13 July, 2020, demonstrated the four situations of Covid-19 transmissions around the world: 1st situation - countries are alert, aware, and responded rapidly and effectively, avoiding large outbreaks; 2nd situation – countries with a major outbreak but with strong leadership was able to bring the pandemic under control with good public health initiatives.

According to Dr. Wan Noraini, in situations 1 and 2, the countries have effectively suppressed the virus, used data-driven measures to open up their societies and economies, and use a comprehensive public health approach and have a strong health workforce and community buy-in.

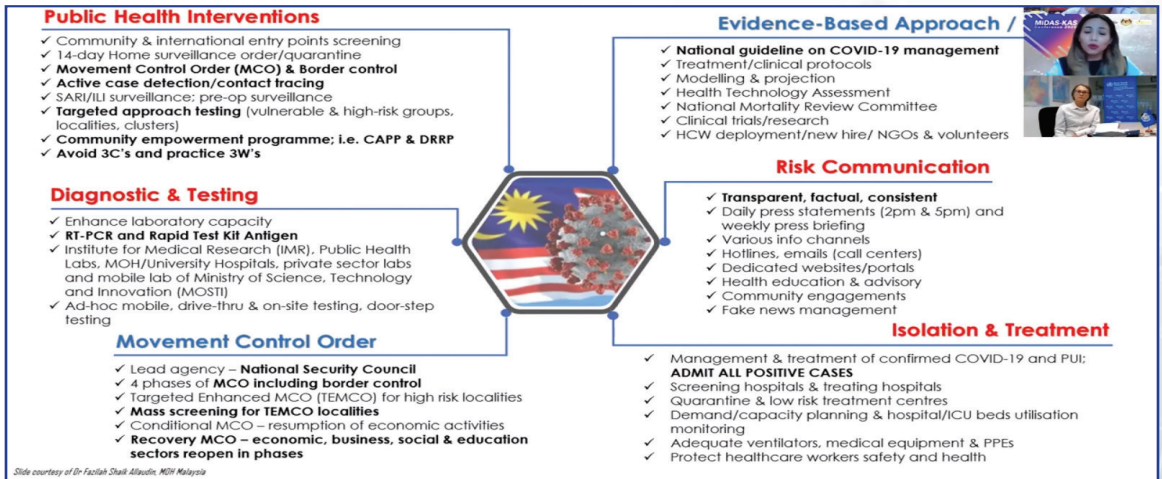
The 3rd situation, Dr. Wan Noraini pointed out, was like in Malaysia, had overcome the first peak of the outbreak but having eased restrictions by regular announcements are now struggling with a new peak and accelerating cases. In several countries across the world there are now dangerous accelerating cases in hospital wards, recommended procedures are not followed.

Dr. Wan Noraini then explained how in the 4th situation, countries are in their intense transmission state of their outbreak, and mixed messages from their leaders undermine the most important ingredient, trust. The government does not clearly communicate to their citizens, nor roll out a comprehensive strategy focused on transmission of the virus and strategies for saving lives. Basic public health principles are not followed: social distancing, hand washing, face masks, cough and sneezing etiquette, and staying at home when they are sick.

Malaysian Scenario

Dr. Wan Noraini presented Malaysia's past experience in preparing for pandemics, which were the Nipah Virus Encephalitis (1999), SARS (2003), series of HPAI (2004), H1N1 (2009), MERS Coronavirus (in 2014 and 2018). She provided a quick summary of the National Influenza Pandemic Preparedness Plan (January 2006) and the Malaysia Strategy for Emerging Diseases and Public Health Emergencies (MySED) II Work Plan (2017-2021) spoke of the National Security Council and the multi-agency committees presided by the Prime Minister to build consensus among members of the committees, the role of the Director General of Health and the work of the inter-agency networks in developing strategies and their implementation to manage public health and safety.

Approach to Covid-19



Dr. Wan Noraini then explained Malaysia's approach to managing the challenges of Covid-19 which included six key strategies:

1. Public Health Interventions (which includes community and international entry points screening, 14-day home surveillance order/quarantine, MCO and Border Control;
2. Diagnostics and Testing (which includes enhanced laboratory capacity, RT-PCR and Rapid Test Ki Antigen);
3. Movement Control Order (Lead agency being the National Security Council, 4 phases of MCO including border control, targeted enhanced MCO for high risk localities;
4. Evidence Based Approach (which include National Guidelines on Covid-19 management, treatment/clinical protocols, modeling and projection);
5. Risk Communication (transparent, factual, consistent and includes daily press statements at 2 and 5 pm and weekly press briefings); and
6. Isolation and Treatment (includes management and treatment of confirmed Covid-19 and PUI, all positive cases are admitted, screening and treating hospitals)

All the above strategies are interrelated, complementary, and synergistic under the whole-of-government approach of the NSC led by the Honourable Prime Minister to manage the Covid-19 pandemic.

Economy Vs. Health

Dr. Wan Noraini pointed out that while a prolonged lock down is not economically sustainable, yet a premature lifting of the lock down before the spreading of the disease is controlled could have devastating results. She recommended a careful release of the brakes on the economy. She emphasized the strategic importance of public health systems and investment in people and technology.

Global Solidarity Essential to Combat the Pandemic

Covid-19 is not the first, nor will it be the last, pandemic to affect the world, said Dr. Wan Noraini, but its gravity has demonstrated the vulnerability of human life. It is a challenge for both national and global levels. The success of local policy decisions are dependent on whether people comply with government guidelines and support one another in need. Everyone, she said, from heads of state to ordinary citizens bear great responsibility for their and others' well-being. Dr. Wan Noraini concluded that global solidarity, instead of blame, is key to win the war against Covid-19 and that until every country is safe, no country is safe.

Pandemic Response - German Military Perspective

Col. (Dr.) Rolf von Uslar

**Head of Health Service Branch of the Bundeswehr
Federal Republic of Germany**




At the outset, Col. (Dr.) Rolf von Uslar said it was a great honour for him to be invited to the distinguished conference and thanked MiDAS and KAS. He thought it was also good to

share experiences. In particular, referring to Malaysia, Col. (Dr.) Rolf said it was a good opportunity “to learn from the best”. He was pleased to hear the earlier presentations from Malaysia and thought the Malaysian concepts of, and results from, dealing with the pandemic was very good. In his own words, “we can learn a lot from you”. He would be presenting the German experience with some references to Europe’s dealing with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The German Experience - Challenges




Col. (Dr.) Rolf presented the German military response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. He alluded to the fact that Germany’s scientists had already a reservoir of knowledge about dealing with a pandemic before and had published their work but unlike the East Asian region, Germany and Europe did not pay much attention to learn from their past experience. They underestimated the overall importance of public health issues. As a result, Germany was not well prepared for the pandemic and did not have enough resources especially in terms of masks and other protection gear. There is no industry producing these resources. So, Germany could not deal with the situation easily. Command and control were additional challenges Germany had. How to act and react in a pandemic situation? Who is in control and can give orders? Germany had to start almost from scratch. The pandemic was new for everybody.



Federal Ministry
of Defence

Pandemic Response in Germany

1. Expert knowledge was available
2. Overall importance of health issues had been underestimated
3. Few preparations, few reserves (e.g. individual protection gear)
4. Pandemic Response Command & Control procedures untrained
5. Clinical capacities proved to be resilient
6. Bundeswehr supported with more than 10.000 soldiers by providing
 - helping hands for containment procedures
 - medical specialists
 - MEDEVAC
 - clinical and laboratory capacity
 - logistical assistance
 - ventilators



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The German Experience - Strengths

Unlike its European neighbours, Germany was resilient in clinical capacity, according to Col. (Dr.) Rolf. During the first wave, March-April, 2020, their clinical capacity was not overstretched. He affirmed what General Tan Sri Affendi of Malaysia had said earlier about the role of the military forces which are good at dealing with the pandemic because they have the resources such as medical personnel.

Col. (Dr.) Rolf informed that the *Bundeswehr* (Germany's unified Armed Forces) has about 20,000 medical soldiers who were trained to serve under pressure in difficult crisis environments. In Germany and elsewhere in Europe, the Armed Forces were tasked to support the nation in crises. The *Bundeswehr* deployed 10,000 soldiers daily to contain the early outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic by having them support the civilian health system. Medical specialists from the laboratories, scientists from the *Bundeswehr*, were all involved.

He shared that in the EU the *Bundeswehr* supported MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) services with clinical and laboratory capacity, and they transported patients from overcrowded regions in Europe, especially from Northern Italy and Eastern France, using fixed-wing air assets. *Bundeswehr's* hospitals in the region served foreign patients as well. Additionally it also provide logistical support, for example, the provision of protection gear and preparing assistance for vaccination. The *Bundeswehr* also assisted European countries and NATO member countries which needed ventilators.

Lessons Learned

Col. (Dr.) Rolf, then proceeded to share the lessons learned from the *Bundeswehr's* experience during the pandemic. He highlighted that there is a significant need for clear strategies and civil-military C2 (command and control) structures in Germany. Although there were papers published about pandemics, there was little attention paid to this by decision makers and the general population that resulted in Germany's slow reaction.

He emphasised the necessity of contingency plans and civil-military exercises. To this end, Col. (Dr.) Rolf shared that the *Bundeswehr* had organized a table-top war game entitled, "Resilience Response" where Germany and a couple of European partner nations incorporated civilian expertise as well to form a comprehensive training. The exercise had a successful outcome and participants had requested for it to be organized more often on a routine basis. He urged for Europe nations stock pile their resources, in order to be prepared to deal with future pandemic.

In term of MEDIVAC he informed that additional resources are needed but because the Coronavirus pandemic is a lung disease, fixed-wing air assets are not the best means of transporting patients with respiratory weaknesses as they would have to deal with flight transport trauma. A solution they are working on is transport by railway trains. Col. (Dr.) Rolf shared that France has already started to use high speed trains for transporting patients to regions with less Covid-19 pandemic problems. He mentioned that the Chinese had also used high speed trains for transporting patients.



Photo credits: "[Medevac](#)" by [U.S. Army Europe](#) is marked with [CC PDM 1.0](#)

According to Col. (Dr.) Rolf, although Europe had established the Emergency Response Coordination Centre (ERCC), it is still underutilised. So, across Europe the Covid-19 pandemic was dealt with as a purely national crisis. However, he agreed with previous panellists that the pandemic cannot be handled nationally. It is a multinational and global problem and we need institutions that can coordinate the efforts to resolve it. Biosecurity is a very big issue to be reckoned with, according to Col. (Dr.) Rolf as there are bad people with subversive agendas. He lamented that it is, however, not on the desks of decision makers when it should be.

Concluding Thoughts

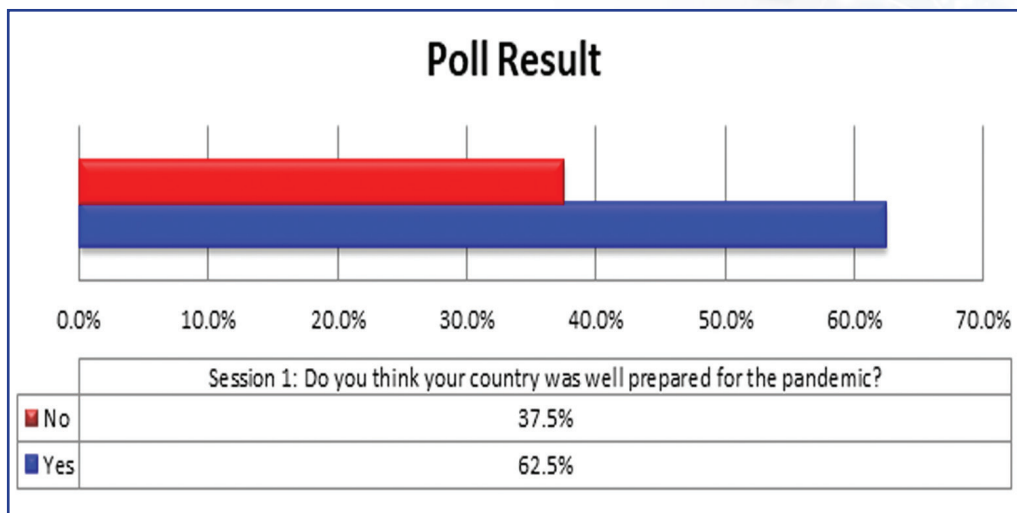
Col. (Dr.) Rolf 's opined that we need to focus on conceptual thinking. He recommended a shift of age-old thinking from health security (alone) nationally or globally to "health and security". He said it is possible for a virus to destabilize a country or a region and that impact on the overall security situation.

Finally, Col. (Dr.) Rolf said the pandemic did not hit Germany as hard as it did on Germany's neighbours and we could learn from the compendium of all those experiences. Military forces can play a significant role, he said, re-emphasizing what General Tan Sri Affendi Buang had highlighted for Malaysia earlier. The pandemic crisis gives us all a huge chance to develop new things, re-think our concepts, and propel us forward.

1 Minute Conference Poll

With moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi's guidance, many participants submitted, online, their responses (yes or no):

Question: Do you think your country was well prepared for the pandemic?



Questions and Answers

1. Questioner Ahmad Tajuddin Mohd Said: How should the MAF balance its primary and secondary role in the future?

Answer from General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Affendi Buang: Shortly after the government introduced the Control Movement Order and the police (primary agency) were establishing road blocks to ensure public compliance with SOPs, the MAF joined these responsibilities.

The General said that the MAF enhanced and beefed up the manpower and resources required to effectively manage the incremental additional tasks, especially when the Enhanced Movement Control Order was implemented. Large areas identified as high risk infection had to be blocked to restrict people leaving. The military field assets are ready for such duties and they used concertina wires and cordoned off the area. The concertina wires reduced the need for additional manpower, yet they secured the area effectively.

Furthermore, the General added that the MAF medical corps and soldiers became added resources to help the country during the crisis. The MAF set up field hospitals and related facilities rapidly. So who does the primary role of the MAF to ensure sovereignty, national interests and the country's territory are protected? Well, the number of MAF personnel deployed would not compromise the MAF's state of readiness to maintain primary resources and conduct its additional duties.

General Tan Sri Affendi stressed that the military has reserved members in the force conducting low tempo activities. These personnel are called upon and motivated to take on new duties to help the country to address the pandemic challenges. They serve longer hours while the frontline and border personnel concentrate on their duties.

2. Questioner Miemie Winn Bryd: What kind of regional cooperation from which ASEAN countries were helpful to Malaysia's response?

Answer from Dr. Wan Noraini: She informed that currently Malaysia is the leading country for ASEAN EOC and with the current situation it is hard to travel. Therefore the assistance provided is via online sharing lessons learned and best practices among ASEAN member states. At the regional level, the WHO country office and regional office provided online sharing sessions weekly where members share information on their country responses.



MIDAS-KAS

Conference 2020

Pandemic Response And Beyond

SESSION 2

Calibrating Public Health and Social Measures for Covid-19 Response



Covid-19 Pandemic Management: Development of SOPs



Germany's Response and SOPs



Bundesministerium
für Gesundheit

01

Germany Response

Covid-19 Management Council co-headed by Minister of Health and Minister of Interior. Quarantine measures handled by states. Contact tracing by local government.

02

Germany SOPs

Testing – Quarantine and Isolation – Vaccination

Calibrating Public Health and Social Measures for Covid-19 Response

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru, Jacqueline
Head of Mission for Brunei, Malaysia, Singapore
World Health Organization

The Primacy of Public Health

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru thanked the organizers for inviting the WHO to participate in the multi-sectoral conference which she said was a very important part of the response to the pandemic. Dr. Lo Ying-Ru's presentation entitled, Calibrating Public Health and Social Measures for Covid-19 Response, shared WHO guidelines and SOPs. She stressed that to stop Covid-19 transmission the guidelines cover how, when, and in what types of settings the SARS-COV-2 spreads.



Calibrating long-term non-pharmaceutical interventions for COVID-19

Principles and facilitation tools

15 May 2020



1. Introduction

Background

Countries and areas in the Western Pacific Region have implemented strict non-pharmaceutical interventions (NPIs) against novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19), aiming to interrupt or reduce transmission. They can be classified into: 1) personal protective measures, 2) environmental measures, 3) social and physical distancing measures, and 4) travel-related measures.¹

While effective in controlling the epidemic, some of these measures have significant socioeconomic costs and may negatively impact the physical and emotional well-being of populations. Stringent measures are likely to become increasingly unsustainable over time, especially in countries with limited resources, social protection and health-care services.

Interventions should be informed by data. The evidence available thus far suggests:

- Asymptomatic and mild cases contribute to transmission, and infectivity likely starts 2–3 days prior to symptom onset, peaking within one day before symptom onset in those who do develop symptoms.^{2,3} This underscores the importance of early detection and case isolation as well as contact tracing and

quarantining of contacts in reducing the reproductive number.

- Older people and people with comorbidities have the highest case fatality rates, making them particularly vulnerable and requiring special attention. However, young people still must be considered in the response, as they contribute to transmission and may also require hospitalization.
- Risk factors for cluster formation are likely similar across countries. They include closed, poorly ventilated spaces, crowded places and close-contact settings with people having conversations (or other forms of voicing such as singing and shouting).⁴

Experience in Japan, the Republic of Korea, Hong Kong SAR (China) and other parts of China suggests that COVID-19 may be contained without substantial restrictions on social and economic activities when the reproductive number at a given time, or R_{eff} , remains around 1, the number of cases is low, and there is a strong mechanism for case detection and contact tracing. This document proposes five steps for countries to implement an NPI strategy that balances epidemiological benefit and socioeconomic costs. It builds on the WHO Considerations in Adjusting Public Health and Social Measures in the Context of COVID-19.

¹ Non-pharmaceutical public health measures for mitigating the risk and impact of epidemic and pandemic influenza. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2019. <https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/234538>.

² Huang L, Zhang X, Zhang X, Wei Z, Zhang L, Xu J et al. Rapid asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 during the incubation period demonstrating strong infectivity in a cluster of youngsters aged 16–23 years outside Wuhan and characteristics of young patients with COVID-19: A prospective cohort-tracing study. *Journal of Infection*. (in press)

³ Hsieh X, Liu H, Wu P, Deng X, Wang J, Hao X et al. Temporal dynamics in viral shedding and transmissibility of COVID-19. *medRxiv*. 2020 Mar 18;2020.03.15.20036707.

⁴ Cluster investigation in Japan revealed these 3Cs represent a high risk for cluster formation.

Considerations for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19

Interim guidance

4 November 2020



Key points

- Public health and social measures (PHSM) have proven critical to limiting transmission of COVID-19 and reducing deaths.
- The decision to introduce, adapt or lift PHSM should be based primarily on a situational assessment of the intensity of transmission and the capacity of the health system to respond, but must also be considered in light of the effects these measures may have on the general welfare of society and individuals.
- Indicators and suggested thresholds are provided to gauge both the intensity of transmission and the capacity of the health system to respond; taken together, these provide a basis for guiding the adjustment of PHSM. Measures are indicative and need to be tailored to local contexts.
- PHSM must be continuously adjusted to the intensity of transmission and capacity of the health system in a country and at sub-national levels.
- When PHSM are adjusted, communities should be fully consulted and engaged before changes are made.

must be weighed against the impacts these measures have on societies and individuals. Considerations include impact on the economy, security, mental health and psychosocial well-being, human rights, food security, socioeconomic disparities, continuity of health and public health programmes, treatment and management of conditions other than COVID-19, gender-based violence, and public sentiment and adherence to PHSM. The overall health and wellbeing of communities should therefore be at the forefront of considerations when deciding on and implementing PHSM.

PHSM include personal protective measures (such as hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, mask wearing), environmental measures (such as cleaning, disinfection, ventilation), surveillance and response measures (including contact tracing, isolation and quarantine), physical distancing measures (e.g. limiting the size of gatherings, maintaining distance in public or workplaces, domestic movement restrictions), and international travel-related measures. PHSM act in concert, and a combination of measures is required to ensure adequate control. Measures should be tailored to the lowest administrative level for which situational assessment is possible and measures can be enacted practically.

Changes from the previous version

This document provides guidance to help Member States assess the situation at national and sub-national levels, as well as key recommendations about the implementation of PHSM. It should be read in conjunction with WHO interim guidance on Critical preparedness, readiness and response actions for COVID-19,² which addresses several other elements of preparedness, readiness and response for COVID-19 beyond PHSM.

The new guidance contains several important changes. First, it provides an updated transmission classification, subdividing 'community transmission' into four sub-categories, from low to very high incidence. The associated annex provides revised indicators and thresholds for determining the transmission classification, as well as the current health system capacity. The document then provides a situational assessment matrix, which takes into consideration the transmission classification and the health system response capacity to arrive at an overall Situational Level. Finally, the document provides guidance about the PHSM to implement or adjust at each Situational Level.

Introduction

This document is an update to the interim guidance published on 16 April 2020 entitled "Considerations in adjusting public health and social measures in the context of COVID-19".

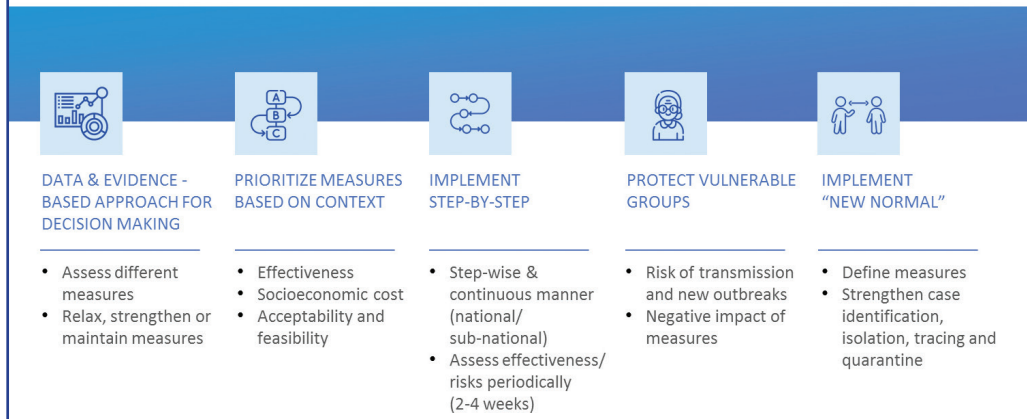
Public health and social measures (PHSM) are being implemented across the globe to limit transmission and reduce mortality and morbidity from COVID-19. PHSM include non-pharmaceutical individual and societal interventions to control COVID-19.

As the pandemic unfolds, PHSM should be regularly reviewed and adapted and their effectiveness in controlling SARS-CoV-2 transmission evaluated. This requires agile decision-making based on ongoing situational assessments at the most local administrative level possible. Such assessments should be based

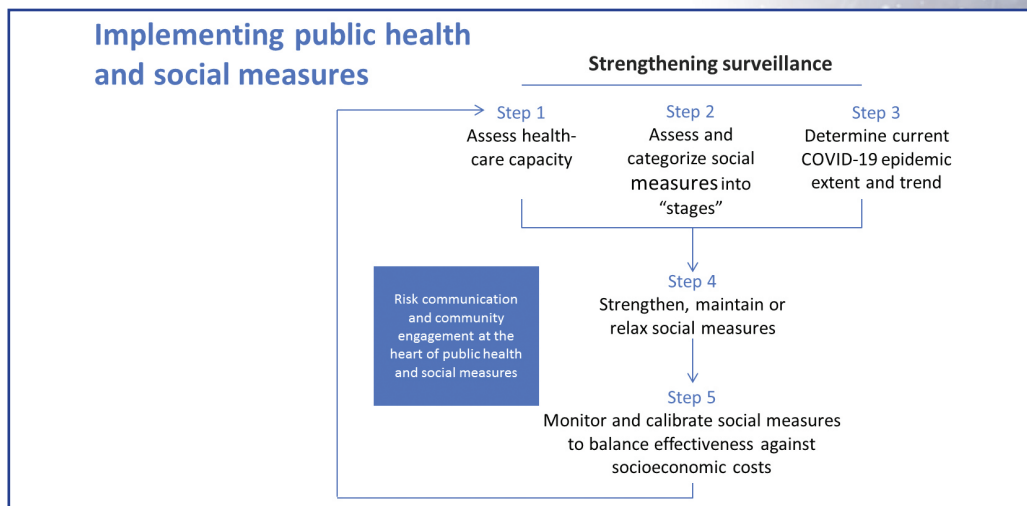
Transmission

The transmission occurs through close contact, crowded and closed spaces (correlated with duration of exposure, the longer the duration, the greater the risk of transmission). The WHO's latest guidance for implementing and adjusting public health and social measures for Covid-19 was in November updating earlier editions in April and May, 2020. It covered the epidemiological situation, transmission level, and socioeconomic considerations and assessed health systems, public health services capacity and performance – all based on data and evidence.

Key principles



Dr. Lo Ying-Ru covered in substantive detail all the above issues, pointing out, among others, key principles for managing the pandemic which include prioritizing measures based on national and local contexts, implementing step-by-step, protecting vulnerable groups, and implementing the “new normal” and strengthening case identification, isolation, tracing and quarantine. Engaging the community is vital in implementing public health and social measures. She then informed the audience the lessons learned thus far from the pandemic in different situational analyses, and said in terms of measures to counter the scourge in different situations and countries, “one size does not fit all.” She underscored the importance of this conference.



Challenges

Among the many challenges Dr. Lo Ying-Ru highlighted were the social measures (to reduce transmission) that are beyond the jurisdiction of public health, its social and economic impact, e.g., lockdowns (which should be used as last resort measure), impact livelihoods of people, difficulty to sustain the measures over long periods, and regular adjustment of implementation based on risk assessment.

Malaysian Success

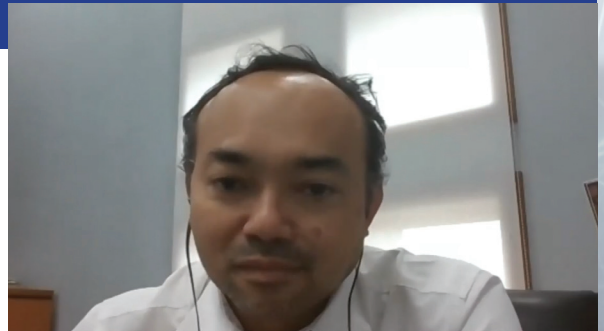
Malaysia, according to Dr. Lo Ying-Ru, builds on its strong emergency preparedness response capacities for its health system resilience. She reminded the audience that both implementation (and enforcement) of SOPs and community engagement for compliance and planning are crucial.

Global Solidarity Crucial

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru concluded echoing earlier presentations which articulated that “no one is safe until everyone is safe” and the need for national, regional and global solidarity to control the pandemic. Her last emphasis was that providing rare commodities and vaccines must include the most vulnerable in society.

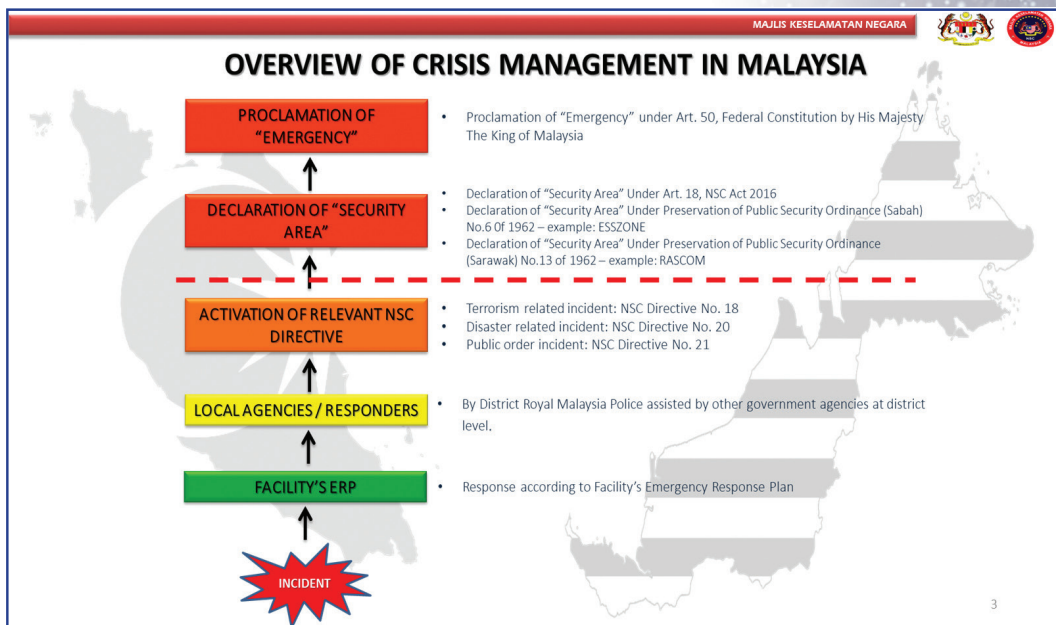
Covid-19 Pandemic’s Management: Development of SOPs

Mr. Tajul Ariffin bin Muhamad
Deputy Director of Intelligence and
Crisis Management
National Security Council, Prime
Minister’s Department
Malaysia



Pandemic Management

After a word of thanks to the conference organizers, Mr. Tajul Ariffin presented his talk entitled, “Covid-19 Pandemic’s Management: Development of SOPs”. His talk essentially covered the national crisis management of the pandemic with a focus on the National Security Council’s role, the implementation of the movement controls, and the legal provisions, process, and challenges encountered.



Structural Alignment

In presenting the structure of managing disasters, Mr. Tajul Arifin pointed out that the National Disaster Management Agency serves as the coordinator for the multi-agency response, in this case, the pandemic and the Ministry of Health serves as the focal agency for technicalities and expertise. If the pandemic escalates the National Security Council (NSC) of the Prime Minister's Department will take over the overall management and coordinate the whole-of-government and the whole-of-nation approaches.

Covid-19 Hits Malaysia – Chronology

Mr. Tajul Ariffin then summarized the chronology of the Covid-19 management in Malaysia. When the novel Coronavirus was detected in Wuhan, China, in December 2019, the Malaysia Ministry of Health closely monitored the outbreak, based on the National Influenza Preparedness Pandemic Plan and worked with the National Disease Outbreak Response Matrix (DORMM).

The first Covid-19 case in Malaysia was confirmed on 25th January, 2020, involving tourists from China, with the pro-active action by the Ministry of Health which had developed the detection capacity. The national mechanism was then activated to control the outbreak. NSC directive no.20 was activated in February 2020 to coordinate the actions by various departments and agencies.

Alarm Gets Louder

When the WHO announced Covid-19 as a pandemic on 11 March, 2020, it raised the alarm a level higher. The NSC was tasked to prepare an action plan to control the infection. The trigger point was a religious gathering on 27th February – 1st March in Sri Petaling, Selangor, involving 16,000 participants of whom 1,500 were from Indonesia, Brunei, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Philippines, and Viet Nam. Later it caused a sudden spike in Covid-19 cases in Malaysia.

Movement Control Order

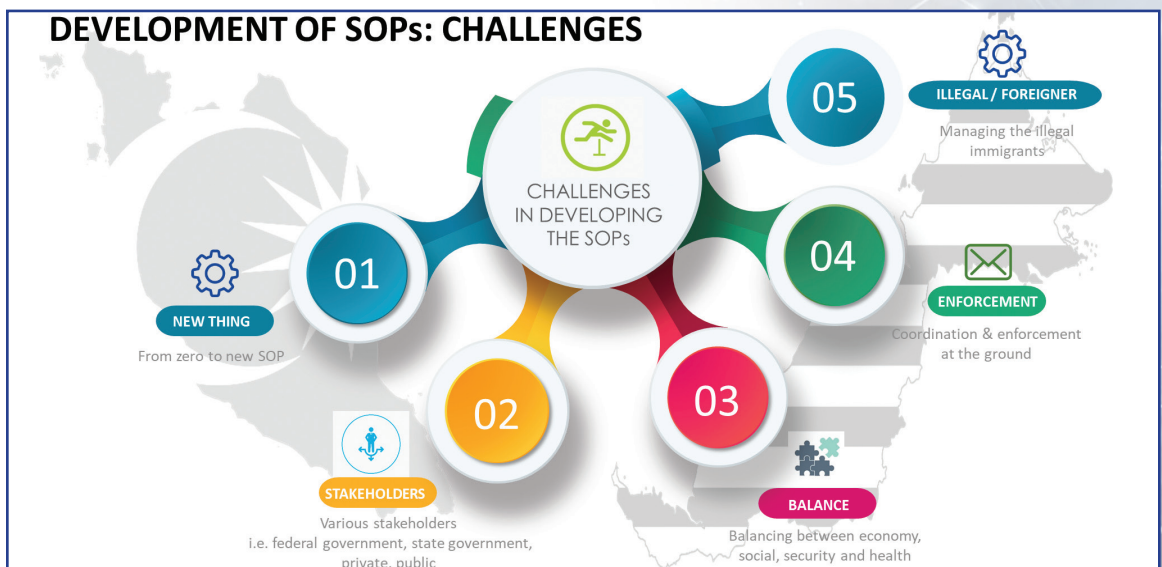
A series of Movement Control Order (MCO) was imposed on 18th March, 2020 onwards to assist the Health Ministry in contact tracing and to break the chain of the virus. Under the NSC, the Ministry of Health (MOH) as a leading agency was maintained. Decisions and SOPs were based on advice and opinions from MOH's technical experts. The NSC's overall mechanism was activated at the district, state and national levels. Any decision at the highest level was made by the NSC special meeting chaired by the Prime Minister after it was discussed at the ministerial and technical committee.

He then presented a summary of the MCO implementation, consistent with WHO's guidelines, which the health system can cope with. This had three major phases: MCO (18 March-4 May, 2020); CMCO (5 May-9 June, 2020); RMCO (10 June-31 December, 2020); and EMCO (or total lockdown) was implemented as and when necessary at targeted localities. The government's MCO measures were to break the chain of infection on the one hand and on the other hand, to balance the impact on society and the economy.

Development of SOPs – Six Steps

Subsequently, he explained the SOP's objectives and spoke of the penalties for infringement while emphasizing that they were meant to educate rather than punish, and ultimately, to reduce the impact of Covid-19. He then expounded on the six steps involved in developing the SOPs:

1. Identification of sectors and activities, including industry.
2. Drafting by relevant agencies and state government together with NSC and MOH.
3. Review by the inter-agency committee chaired by Director General of the NSC, includes representatives from the Attorney General's Chambers and MOH.
4. Endorsement by special ministerial committee.
5. The SOPs are gazetted by the Director General of Health and it comes into force.
6. The SOPs are regularly reviewed; there is flexibility to adjust to the dynamic changes of the crisis.



Five Challenges

1. Mr. Tajul Ariffin informed that the pandemic was unprecedented and so there was a lack of understanding of the disease. The early stages were tough as there was no intelligence gathered and it was difficult to employ a trial and error approach. The NSC's crisis management directives helped to organize and smoothen the cooperation of the inter-agency response.
2. There were various stakeholders (federal and state governments, private sector and the public) with different interests and there was the need to ensure focus on stopping the transmission of the virus.
3. Mr. Tajul Ariffin added that there was also the challenge of balancing measures with the economy, social aspects, ensuring security and securing health. All measures also had to consider the impact on disadvantaged groups where many live in overcrowded and underserved areas lacking resources and daily sustenance.
4. He stressed that coordination and enforcement on the ground was another challenge. He informed that the differences in interpretation of SOPs by individuals, between

enforcement agencies and the public, is a challenge to be constantly addressed. Confusion sets in when the general language of the SOPs are not in sync with the dynamism of the events of the crisis.

5. Mr. Tajul Ariffin shared that managing SOPs especially with Illegal immigrants posed a great challenge. Some of them wish to remain hidden and are out of the enforcement's radar, yet they live in poor conditions that are conducive for virus transmission. He indicated to the audience that illegal immigrants at the nation's borders have caused a spike in Covid-19 cases. He then concluded his presentation with a vote of thanks to the conference organizers.

Germany's Response and SOPs

Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner
Head of Health Security Department
Ministry of Health Federal Republic of
Germany



Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner thanked the organizers for inviting him to participate in the international virtual conference. He began his presentation with some details about how the Federal Republic of Germany is set up and how it functions, in order for participants to better understand the background of how SOPs are developed.



*A German doctor or nurse dons a PPE suit. Photo credit by focusonmore.com
licensed under CC BY 2.0*

Germany comprises 16 Federal states with intermediate level governments. The populations range from just over half a million to 18 million inhabitants. Although legislation is generally handled at the Federal level, the states have legislative responsibilities too. For example, the states handle Covid-19 quarantine measures. The Federal government should and will support the lower level government when necessary.

Generally, there is decentralization of government. Many responsibilities are placed upon the local government for rural and urban districts. Covid-19 contact tracing and reporting is carried out by the local health authorities. At the Federal level, for health, the main responsibility lies with the Federal Ministry of Health and its subordinate authorities such as the Public Health Institute. The Federal Ministry of Interior and, its subordinate, Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Systems are responsible for civil protection.

He then described Germany's whole-of-government approach. He shared, for Covid-19, the Management Council was activated. It is co-headed by the Federal Ministry of Health and the Federal Ministry of Interior. It involves all ministries, including defence. For coordination between states and Federal levels, regular meetings are conducted. For example, between the Chancellor or the Head of Government with the state Chancellery for nationwide response towards Covid-19.

Development of SOPs and Strategies.

According to Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner, the government councils and their technical support contribute towards Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). He then described three areas where Germany developed testing are in (1) testing, (2) quarantine measures, and (3) vaccination.

(1) Testing

In Germany, testing is an essential component for a comprehensive pandemic containment strategy. Local health authorities carry out testing. In March, 2020, testing by PCR was continuously conducted. In May 2020, Germany started a national testing strategy for SARS-Cov-2. About 1.5 million PCR tests were being conducted weekly. In October, the national testing strategy included rapid antigen tests.

The national testing strategy is guided by (a) to ensure appropriate management and medical treatment of Covid-19 cases, (b) to protect vulnerable groups, and (c) prevent the spread of SARS-CoV-2. PCR testing, informed Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner, is primarily used for symptomatic Covid-19 patients and, in outbreak settings, where antigen tests are used for screening asymptomatic individuals and for quick differential diagnoses for health-care planning. He shared that testing strategy was developed with very close coordination with Germany's National Public Health Institute and other stakeholders, to ensure smooth implementation.

(2) Quarantine and Isolation

According to Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner, in Germany the respective federal states are responsible for quarantine regulations. After the coordination between the federal states and the federal government, the cabinet introduced a new framework for quarantine regulations and this was adopted and implemented at the federal states level. Various ministries were involved with the Federal Ministry of the Interior in-charge. Different aspects had to be included and this involved a lot of coordination. All entry and return to Germany from risk areas for the past ten days were obligated to immediately quarantine for ten days after entering Germany. Since November, persons entering Germany had to register online before arrival. Their contact details were passed on to local health authorities who could follow-up with quarantine regulations.

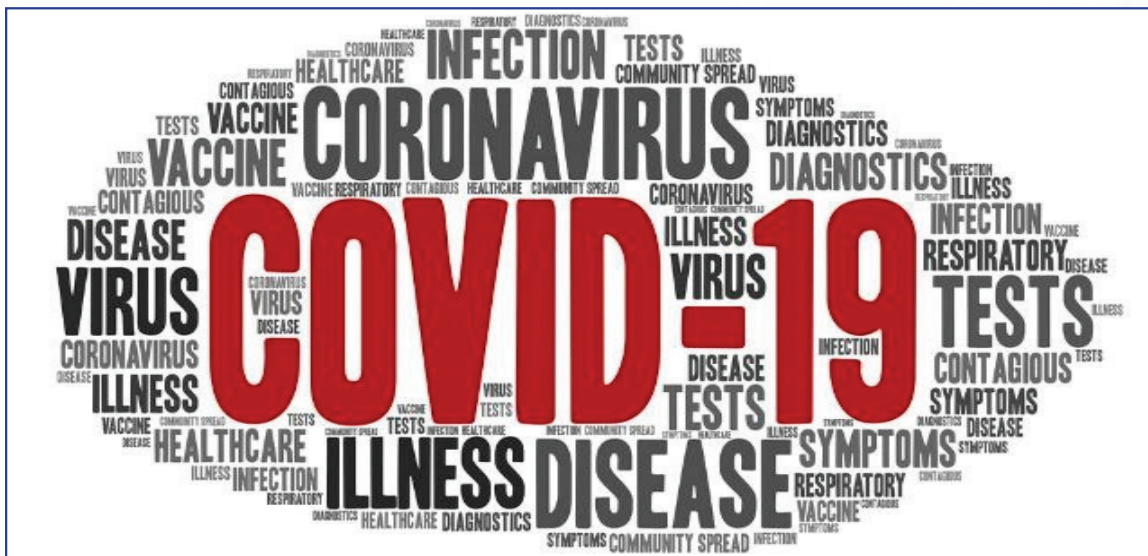


Photo credit: *"Covid-19"* by [EpicTop10.com](https://www.epic10.com/) is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/)

(3) Vaccination

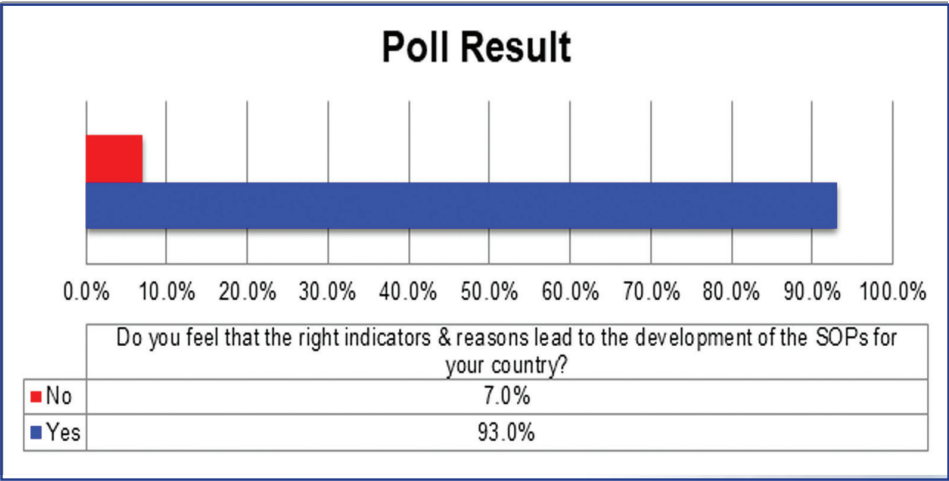
The German National Vaccination Commission established a working group and developed evidence-based vaccination recommendations. This was part of the Covid-19 SOPs. Due to initial limitations of the availability of vaccines in the early stages, vaccinations were first offered to specific at-risk groups. These groups were defined with evidence-based criteria by the National Vaccination Commission jointly with the National Academy of Science. Priority was given to close to real-time vaccination documentation and a monitoring system from the beginning of vaccination. It could also rapidly detect any side-effects or complications caused by the vaccination.

Germany is characterised by a decentralized routine vaccination system. Vaccinations are carried out by out-patient, community-based physicians. There is close monitoring to reflect any extraordinary circumstances. When Germany rolled out the Covid-19 vaccine campaign in designated vaccination centres, they were supported by mobile teams. As soon as sufficient vaccines are available, the aim is to transfer vaccination activities to the regular healthcare system.

Concluding his presentation, Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner emphasised that numerous stakeholders were involved in the development of Germany's vaccination system and the development of its holistic SOPs. They included several ministries, technical instructors, the Health Institute, the National Academy of Science, the German Ethics Council, the federal states, etc.

1 Minute Conference Poll

Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi invited the participants to submit, online, their responses (yes or no):
Question: Do you feel that the right indicators and reasons have led to the development of SOPs in your country?



Questions and Answers

1. Questioner Wan Mohamed Kamil inquired what methods and order of priority should ministries adapt in the distribution of the vaccines?

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline responded saying that the WHO had been working with partner organizations to look at prioritization for vaccinations. The purpose is first to maintain essential services, like health services, and the second, to protect the most vulnerable and those developing severe disease or dying from Covid-19. So, the first group is health care and other front line workers which constitute about 1 percent of the population, followed by the elderly about 65 years of age, and then those with underlying disease conditions. This, she said, was decided by STIKO (Germany’s vaccination commission) as a recommendation for the vaccination approach.

2. Questioner Chen Ng asked whether the multi-sectoral platform for exchange created in Germany during the pandemic would remain open for regular exchange when the pandemic is over.

Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner said it has not yet been decided. However, he thinks that there will be a mechanism established, possibly a new “Pandemic Department” to ensure the smooth cooperation and coordination between the federal, state, and local levels of government, and to support civil-military cooperation too.

3. Moderator Nadia Azmi then posed a question, “how can we ensure that there is a smooth process for the distribution of the vaccines to the people of the country?”

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline offered her understanding that (in Malaysia) there is a planning process underway. She said that the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Science and Technology (and WHO) were looking into vaccine preparedness supported by tools from the WHO and UNICEF. She added that most of the elements were in place and they were

looking at capacity building, regulatory and adverse events monitoring indemnities. For distribution of the vaccines (in Malaysia), she could foresee that although the plan is not yet published, it will be consistent with what the WHO and COVAX, the global platform, have been recommending.

4. Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi raised another participant's question as to whether Malaysian communities were engaged enough in creating the SOPs.

Mr. Tajul Ariffin responded by saying that the SOPs had to be developed ad hoc, on short notice, owing to the unprecedented nature of the pandemic. The SOPs, he said, had to be developed fast and had to be flexible. Unlike, under normal circumstances when SOPs are developed in advance of a crisis, in the case of the Covid-19 pandemic, the SOPs had to be developed while dealing in and with the crisis in session. Public views were obtained via agencies which represented the various stakeholders and it was unwieldy to obtain everyone's views in the country.

5. Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi on behalf of a participant then inquired about the differences of development of SOPs during the MCO in March with full lockdown and at the time of the CMCO (now, during the conference).

Mr. Tajul Ariffin opined that the SOPs developed for the MCO were easy because it was a total lockdown allowing only essential services to operate after establishing which services were essential. However, the CMCO was different and became more difficult and challenging. As time passed, the impact of the lockdown on the country's economy had to be taken cognizance of. So some economic sectors had to be opened. The challenge was on the one hand, to stop the transmission of the Covid-19 virus; while on the other hand, the economy had to be supported. He indicated success in the measures taken as the numbers of Covid-19 cases were lowered and there were actions adopted for economic recovery, that is, CMCO became the exit strategy from MCO. However, Mr. Tajul Ariffin lamented the fact that unfortunately, the country encountered the third wave of the virus resulting in shifting back to CMCO.

6. The next question moderator Nadia Azmi posed from a participant was about WHO's guidance on keeping schools open unless there is no alternative to control community transmission of the virus.

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline answered that the social measures to counter Covid-19 within specific cultural contexts and preferences must be taken into account. She said there is some contention about opening or closing schools in many countries. The long term impact on children and students (not attending school) must also be considered. She noted that in Malaysia, for example, CMCO area schools closed and holidays had been advanced. She believes the Ministry of Education should do proper risk assessment and opined that, unlike Singapore, Malaysia, in its cultural context, did not place schools and education as top priority—just like some other countries in the region and she gave the example of South Korea where schools and education were of less priority—but they had other means to continue education. Demonstrating the different cultural contexts, in Singapore, she said, schools were opened very early, citing parents cannot work if children are home and not at school. She emphasized that the cultural contexts are important in making these decisions.

7. Questioner Abdul Karim Mustafa asked for views on (a) creating SOPs using the bottom-up approach that would reduce the risk of the pandemic, and (b) how to develop awareness of future biological disasters.

Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline responded saying that it is good to get community engagement through a feedback loop for guidelines and standard operating procedures being developed. A mechanism to get feedback and conduct social listening, e.g., via social media, to know what the community thinks, is important. This should include not only the general population but also employers, detention centres, prisons, and the police, she said.

Next, Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline asked Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner what mechanism was used in Germany to get civil society and the community engaged in developing the standard operating procedures and to get their feedback.

Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner replied that communication was key and the respective agencies in Germany were deeply involved in several ways to engage the community, despite the community suffering from pandemic fatigue. They repeatedly stressed to the community the need for their feedback.

Moderator Nadia Azmi then gave a vote of profound thanks to all the speakers and participants of both sessions for their valuable contributions.

End of Day 1.



MIDAS-KAS

Conference 2020

Pandemic Response And Beyond

DAY 2

Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin

**Assistant Director
Maritime Security
Malaysian Institute of Defence and
Security (MiDAS)
Ministry of Defence, Malaysia**

On behalf of the principal organizer, MiDAS, Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin welcomed the panel of



speakers and audieces who had logged in to participate in Day 2 of the MiDAS-KAS virtual international conference. For the benefit of those who missed day one, Ms. Nor Aini binti Mohd Nordin presented the rationale, an overview of the two- day conference, and briefed the audience about the format for the virtual deliberations. She then turned the virtual floor over to Ms. Nadia Azmi, the eminent Malaysian newscaster to moderate Day 2 of the conference.

DAY 2 SESSIONS BRIEF

Ms. Nadia Azmi

**Conference Moderator
Newscaster
Sistem Televisyen Malaysia Berhad**

Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi welcomed the speakers and participants to continue the conference deliberations. She emphasized that it was a timely platform we could all



learn from every country's experience in the fight against the deadly Covid-19 virus which requires concerted efforts in overcoming it. She pointed out that Day 2 would delve deeper into the effects of the pandemic towards national security and its impact beyond health. The threat, she said, is not only confined to our health but that the magnitude of the pandemic has the potential to weaken society, the economy and even political systems. She informed the participants about using the chat facilities to post questions and invited them to join the polls to be introduced within the duration of the conference. She then introduced the various sessions and speakers and moderated Day 2 of the conference.

Malaysia Covid-19: Effect on National Security

Threatens Public Health

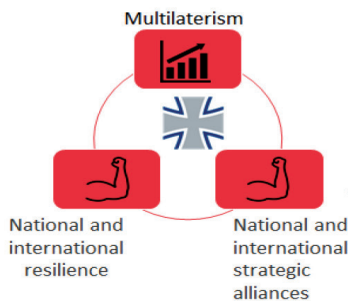


Threatens Public Security

Negatively Impact Economy

Increases Mortality

Security and Defence: German and European Perspectives



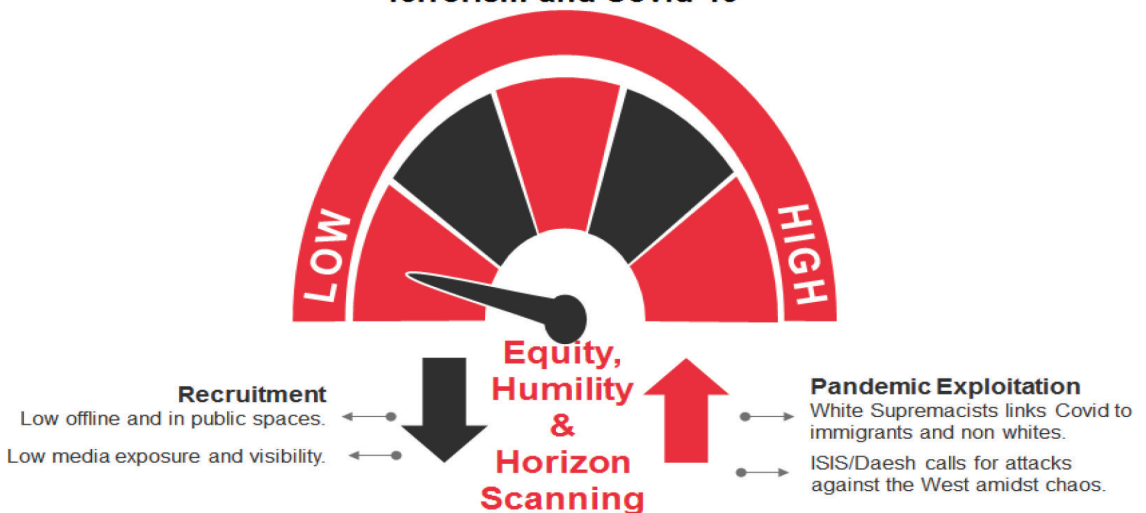
Pandemic Consequence

Wayforward



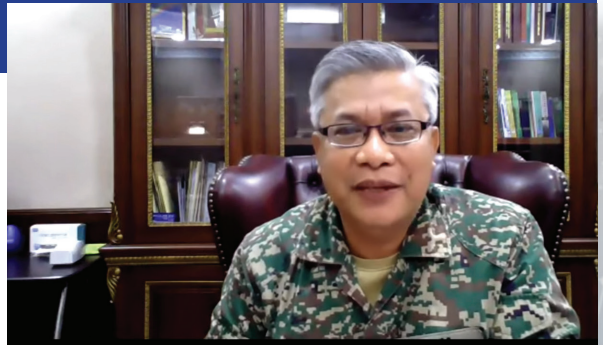
- a) The destabilization of already fragile states.
- b) Shake strategic power balance and maybe accelerate geopolitical power shifts vis-a-vis China and Russia,
- c) Testing the cohesion within alliances and partnerships.

Violence and the Virus: The Intersection between Terrorism and Covid-19



Covid-19 Pandemic in Malaysia: Effect on National Security

**Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan
(Dr.) Md Amin Muslan**
**Director of Health Services
Malaysian Armed Forces**



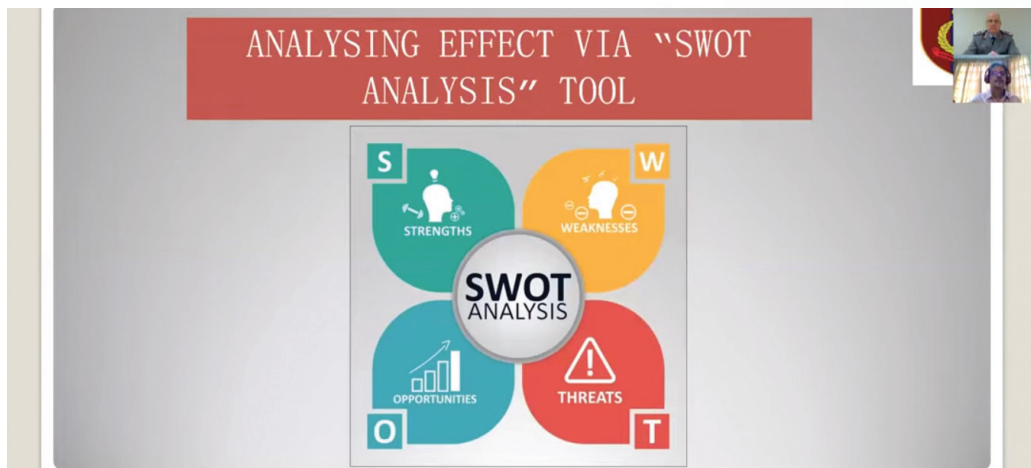
Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan (Dr.) Md Amin Muslan thanked MiDAS and KAS for inviting him to speak at the conference and appreciated Col. Dr. Frank Richter and Mr. Thomas Koruth Samuel, fellow panellists for the session. He said that during his life span he had experienced many disasters, faced many epidemics and pandemics, and thinks the current pandemic will not be the last.



Disclaimer

Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan stressed that his presentation was his personal views as a military health professional (doctor) with 32 years of experience in operational medicine. He said it did not reflect the official policy of the Malaysian Armed Forces or the Malaysian Government. He said he would focus his discussion on the macro and strategic level, and said that the pandemic has encouraged a new level of cooperation among Malaysians.

Injecting positivity, Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan was confident that "there's a solution" for the pandemic – and quoting Albert Einstein, he quipped it's "just a matter of taking action." Malaysia's actions in response to the pandemic were the best for Malaysia, in his opinion. He added that each country took action appropriate for it.



Using a business tool, the SWOT (strengths, weakness, opportunities and threats) analysis, Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan traced for the audience the Malaysian Government's actions to confront the public health crisis, the pandemic. He described the criteria of the public health crisis and spoke of the pandemic's disruption to livelihoods, lifestyle, and the burdens on the public health system, the uncertainties and vulnerabilities, and the threat to national security.

Threat

The Covid-19 pandemic was a threat to public health and safety, would increase mortality and morbidity, and would siphon out limited health resources. It would also affect the economy badly. The public health measures would disrupt social activities, the livelihood of people, and political stability. Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan said that many people do not want to be told what to do and this caused a lot of public unrest. National security can be threatened when there is weakness in the elements of power.

MIDAS Conference 2020 (Day 2)

Press **Esc** to exit full screen

PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS: THE WEAKNESS

INTERNATIONAL LEVEL.

THE GEO POLITICAL SITUATION RESULTING IN DECLINE TRUST AND THE ROLE OF MULTI-LATERALISM

UNDERMINING OF WHO AND DELAYING OF EFFECTIVE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO CONTAIN THE VIRUS AND THE DISEASES

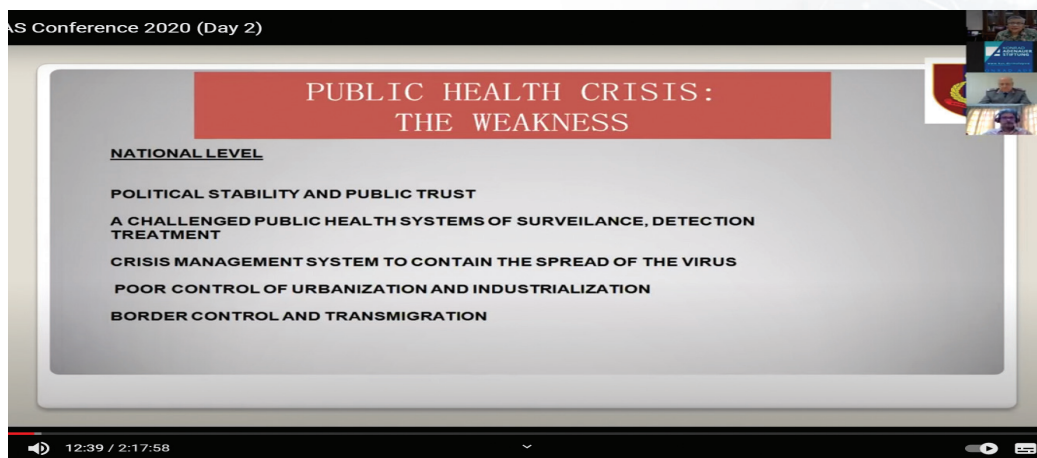
THE PLANNED PANDEMIC

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Weakness

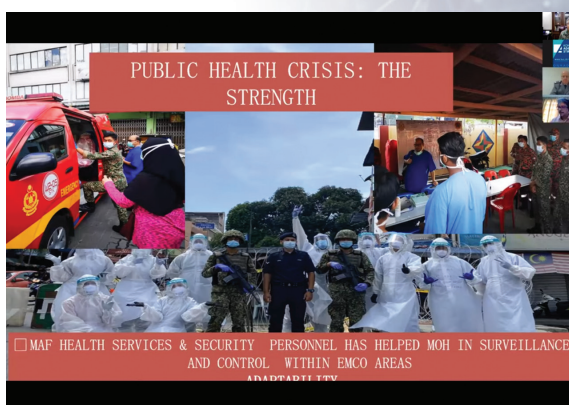
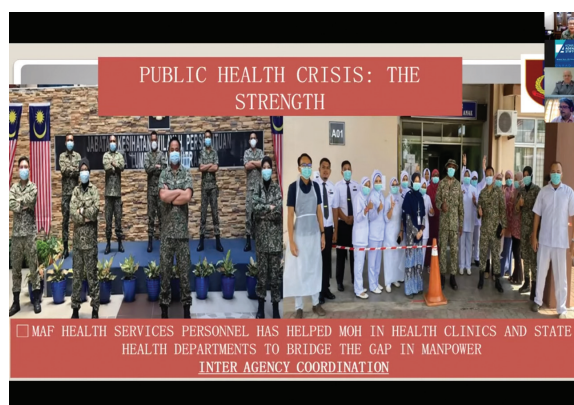
At the international level, when the pandemic broke out, the geopolitical situation was not at its best and this created a decline in mistrust and multilateralism. Previously the government was able to control SARS and MERS but the government could not respond effectively and fast enough to confront the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lt. General Dato' Pahlawan pointed out the role of dominant nations in disinformation and misinformation which added to the overall confusion among the public during the pandemic. The disinformation and misinformation affected the World Health Organization's (WHO) attempt to contain the Covid-19 virus. When Covid-19 was first discovered in October 19, 2019, many nations responded to it only in February, March and April.



At the national level, there was a long length of delay for a response to the pandemic as Malaysia was not prepared for Covid-19's arrival. Concurrently at that time, there were political challenges in the country. There was mistrust among the people and Covid-19 was misused as a political tool by certain interest groups. The Malaysian public health system was also not at its best at that time, especially in the Kalimantan area in Borneo.

Malaysia has good experience in managing flash floods. However, the country's crisis management system was not very agile to manage a crisis of the scale posed by the pandemic. Covid-19 highlighted Malaysia's problems in urbanization and industrialization, border controls and transmigration problems. Crowded areas and poor living conditions for workers contributed to the expanding nature of Covid-19. In Lt. General Pahlawan's opinion, Covid-19 punished the country for its neglect in addressing border controls and transmigration problems.



Strengths

As a result of Covid-19 Malaysia developed very agile inter-agency coordination. When Covid-19 happened, Malaysia had just completed the International Health Regulation External Audit during which a multi-agency team was organized to address all the auditors' questions about how to address a large outbreak of such nature. Timing was such that Malaysia had only two months to prepare for Covid-19. But during the audit, several platforms for multi-agency teams to work together.

The adaptability of the Malaysian Armed Forces (MAF) and Police were evident in addressing a very new task of helping the Ministry of Health to contain the disease. Excellent SOPs were developed by the MAF and Police to strengthen civil-military cooperation in times of need.



Innovations

This is the first time Malaysia used the Military Hospital as a decanting centre to handle non-Covid cases so that the public hospitals may focus on more Covid cases. This took the whole-of-government approach to the next level.

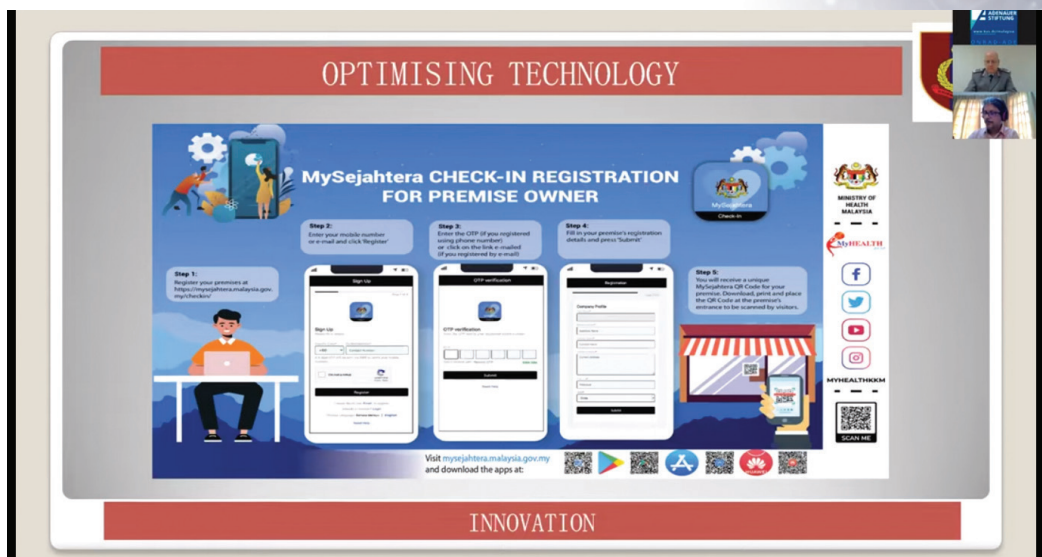


The Royal Malaysian Police and the Army were deployed to work together with units on the streets to ensure the public observe SOPs and to assure them help is available and that the government is handling the situation in the best manner.

Another innovation was the establishing of a multi-agency, National Task Force, led by the Malaysian Armed Forces, to look into the problem of transmigration. The borders are now better managed. Many people involved in trans-border crime such as human trafficking, drug trafficking, and smuggling are being caught.

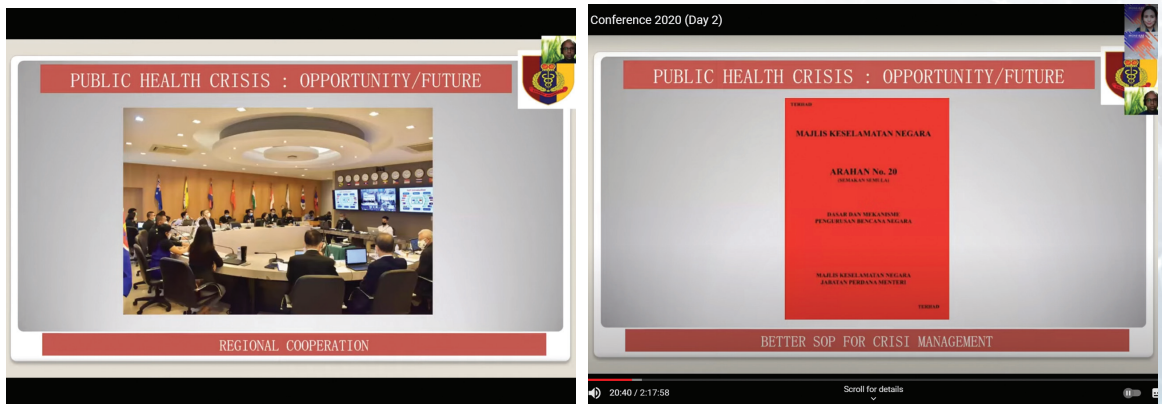


Working with the Ministry of Health and other agencies, the MAF was able to improve and increase laboratory support for public hospitals. MAF also constructed make-shift hospitals to cater for Covid-19 patients and provided health and security personnel. It required adaptability, and a lot of cooperation and coordination from various agencies involved. Among the make-shift hospitals was one catering for about 10,000 patients and one in Tawau and a treatment centre for the prison.



App: MySejahtera 2.0

Capitalising on technology, the MAF used the MySejahtera app to support contact tracing, early warning of potential Covid high risk areas. This app also enables individuals to monitor their own health. It is hoped that individuals too can help identify Covid cases using the app.



Opportunity (and the Future)

At the regional level there is better cooperation between ASEAN members. The ASEAN Centre for Military Medicine acted early in March and created knowledge to be shared among member countries.

The opportunity that lies ahead is to prepare for the next pandemic and to help the nation approach related calamities. PCR technique has been developed to provide better care for Covid patients. Now there is the opportunity to determine how to address Covid vaccinations.



Conclusion

Covid-19 affects national security positively and negatively. How Malaysians will manage post Covid and what we will face in the future are important issues. We must learn from all crises, to reduce risks and build resilience. Resilience, Lt. General Dato' (Dr.) Pahlawan concluded, is the ultimate key to ensure national security.

Security and Defence: German and European Perspectives

Col. (GS) Dr. Frank Richter

Head of Politic II 1 Branch (Strategic Department)

Ministry of Defence Federal Republic of Germany



Following his greetings and thanksgiving to the organizers of the conference, Col. Dr. Frank Richter fondly reminisced his visit to Kuala Lumpur in 2019 at the time when the Malaysian White Paper was drafted. He spoke of the fruitful exchange his delegation had with MiDAS and the Malaysian Ministry of Defence.

Col. Dr. Frank Richter agreed at the outset that Covid-19 is the largest and most disruptive crisis since the end of the Second World War, and it has implications and consequences for all institutions. The pandemic challenge is multifaceted. From the security and defence perspective, there are three main trends:

- The destabilization of already fragile states. This is of serious concern and Germany has to support them,
- Shake strategic power balance and maybe accelerate geopolitical power shifts vis-a-vis China and Russia, and
- Testing the cohesion within alliances and partnerships.



Col. Dr. Frank Richter informed the audience that, at this same time, there is a relapse of internationalism by many countries. He said that this has severe risks for defence policy. Covid-19 has shown that in a globalized world, all states are connected and intertwined. Efficient response to a global public health emergency requires a coordinated international approach.

Multilateralism

Col. Dr. Frank Richter then went on to underpin the need for multilateralism to tackle the pandemic challenge. The same multilateral approach is required for other challenges like climate change. After the Covid-19 pandemic, Col. Dr. Frank Richter foresees the focus returning to climate change.

German Objective

The main objective is to increase resilience of states and international organizations, and to support the coordination between international organizations.

NATO

The challenges of Covid-19 can only be managed collectively. Therefore, transatlantic cooperation and coordination within NATO will remain as key pillars of German security. During the pandemic, NATO, traditionally a military alliance, was able to show its adaptability to meet new challenges, like Covid-19.



Photo credits: “NATO Secretary General delivers a speech at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies” by NATO, licensed under CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Col. Dr. Frank Richter then highlighted four examples NATO achieved during the pandemic:

1. An operations plan (Allied Hand) was established and endorsed by the Ministers of Defence in June 2020 (and remains effective up to May 2021). The Operations Plan comprises activities and measures to respond, stabilize, and recover from crises. The Plan supports all allies and partners and can be activated if one of the partner countries is breaking down. Germany stands ready to help allies and partners. Germany provides medical personnel, engineers, and up to 300 soldiers are on standby.
2. The NATO Pandemic Response Trust Fund was established. This involves the financial means to quickly acquire and distribute medical equipment. It includes acquisition, reception, storage and distribution of Covid-19 items.
3. NATO also established the Contingency Pandemic Response Plan based on the Operations Plan (Allied Hand). It is one of the lessons learned from the pandemic that we need such a plan along with proper stockpiling as well.
4. Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre. This emergency response coordination mechanism, activated on a 24-7 basis for NATO allies and partner countries to manage natural and man-made disasters. Germany would support any activity within this Alliance to tackle crises like Covid-19.



German-EU Nexus

The sudden, unprecedented emergence and spread of Covid-19 across Europe was a challenge and test for the cohesion within the European Union and the ability for countries to act. The European Union have succeeded in developing some coordinated and efficient strategies:

EU Covid-19 Task Force dedicated temporarily to support information exchange on national military and civil assistance to fight the pandemic. EU military and external experts share best practices and the information nations need. The Task Force, for example, repatriated stranded citizens back to their home countries standards, delivered medical equipment, and transferred (Medevac) patients from one country to another that could help. These are some of the practical measures the Task Force had taken across national borders in the European Union. This is solidarity among partners and allies.

On the international level, Germany is supporting the European Medical Cooperation 2.0. The aim is to enhance close medical cooperation among the medical services throughout Europe. In November 2020, the structures and processes of this service were tested and it will become the basis for future structures and processes.

Germany is helping regional health agencies, hospitals, test stations, nursing homes, and providing administrative assistance. In November 2020, Germany received more than 70 requests for international assistance from about 14 countries and from international organizations. For example, the Institute of Microbiology from the Bundeswehr delivered more than 75,000 Covid-19 test kits, especially to Germany's partners in the region. Col. Dr. Frank Richter then broached again the importance of multilateralism and said since Africa is a neighbour, Germany is heavily supporting them.

Looking to the Future: Vaccinations

Col. Dr. Frank Richter said that as soon as an approved vaccine becomes available the Bundeswehr will constitute logistical support for acquisition, storage, transport and delivery of vaccinations. He said there were a bunch of activities and lessons learned to be better prepared for the next pandemic.

Conclusion

Col. Dr. Frank Richter concluded his presentation by leaving the audience with some key phrases he wished to emphasise: strengthen resilience nationally and internationally; international cooperation and coordination; multilateral organizations and solutions; solidarity; and more coordination between international organizations.

Violence and the Virus: The Intersection between Terrorism and Covid-19

Mr. Thomas K Samuel

Regional Consultant, Terrorism Prevention United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)



Good News

At the outset, Mr. Thomas K Samuel presented a positive scene. He said that at this time of the pandemic, there is a reduced rate of terrorist recruitment initiatives on offline platforms and public spaces. The movement control restrictions hamper violent terrorists to attract, indoctrinate, recruit new followers and radicalize them. He added that during the pandemic there is decreased media exposure for violent extremist groups. These groups depend on the media to spread fear and gain visibility. Covid has knocked off these groups from their media pedestals.

It is possible that discontent towards violent but charismatic extremist, sometimes cult-like, groups. Followers lose faith in these leaders when their visibility fades because of Covid-they could turn against the group. If the extremist leaders contract Covid or if the population itself have more urgent needs besides supporting the violent extremist groups that could lead discontent towards the leaders.



White Supremacists Exploit Covid

Right-wing white supremacist extremists have linked the Covid virus to immigrants and non-whites who use the crisis to promote ethno-nationalism; for example, the Nordic Resistance and the Hundred Handers. Then there are the left-wing extremists who focus on the impact of the pandemic on the economy and the environment. They call for attention to their cause by using violence.

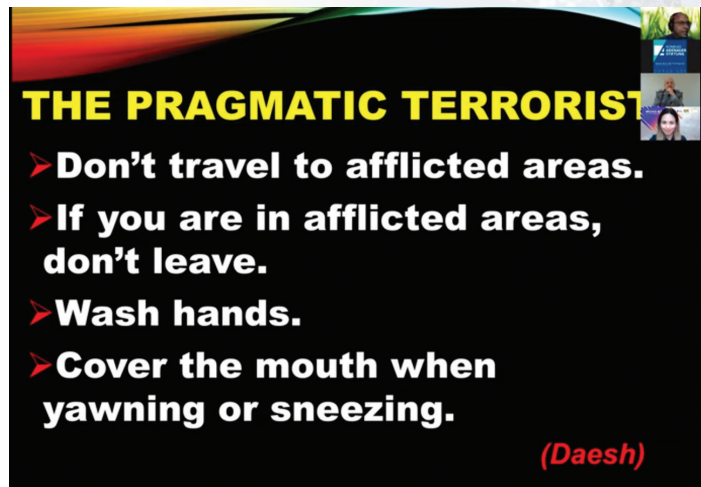
Response of the Violent Terrorists: Blame the West

They say that Covid is divine retribution, punishment from God on non-believers. They have said it is against China for ill-treating the Uighurs; ISIS last stands in March 2019, blaming the West: it is revenge, God's punishment for the destruction of Syria. Al Shabaab blames the spread of the virus on the crusader forces and Western allies who have invaded the country. Al Qaeda has condemned the immorality that has caused the Virus.

Weaponizing the Virus

According to Mr. Thomas, some terrorist organizations have advocated the weaponizing of the virus. For example, the far-right extremist groups discuss online how to purposely infect members of minority groups. It is an opportunity to attack the government as they are in a weak state to deal with the pandemic.

He shared some of the remarks made by an Indonesian terrorist, "if Covid-19 could speak, maybe it would say: we have got the Vatican surrounded, what more are you waiting for? Why are we keeping quiet? Coronavirus has opened the way for us. Shoulder-to-shoulder, let's attack them." He also added remark made by Ali Kalora, leader of Mujahidin Indonesia Timor (MIT), "Truly victory is near, the oppressor will fall because of Coronavirus at this war. God-willing it will happen soon. He also shared intelligence that ISIS used Covid-19 infected members to transmit the virus to those considered as enemies, such as the police.



The above slide is a public service announcement by Daesh.

The Short Term Impact for the Violent Extremist

Mr. Thomas shared it is an opportunity to fill a gap or vacuum in governance. The terrorists take advantage of the authorities whose resources are very thinly stretched. He said that violent extremists are re-inventing themselves as service providers: food, basic health care, to at-risk populations.

He shared that a military commander in the Philippines, said "We are battling against two different enemies." It is important that the authorities strengthen and support local actors, for example, civil society organizations to assist the people, failing which, and violent extremists will fill the gap.

He informed that the terrorists are taking advantage of the chaos. There are political, economic and social disruptions, for example, in West Africa the Da'esh released a statement saying, "This is an opportunity to attack the West while they are weak and distracted, and also, "Capitalize on the paralysis and fear overtaking the crusader countries amidst the pandemic." They have also said, "Show them no mercy, and launch attacks during this time of crisis. So, take advantage of this chaos". Da'esh said, "This is an opportunity to attack the West while they are weak and distracted, and also, "Capitalize on

the paralysis and fear overtaking the crusader countries amidst the pandemic.” According to Mr. Thomas they have also said, “Show them no mercy, and launch attacks during this time of crisis. So, take advantage of this chaos”. While Ali Kalora, the head of MIT said, “The tyrants will fall because of the Coronavirus and the war in the near future”.

Extremists’ Worldviews

Right-wing groups are advocating for stricter border control, blaming foreigners as the cause of Covid. They are asking to halt migration of foreigners. Left-wing groups are saying this is a great divide between the haves and have-nots.

He opinion, to present their worldviews to receptive audiences, due to the pandemic, religious extremists use catch-phrases like, “the irreconcilable divide between us and them”, and “the decadence of the West.” The pandemic is also a time for violent terrorists to plan and accelerate attacks. They have evolved in their methods and targeting. Da’esh called for planned attacks on weakened infrastructure or soft targets: hospitals and supermarkets.



He also shared that on March 30, 2020, in one case a man name Timothy Wilson planned to bomb a hospital in Missouri (USA) that was treating Covid-19 patients. This incident indicated that the authorities need to be prepare for modified attacks by taking target-hardening measures of, for example, hospitals and supermarkets.

Modus Operandi

Violent extremists are saying that this is an opportunity to spread disinformation, conspiracy theories and propaganda. Right-wing violent extremists are spreading xenophobic and anti-Semitic narratives.

Terrorists exploit human emotions bypassing their minds. This time characterized by financial hardships and isolation, violent terrorists take advantage by using evocative messaging. They undermine trust in government and moderate political groups when they spread conspiracy theories and propaganda.

Terrorists try to reach and radicalize a captive audience. Online platforms offer an increased opportunity for them. People are not busily engaged and spend a lot of time on social media. This is a perfect storm for terrorists to radicalize a large number of people – especially susceptible youth who spend increased amounts of time online. In many countries educational institutions have ceased to function at their premises. Students are now studying online from home. This heightens the misfortune of these youth to be recruited online.

Counter Remedies

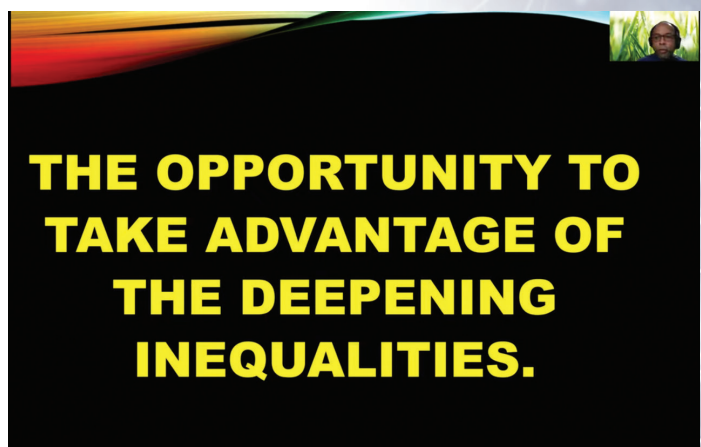
Mr. Thomas K Samuel opines that it is important for the authorities to build innovative and effective strategies for alternative or counter-messaging. The government should improve the capacity of key actors to counter violent extremist messaging. The authorities should organize online resilience-building initiatives and campaigns especially reaching out to vulnerable groups. They should target and build capacity by engaging social influencers: leaders from religious and youth groups, parents, teachers, and also You Tubers and social media developers to counter online terrorist radicalization.

Mid-to-Long-Term Impact for the Violent Extremist.

As a result of national and international focus, and funding being diverted towards the pandemic, and therefore reduced, violent extremists seize the opportunity to conduct their plans. Da'esh has openly declared that the international community will be hesitant to send troops abroad and hence have urged their followers to take advantage by intensifying their attacks and escalating both the quantity and quality of their attacks. So, funding for health issues took priority at the expense of P/CVE (preventing/countering violent extremism) initiatives. EWER (early warning, early response) for preventing and countering violent extremism in institutions of higher learning and education could be crippled. As these institutions are now having students learning from home, it is now not possible to identify students who show signs of radicalization. So, P/CVE engagements at the community level will stop.

He stressed that because violent extremists will take advantage of the tensions created, it is important that authorities priorities P/CVE initiatives. At the national level there could be perceived inequality due to the distribution of resources, support and care between groups, intra-religious or intra- race. The same could apply at international level too.

He informed that an NGO called the Global Justice Now, stated that the 78 percent of the Moderna vaccines sold to rich nations represent only 12 percent of the worlds population. This NGO is not a violent organization but an advocacy group but the information they release will be picked up by violent extremists who say that there is a perceived divide and injustice even in the distribution of vaccines.

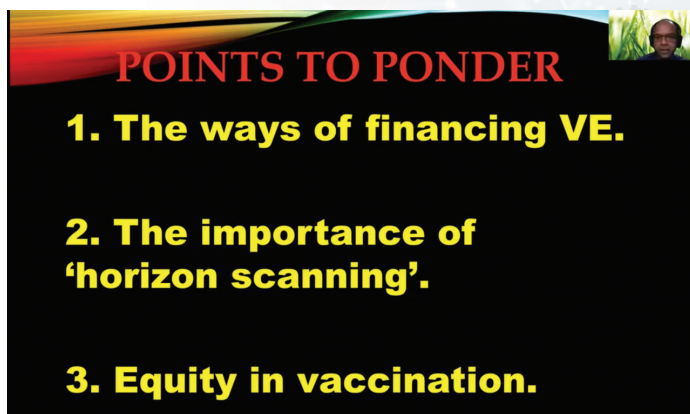


Violent extremists speak of the opportunity to take advantage of the deepening inequalities. They will take advantage of the social, economic and political inequalities which might arise from the pandemic. There is a backlash against globalization and perceived hypocrisy. Against this background arises the idea of forming the common enemy: the West, the elites in a country or it could be a certain race or religious group within a particular society.

Key Points

According to Mr. Thomas, authorities should take cognisance of:

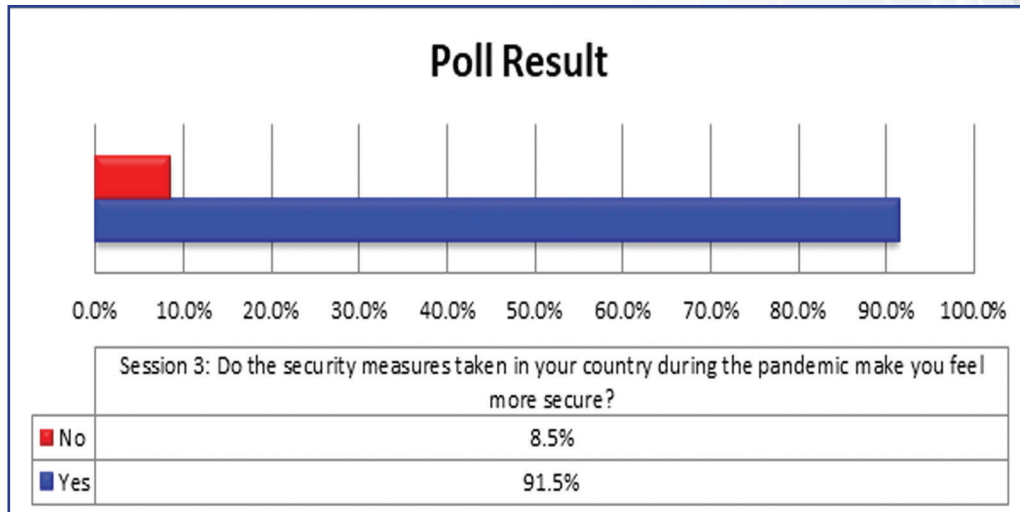
- (1) The ways of violent extremist financing. They will say they are collecting funds for humanitarian relief organizations. Many people will donate to these causes, thinking the money will go to people suffering from the pandemic. The authorities should take cognisance of UN Security Council Resolution 2462 (28 March, 2019) which underscores the fact that the violent extremists will be raising funds using the pandemic as an excuse. The authorities should prevent violent extremists from raising or moving funds.
- (2) The importance of horizon scanning'. This is about anticipating future threats and disruption by improving our horizon scanning' skills – to think and ponder on the improbable.
- (3) The Equity in vaccination. This flashpoint could be used by violent extremists. Any perceived unfairness in the distribution and delivery of vaccines could be a sore point and radicalizing factor
- (4) The Need to address the asymmetry of passion'. There is a need to find people who are passionate on the side of the authorities to present perspectives countering violent extremism.
- (5) The need for wisdom. Research is necessary to ensure counter extremism efforts are solving, not exacerbating a particular problem.
- (6) The need for humility. No one person, or national or multilateral organization, can solve this problem. We have to learn from each other. The pandemic underscores the fact that there is no other way



1 Minute Conference Poll

Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi invited the participants to submit, online, their responses (yes or no):

Question: Do the security measures taken in your country during the pandemic make you feel more secure?



Questions and Answers

1. Questioner Hamzah Ishak, NSC Malaysia, asked if the spread of Covid-19 affects terrorist activities due to movement control especially in Europe and Southeast Asian regions.

Mr. Thomas K Samuel responded, saying that, in the offline spaces, the effects have reduced but there is an increase in online spaces. In Indonesia, the MIT (Mujahiddin Indonesia Timor) has launched attacks even during the pandemic (but to a lesser degree compared with the period before the pandemic.) They are also eagerly waiting for the pandemic to end so they may return to business.

2. Questioner Azidi Ahmad Zarkawi inquired, in the realm of geopolitics, how affected countries can best deal with the pandemic, especially by using military arsenal.

In response, Col. (GS) Dr. Frank Richter said that in the shifting or balancing nature of geopolitics (big powers China or Russia), from the German perspective, the military capabilities should not be considered in the first instance. Instead, the countries which share common values should work more closely and come to a common opinion. He said that Germany will be working closely with the United States, adding that Germany is looking for new partners in the Indo-Pacific area and has published guidelines for this strategy. He stressed that Germany is actually looking for new partners in all regions of the world to share its values. The cooperation Germany has with like-minded countries is the best way, the Colonel proffered. He said military capabilities are only one part of cooperation and that it is not the most important one. He emphasized that all other possible avenues for cooperation must be considered.

3. Questioner Chen Chen Ng was interested to know if there is hope for the new multilateral task forces created, to be strengthened and maintained, even after the pandemic, to ensure continuous exchange.

Col. (GS) Dr. Frank Richter replied that he was cautiously optimistic. A multinational level cooperation with standing structures is needed and he hoped there would be a continuation. Germany, he said, is very interested in strengthening these organizational structures for cooperation.

4. On behalf of another audience member, moderator Nadia Azmi then asked Mr. Thomas K Samuel whether he foresees, in Southeast Asia, a particularly big risk of increased terrorist recruitment.

There are risks but not big ones and the situation is rather opaque, according to Mr. Thomas K Samuel. This, he said, is because fundamental issues, within the region and beyond, have not yet been resolved. These unresolved issues at the national and international levels play a role in the radicalization and recruiting of violent extremists.

5. On behalf of another questioner, moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi asked Lt. General Dato' (Dr.) Pahlawan about the spike in drug offences and whether the pandemic has provided leeway for criminal activities to take place.

Lt. General Dato' (Dr.) Pahlawan opined that because of the lockdowns and increased border surveillance, there is an increase in the numbers of drug traffickers being caught at the borders, amounting to millions of ringgits worth of drugs. He said that the forces have to continue persevering in their surveillance measures. He hopes, therefore, that these initiatives will reduce drug-related criminal activities.



MIDAS-KAS

Conference 2020

Pandemic Response And Beyond

SESSION 4

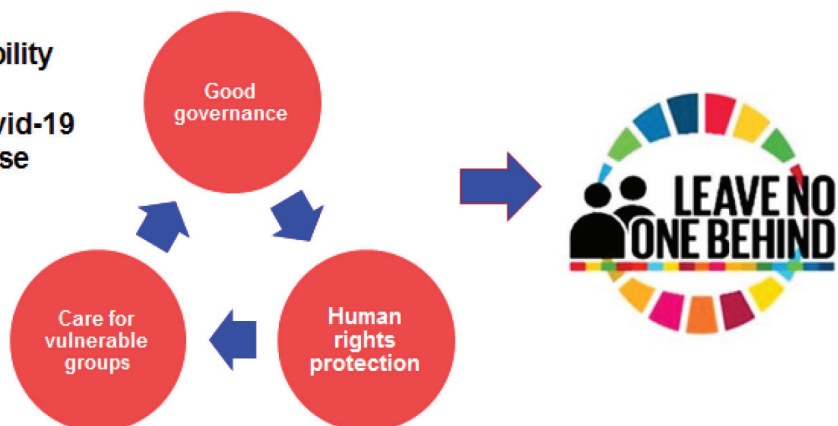
Effects Of Covid-19 From An International Relations, Geostrategic And Political Perspective

- The increase need for middle power engagement
- US-China divergence negatively affects Asia Pacific
- Middle power countries have a stake in international and should help shape its rules and governance.

Post– Covid Crises Governance and Development

- +ve role of GLC that enables Government to manage economic impact
- GLCs can be tools used by a government to achieve its political ends.
- Malaysia needs a more equitable development models.

Integrating Vulnerability
Ad Human Rights
Protections Into Covid-19
Prevention, Response
And Recovery.



Effects Of Covid-19 From An International Relations, Geostrategic And Political Perspective

Mr. Thomas Benjamin Daniel

Fellow

Foreign Policy and Security Studies
Programme

Institute of Strategic and International
Studies Malaysia



Mr. Thomas Daniel thanked the organizers of the international virtual conference and began his presentation stating that he would cover the effects of Covid-19 from an international relations and geostrategic and political perspective. He introduced four key points:

1. Geostrategic Rivalry: The U.S. and China

Covid-19 was subsumed within geostrategic rivalry. It disrupted the international order and rules-based system which was already under a lot of stress and had become increasingly rudderless.

The U.S.-China fractured dynamic before the pandemic had become almost adversarial in nature. There were disputes in trade, communications technology, data security, international rules and intellectual property had worsened during the pandemic. The U.S. and China hold a lot of sway over the global architecture and have fallen short of the responsibilities that come with their position. Both continued in wars of narratives and management of the pandemic. This spilled into their diplomacy with other stakeholders.



Photo credits: [china coronavirus - Bing images](#)

For example, under the Trump Administration, Washington, D.C., doubled-down on accusations that China had deliberately played dumb about the pandemic and urged countries around the world, especially in Asia, and Southeast Asia, to join this narrative

and to compound pressure on China. The WHO was dragged into this spat and lost funding from the U.S., its biggest donor. Fortunately, the Biden administration will re-engage with the WHO.

Chinese Maneuvers

Beijing, on the other hand, used its capacity to deliver aid, and used its economic clout and elicited positive comments about how it was managing the pandemic. In Europe, China's diplomats have been accused of overtly trying to influence inquiries into the origins of the Coronavirus and how the EU has managed its response. Similar reports come from Latin and South America.

Closer home, China has intensified its activities and maritime harassment in the South China Sea at a time when other stakeholders were under increasing pressures because of the pandemic. This complicated matters for other countries who prioritize peace, multilateral cooperation, and adherence to international norms.



Photo credits: “[USS Bunker Hill \(CG 52\) and USS Barry \(DDG 52\) transit the South China Sea.](#)” by [Official U.S. Navy Imagery](#), licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

Strategic competition among these major powers, Mr. Thomas Benjamin predicted, will continue through an upcoming healthcare and vaccine diplomacy.

2. Global Inequality

Mr. Thomas Daniel then underscored the problem of global inequality. The role out of Covid-19 vaccines will highlight the challenges of global inequality which is already apparent by the pandemic. The UK was the first to approve a Covid-19 vaccine and will embark on mass immunization of high risk individuals.

As the world enters a new phase in the fight against Covid-19, with treatment and immunization measures. This phase is fraught with challenges. There is some hope and prospect for a growing array of vaccines, sufficient doses will take considerable time to be produced, stored, distributed, and administered.

Some countries will be able to vaccinate their populations more quickly than others. The first ones will be able to create travel bubbles among themselves.

Meanwhile, less developed countries will struggle to secure sufficient doses of vaccines. Some will have difficulties reaching out to rural populations or lack the capacity to fight anti-vaccination rumours. The gap between the haves and have-nots will take on a new dimension. The vast inequalities may deepen in the next two or three years resulting in major consequences in political, social, economic, and international relations spheres.

Mr. Thomas Daniel foresees a three-to-four-tier world within the next two years. It will open opportunities for richer nations to influence nations that desperately need help. This is where grievances will peak and establish systems, norms, rules of law, and authorities will be challenged.

3. Multilateralism Revisited

Travel restrictions have kicked in during March-April 2020. Aside from competition between major powers, regional organizations, e.g., the EU and ASEAN, have had a hard time coming up with a coherent, unified response to the pandemic in the early and mid-stages. The virus exacerbated cracks in the multilateral systems which underpins much of the world's regional architectures and mechanisms. Multilateralism seemed to have taken a back seat.

He shared that instead of international cooperation for cohesive, integrated responses, there were unilateral travel bans without international consultations, denials on the severity of the situations, mounting evidence to the contrary and initial lack of clear strategy and communication plans, inevitable social planning and dogged refusals to accept blame.

Positive Outlook

It is not all gloom as the negative scene seemed to have abated somewhat now. Coordination seemed to have returned to the drawing board. Perhaps policymakers are now more used to society living with the Coronavirus for the next couple of years. That must have stopped knee-jerk reactions.

The Biden administration distribution of vaccines and its commitment to multilateral engagement need mention. Mr. Thomas Daniel foresees there will be U.S. engagement in forthcoming global healthcare policies.

The Return of Multilateralism

Part of the reason for good news, according to Mr. Thomas Daniel, is that policymakers, technocrats, and civil servants were ensuring that various scheduled multilateral summits and mechanisms continue, online or in a reduced scale. Cases in point: the 36th and 37th ASEAN Summits and associated meetings, the East Asia Summit, APEC. They all continued and covered substantive discussions, tangible agreements, action plans, declarations, to address the on-going global pandemic and its ripple effects.

Mr. Thomas Daniel said he is very critical of ASEAN and was especially critical about ASEAN in the early months of the pandemic. However, he observed that ASEAN “got its act together”. Recent outcomes stressed the importance of solidarity and cooperation with cohesion not only with member states but inclusive of external stakeholders.



Photo credits: 1511_azmin_muhyiddin_rcep_bernama-seo.jpg (1200×630) (malaymail.com)

ASEAN Adopts Malaysia Proposal

Mr. Thomas Daniel emphasized that he was glad to see Malaysia's proposal for a Comprehensive Recovery Framework adopted in November, 2020. Malaysia proposed it in April 2020 and worked on it with other ASEAN member states before its adoption

4. Middle Power Engagement

The pandemic has emphasized the essential need for responsible middle power engagement in the Asia Pacific and globally. Adherence to international norms is important. In his view, the major powers have been somewhat irresponsible.

Notwithstanding the (debatable) definition of what constitutes "Middle power", countries like Australia, Japan, South Korea, India, and Indonesia are at different stages of managing the pandemic and consuming much of their attention and resources. Some of the aforementioned countries have much in common with the United States. These middle powers have an important stake in the international system and in the rules and norms that govern it. Ignoring the latter, said Mr. Thomas Daniel, while major powers shape rules and norms along the lines of great and major power politics, would be to the world's detriment.



Photo credits: [asean.jpg \(620×381\) \(vgcloud.vn\)](#)

The behavior of both the United States and China are real cause for concern to many different countries for various reasons. The divergent interests of both are a major disadvantage for the Asia Pacific. Mr. Thomas Daniel concluded his presentation by emphasizing that middle power states should not only work with each other but also with major powers and smaller countries, and with regional organizations, like ASEAN, to chart a more inclusive structure.

Post – Covid Crises Governance and Development

Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez
Faculty of Economics & Administration
University of Malaya

Covid Crisis Highlights Role of State-owned Enterprises

Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez began with his perspectives on the pre-Covid business climate when the world was debating two types of models for development. One was business led (Neoliberal) best epitomized by the United States. The other one was state/ government led (Interventionist), as in the case of China.



When the phenomenal Covid crisis occurred, simultaneously the economy was affected when private firms were locked down. In this situation, who could then intervene to take hold of the economy? So, state-owned enterprises became major players as the government intervened. The Covid crisis highlighted the need to pay attention to state-owned enterprises.

Pre-Covid Crisis Development Debate: Business-Led (Neoliberal) vs Government-Led (Interventionist)
Post-Covid Crisis: Government Intervention Imperative: State-Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
SOE Assets: Valued at US\$45 trillion in 2018. About half of global GDP. Up from around US\$13 trillion in 2008

Figure 1. SOEs as growing market players

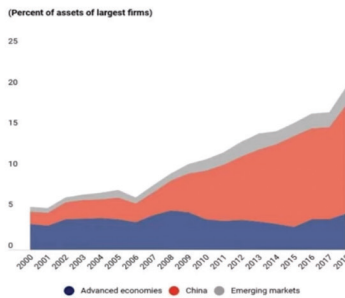
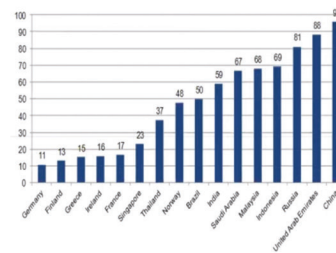


Figure 2. SOE shares among countries' top ten firms (%)



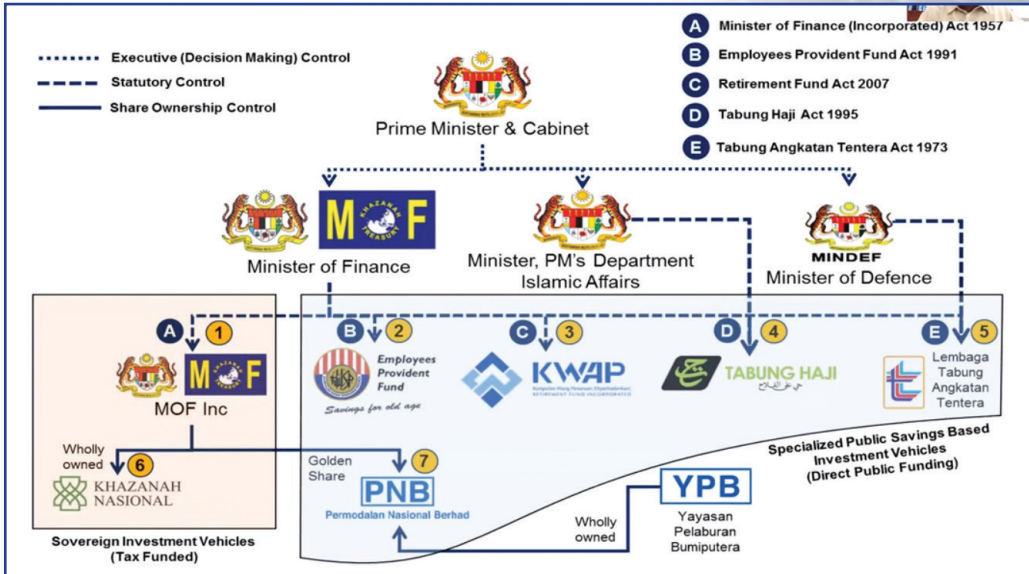
Note: Only countries with shares above 10% are shown.

Source: World Economic Forum

He showed that state-owned enterprises grew by leaps and bounds over the past decade and China was leading in using state-owned enterprises as in Figure 1. Almost every country in the world has state-owned enterprises and countries in Asia (Southeast Asia, East Asia) seemed to have the most number of numbers of state-owned enterprises (see Figure 2).

How Countries Responded to the Covid Crisis

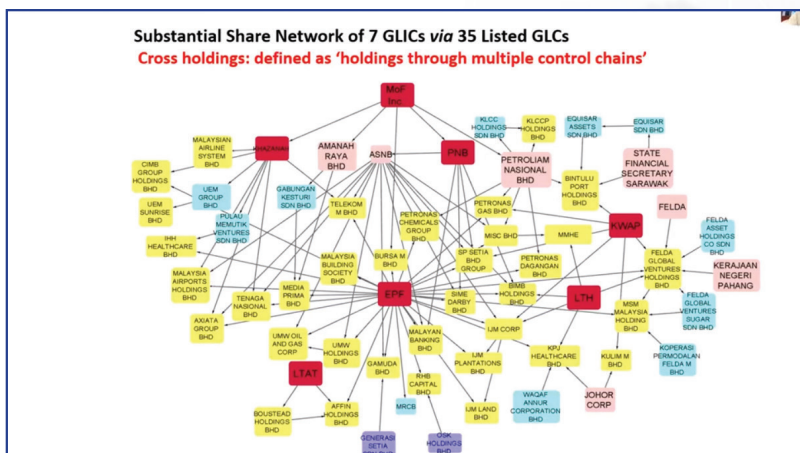
According to Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez, the countries which responded well were countries whose governments had significant control over its state-owned enterprises, as was the case of China, Singapore, Vietnam, and Malaysia.



Malaysia: Role of GLCs

Given the limited time, Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez focused on Malaysia where state-owned enterprises are referred to as GLCs (Government-linked companies), a very important topic in the political arena. The slide above shows the Ministry of Finance Incorporated Holding company overseeing the sovereign wealth fund called Khazanah Nasional; the equity invest fund/Employees Provident Fund; the KWAP pension fund; Tabung Haji for Muslim pensioners; Lembaga Tabung Angkatan Tentera (LTAT) for Armed forces

personnel; and Permodalan Nasional Berhad (PNB). All these seven enterprises own a multitude of public listed companies.



In the above slide, the seven GLCs denoted in red own 35 public listed companies.

LTAT

LTAT owns Boustead Holdings Bhd which owns a large share of a Pharmaniaga, a pharmaceutical company. LTAT also owns Affin Holdings Bhd, which owns Affin Bank. This shows how big the GLC world is in Malaysia. It is also big in other countries, including in China, Singapore, etc.

No.	Company	Owner
1	Malayan Banking	PNB
2	Tenaga Nasional	Khazanah
3	Public Bank	Teh Hong Piow
4	Petronas Chemicals Group	Petronas
5	Sime Darby	PNB
6	IHH Healthcare	Khazanah
7	Maxis	Ananda Krishnan
8	Axiata Group	Khazanah
9	Petronas Gas	Petronas
10	CIMB Group Holdings	Khazanah
11	Digi.Com	Foreign
12	MISC	Petronas
13	Genting	Lim Family
14	Hong Leong Bank	Quek/Kwek family
15	IOI Corporation	Lee family
16	Genting Malaysia	Lim Family
17	Kuala Lumpur Kepong	Lee Oi Hian & Lee Hau Hian
18	Petronas Dagangan	Petronas
19	Telekom Malaysia	Khazanah
20	Hap Seng Consolidated	Lau Cho Kun
21	RHB Capital	EPF
22	PPB Group	Robert Kuok
23	Nestle M	Foreign
24	YTL Corporation	Yeoh family
25	Hong Leong Financial Group	Quek/Kwek family

No.	Company	Owner
26	Westports Holdings	Gnanalingam family
27	Astro Malaysia Holdings	Ananda Krishnan
28	AMMB Holdings	EPF
29	British American Tobacco M	Foreign
30	YTL Power International	Yeoh family
31	Gamuda	PNB
32	UJM Corporation	PNB
33	Malaysia Airport Holdings	Khazanah
34	Sapura Energy (formerly Sapura Kencana Petroleum)	EPF
35	IOI Properties Group	Lee family
36	SP Setia	PNB
37	Fraser & Neave Holdings	Foreign
38	Genting Plantations	Lim family
39	Dialog Group	EPF
40	Batu Kawan	Lee Oi Hian & Lee Hau Hian
41	Hartalega Holdings	Kuan Kam Hon & Kuan Kam Peng
42	MMC Corporation	Syed Mokhtar Shah
43	Malakoff Corporation	EPF
44	Top Glove Corporation	Lim Wee Chai
45	BIMB Holdings	LTTH
46	AirAsia	Anthony Fernandes & Kamarudin Meranun
47	Sunway Bhd	Cheah family
48	Lafarge Malaysia Bhd	Foreign
49	Press Metal Bhd	Koon family
50	Alliance Financial Group Bhd	Foreign

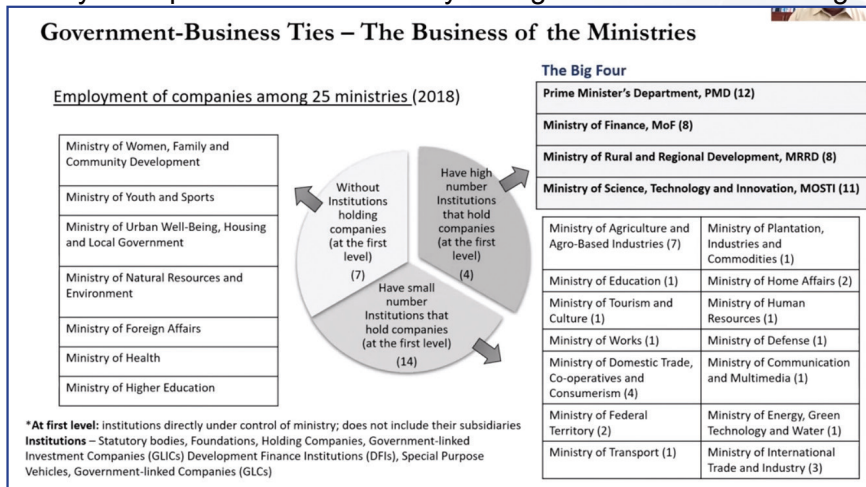
■ GLCs ■ Private Companies

The diagram/slide above represents the top 50 business groups owned by the GLCs in Malaysia. The red ones are GLCs and eight of the top ten are GLCs. They represent the following sectors: banking, utilities, petrochemicals, plantations, healthcare, telecommunications, etc.

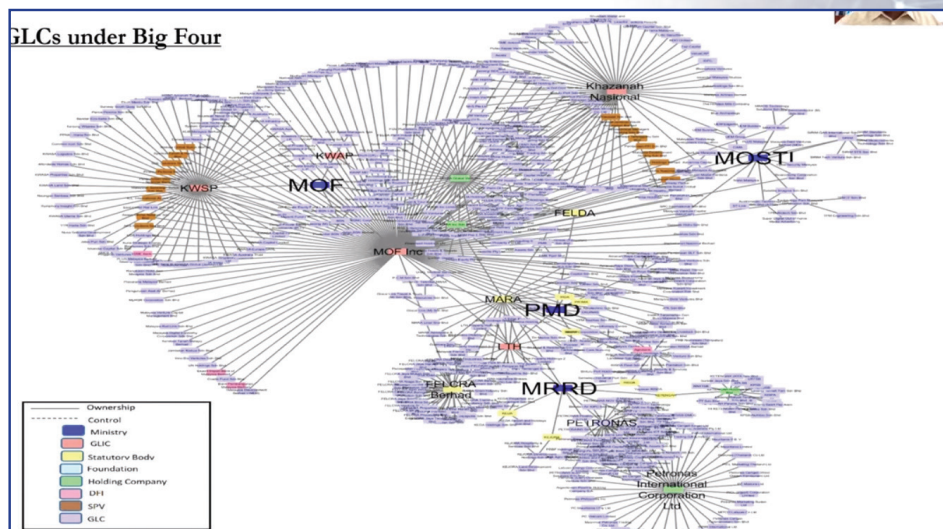
The Good Contribution of GLCs

Malaysians will remember that when the Covid Crisis occurred, the government introduced a stimulus package and the government turned to these companies. The Finance Minister said he was going to use the government ecosystem to help the economy. According to Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez, the banks, for example, were told to put a moratorium on

loans. The utilities companies like Tenaga Nasional were told to cut down the rates for power supply. The Minister told telecommunications companies, for example, Axiata and Telecoms Malaysia, to reduce rates too because people are going to use the phones for e-learning. So, what the government showed was that very quickly, because they controlled the largest enterprises which were significant players in the economy, could deal immediately to help sustain the economy during a crisis. This was the good of GLCs.



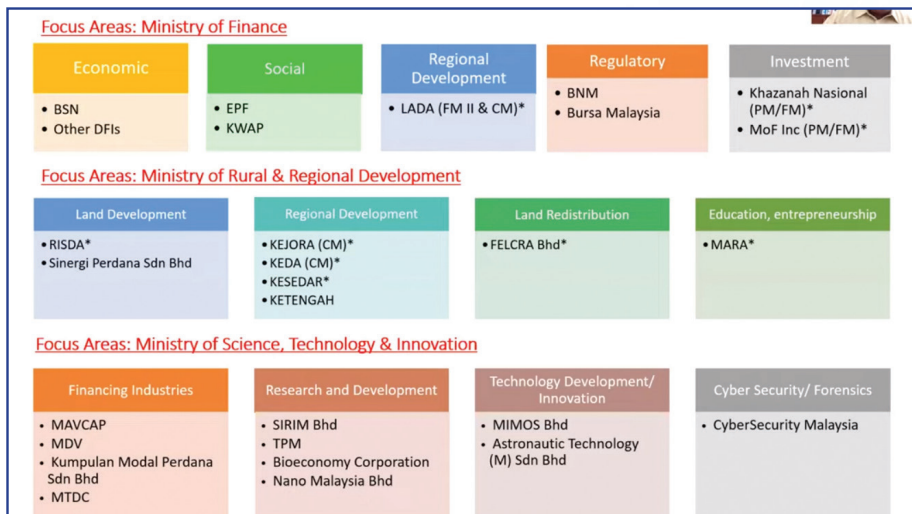
Next, Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez demonstrated a list of Malaysian ministries which also owned companies. These ministries own unlisted companies unlike the previous list of GLCs which owned public listed companies.



GLC's Under the Big Four Ministries

The above diagram shows how big the group of unlisted companies is. Notice that the four ministries are very important: (1) MOF (Ministry of Finance), (2) the PMD (Prime Minister's Department), (3) the MRRD (Ministry of Rural and Regional Development), (4) the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI).

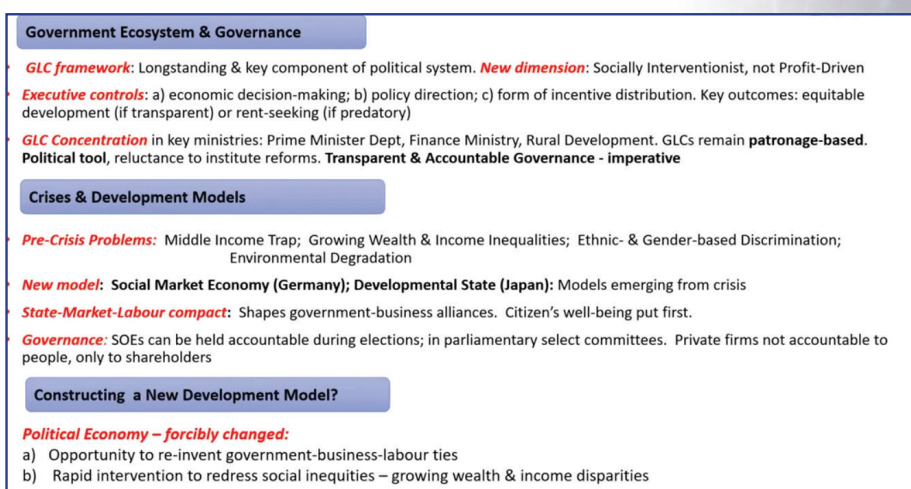
The legend in the diagram shows that the government owns statutory bodies, holding companies, the GLCs, etc. In brief, the government owns a huge segment of the corporate sector through the multitude of GLCs.



The above diagram shows that when the government intervenes, and because they own GLCs, they can do a lot. The Prime Minister's Department provides direction. The Ministry of Finance is involved in economic matters, in social matters, pension funds (e.g. EPF, KWAP), regional bodies, regulatory bodies (Central Bank, stock market), and Investment funds (sovereign wealth fund – Khazanah). The Rural and Regional Development Ministry controls land and regional development, land redistribution, etc. When inequalities, wealth distribution, land matters, rural-urban disparities are discussed, all these are important entities. They also have a big focus on education.

The Science and Technology Ministry is very important, especially during this period of the pandemic. It finances major industries and is extremely important for research and development. Investments in technology are very expensive and the government has to fund it

– especially at a time of crisis. The diagram shows how the government can intervene not only for the economy but also for social issues. During a major crisis, companies cannot do much but the government can do a lot through a major institutional framework.



Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez then discussed key lessons to be learned from the crisis by contextualizing them with the following topics:

Government Ecosystem & Governance: Lessons Learned

The GLCs in place since the 1970's had grown by leaps and bounds and have become a key component of the political system. Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez emphasized that GLCs can also be used to intervene, at this time, for the people's well-being and to save lives.

To pursue the developmental process, the Prime Minister (Executive) can make economic decisions and give policy directions which can be changed quickly. He can intervene immediately, create new forms of investment, grant (a) incentives to save companies that were affected during the pandemic, and (b) aid companies to help them with labour. Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez said these were all good if the process was transparent. On the other hand, if it is used for rent-seeking predatory practices, there will be wastage.

The problem with Malaysia, according to the Professor, is that we have a case of extreme GLC concentration. He raised the question whether it could become a political tool and reiterated the first speaker's point that when the pandemic struck Malaysia was also confronting a political crisis. The Professor alluded to the fact that the government's GLC ecosystem was used to save the economy; it also became a tool for political purposes to keep the existing government in power.

1. Development Models

Professor Dr. Terence Gomez opined that even before the pandemic, many emerging economies, like Malaysia, were trapped in middle-income and wealth disparity. He supported the views of previous speakers who spoke about how this affected even youth joining terrorist groups, how ethnic and gender-based discrimination caused serious problems. Added to this, he said, was climate change issues not discussed. Interestingly the crisis helped solve some of these problems. For example, the environment performed much better for the economy during the lockdowns.

The pandemic also showed that the GLCs can be used to address certain inequalities if the government performs in a professional manner for developmental purposes—extremely good for the economy as important lessons learned.

This above example demonstrated that, in times of crisis, countries can rise to the occasion, as were the cases for Germany and Japan. During the post-World War Two period, during the serious crisis, Germany introduced the "Social Market Economy". Similarly at that time, Japan introduced the Developmental State". Both models espoused a compact between, state, market, and labour. A coming together of a nation, in forging the nation where government, business, and labour are unified to bring about a more progressive form of development.

Both democracies, Germany and Japan, within a few years after World War Two, emerged as major economies in the world. Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez noted that such success is attainable if there is the political will to do it.

Concluding Food for Thought

In the final analysis, state-owned enterprises (GLCs) which are key players in the economy can be held accountable by holding the politicians who control them accountable--especially during elections. Parliamentary Select Committees can be formed to hold them accountable. This control cannot be done with private firms as the managers are only accountable to their shareholders.

Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez said there is a need to consider what kind of development model we should have for the future. During a crisis, the government must act to protect the well-being of its people. The crisis has taught us that there are serious problems we need to address. In our case, the political economy was forcibly changed. The government and the market had to work in a new way. Malaysia, he said, needs a more equitable development model.

Integrating Vulnerability And Human Rights Protections Into Covid-19 Prevention, Response And Recovery.

Ms. Lilianne Fan

**Co-founder and International Director
Geutanyoe Foundation Malaysia &
Indonesia**



After thanking the organizers of the conference, Ms. Lilianne Fan reminded the audience about the timeliness of the conference as December 10 was Human Rights Day. She said it was important to integrate human rights into the discussion of the pandemic's response and prevention measures. She further reminded the audience that December 10 also marked the end of the "Sixteen Days of Activism Against Gender-based violence". She indicated that besides geopolitical and macroeconomic and governance issues, grassroots analysis, in terms of vulnerability for communities, including refugees. Ms. Lilianne pointed out that efforts dealing with the Covid crisis should not diminish the commitments made by the United Nations and the international community

INTEGRATING VULNERABILITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS
PROTECTIONS INTO COVID-19 PREVENTION,
RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

MIDAS-KAS CONFERENCE 2020
COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND



GEUTANYOE
MALAYSIA

LILIANNE FAN
CO-FOUNDER AND INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR
GEUTANYOE FOUNDATION

"People and their rights must be front and centre of response and recovery. We need universal, rights-based frameworks like health coverage for all, to beat this pandemic and protect us for the future"

UN Secretary-General, Mr. Antonio Guterres

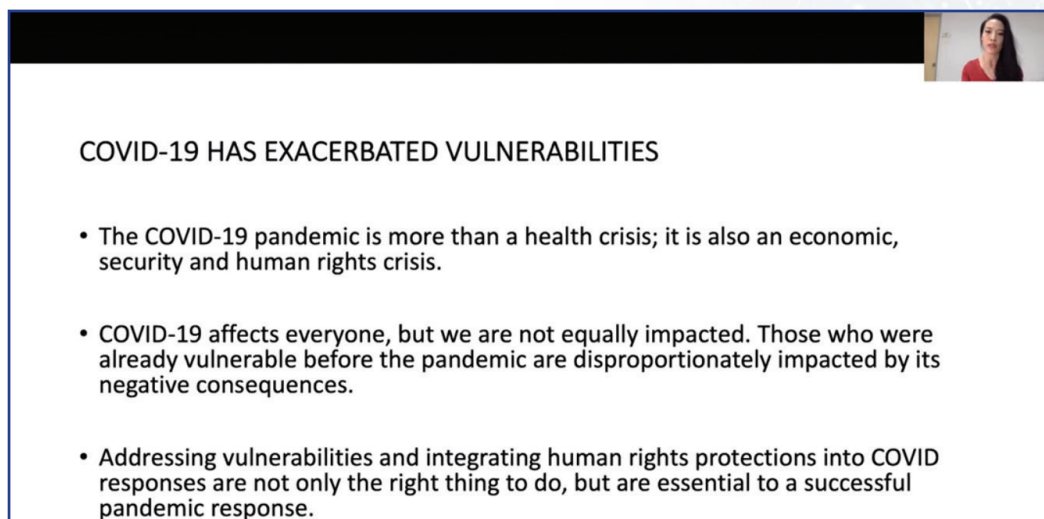
9 December 2020

"All countries must strike a fine balance between protecting health, minimising economic and social disruption, and respecting human rights"

WHO Director-General, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus

March 2020

Human rights and elimination of gender-based violence are important in dealing with the pandemic and ensuring there is equality and fairness in the response. Working together is the key to enhancing everyone's safety.



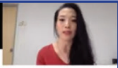
COVID-19 HAS EXACERBATED VULNERABILITIES

- The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis; it is also an economic, security and human rights crisis.
- COVID-19 affects everyone, but we are not equally impacted. Those who were already vulnerable before the pandemic are disproportionately impacted by its negative consequences.
- Addressing vulnerabilities and integrating human rights protections into COVID responses are not only the right thing to do, but are essential to a successful pandemic response.

Ms. Lilianne Fan then presented two lists of the many “vulnerable” and “tend to be vulnerable” groups, including the elderly, persons living with disabilities, children, low-income households, indigenous communities and those in remote areas, underrepresented ethnic minorities, communities with low-levels of education, informal sector workers, the homeless, refugees, stateless persons, undocumented migrants, and prisoners. She pointed out the various sectors of vulnerability: the list included age, disabilities, income levels, geographic locations, languages, education, asylum seekers, etc. She noted that more was desired from the authorities in their efforts in dealing with the prisons and detention centres with high levels of infection. She subsequently discussed the problems of the following groups and stressed that their needs had to be addressed:

- Elderly: higher fatality rate for Covid-19, digital divide, dependent on family and care-givers, some face social isolation,
- Persons with disabilities: unequal access to information, often excluded from decision-making, possible risk of social isolation,
- Women, many are frontline workers, primary care-givers, likely engaged in informal sector, female-headed households most affected by poverty, increased gender-based violence, often excluded from decision-making and access to information, sexual and reproductive health services disrupted,
- Refugees, lack of legal documentation, language barriers limit access to health services, excluded from national strategies and plans, risk of arrest and detention, including for women and children.

Ms. Lilianne Fan then discussed measures to address the problems:



Examples

- **Elderly:** Higher fatality rate for COVID-19. Difficulties in accessing information and services. Digital divide. May not understand information or how to follow instructions and SOPs. Many dependent on family or care-givers. Some face social isolation.
- **Persons with disabilities:** Unequal access to information and services. Often excluded from decision-making. Increased

Following the above discussion, Ms. Lilianne Fan spoke of reframing the “new normal” especially by a “Whole-of-Society” approach and forging partnerships and cooperation between government, private sector, civil society and communities for greater protection of vulnerable groups.

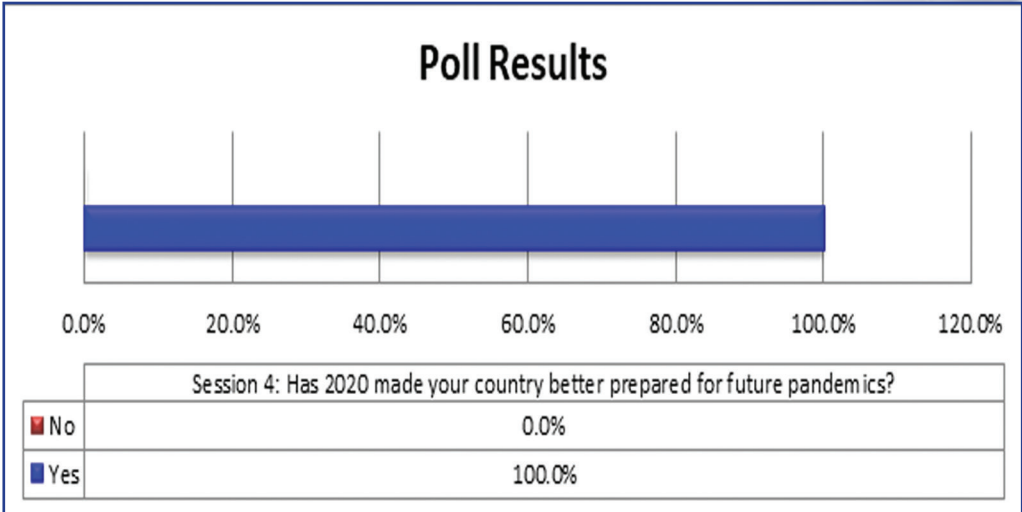
Conclusion

Ms. Lilianne Fan stressed the importance of security-sustainable development and regional cooperation for, response to and recovery from, the pandemic. She said that a combination of public health, crisis management, national security and human security are necessary in addressing inequalities, upholding human rights, and for good governance. She underscored the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals to “Leave No One Behind.”

1 Minute Conference Poll

Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi invited the participants to submit, online, their responses (yes or no):

Question: Has 2020 made your country better prepared for future pandemics?



Questions and Answers

1. Questioner Mohd Khan stated that the Malaysian GLC model discussed by Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez proved to be a good method by the government to deal with the Covid crisis. However it was devoid of competition from companies not linked with the government. Is there a solution for them to stay competitive and survive against GLCs?

In response, Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez first discussed some features of the Malaysian corporate sector and its major structural problems. He said that 98.5 percent of the Malaysian corporate sector constitutes small and medium enterprises (SMEs) while the GLCs are only about 2 percent. There are 1.2 million companies in Malaysia. 89 percent of the SMEs are micro-firms with less than 5 employees each. The agriculture sector is lagging.

Prof. Dr. Terence Gomez proffered that the government has to intervene to help these small firms by using the GLCs. There are development financial institutions such as SME bank, the Export-Import Bank, etc., to support the SMEs. The SMEs are highly entrepreneurial and so they enhance competition. There are statutory bodies which also focus on the rural areas but the agricultural sector is lagging behind. Small and big firms do not invest in R&D because it is so expensive. The government must support R&D to help companies rise up the technological ladder. Private firms are important. 98 percent of Taiwan's corporate sectors are SMEs. Using banks and research based institutions Taiwan has grown its SMEs of which many are the most productive in the world.

When Malaysia introduced the GLC developmental system in the 1970's, one of the core issues was to redistribute wealth more equitably, and to eradicate poverty. No doubt, poverty has reduced over the past 40 years from about 65 percent in 1970 to about 16 percent now. That is a success story. In Korea, Taiwan, and Indonesia, for example, their developmental systems helped to create a new middle class. On the contrary, in countries driven by private firms, e.g., the United States and the UK, there is serious poverty and inequality.

Malaysia has a mixed model consisting of a new liberal private system and the public system. And there are inequalities here too. When the new Pakatan government came to power in 2008, they were supposed to discuss the development of a more equitable model. But they did not, knowing they could use the GLCs to consolidate their political power base. Subsequently, when the Perikatan government came into power in (2020), they too did not discuss the economic model to eradicate poverty and inequality.

During the 2008 global financial crisis, the world economy was at the brink of collapse, comparable to the 1929 Great Depression. When Obama came to power, he talked about a new model of development. In Malaysia, the then new Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak said he was going to introduce a new economic model, but did not do so. Malaysia has not yet debated the existing developmental model. The Covid crisis provides the opportunity to revisit the current system and make it more equitably driven.

2. Questioner Ishak Nazir asked how middle power countries can be responsible when they gravitate towards the major powers. And how can multilateralism take a back

burner position when 172 economies are engaged within a framework of COVAX?

Mr. Thomas Daniel responded, saying that all countries, small or middle, will gravitate towards, or share values with, major powers. He said that is the reality of international relations and the balance of geopolitics. However, there is a lot of space for differentiation and shared values.

The Indo-Pacific has seven different strategies, according to Mr. Thomas Daniel. The Americans have a peculiar one and the Japanese are aligned to that. Some experts lump Australia into that but Mr. Thomas Daniel disagrees as he finds Australia has a more inclusive approach than Japan and the United States. Different iterations (of strategies) are emanating from Germany, France, the Netherlands. They all share the same name but are different in how inclusive they might be and how they might choose to engage. And some are aligned against China. The Indo-Pacific is still not yet clearly defined but will stay that way for a while.

Mr. Thomas Daniel clarified that multilateralism was and is not dead. However, before the pandemic, for example, ASEAN and the EU did not have any tangible outcomes beyond their general meetings. Only since May 2020, we see a revival of multilateralism as a result of Covid. He said ASEAN has a master plan to deal with the pandemic. He would like to use a checklist of what ASEAN was supposed to do and how fast it accomplished the plan/s.

Moderator Ms. Nadia Azmi thanked everyone for their active participation and then invited Ms. Miriam Fisher, Director of the KAS Office in Malaysia, to deliver the closing remarks.



Ms. Miriam Fisher
Director
KAS Office, Malaysia

Ms. Miriam Fisher thanked all the panellists from Malaysia and Germany for sharing their valuable insights and experiences, December 9 & 10, 2020. She was cognizant of the special sacrifices they made from their busy schedules, and the challenges of the different time zones, to join the conference. Ms. Miriam Fisher

then thanked the “wonderful moderator” Ms. Nadia Azmi for “doing an excellent job” moderating the conference. She also thanked all the participants for joining the online conference from their homes and offices, and for asking insightful questions.

Ms. Miriam Fisher said, “The Covid pandemic has revealed our vulnerabilities and our weaknesses to a very devastating extent. It has triggered a socio-economic crisis impacting billions of people and their livelihoods and undermined global stability and solidarity.” A message that struck her most in the conference was from a representative from Malaysia’s Ministry of Health who said, “No one is safe until everyone is safe”. We are all facing the pandemic challenge together to protect life and livelihood.

Ms. Miriam Fisher then gave a vote of thanks to Malaysia’s Minister of Defence, YB Dato’ Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob for his keynote address and for underlining the great need for increased international cooperation.

Handling the pandemic is a shared responsibility of all of us, Ms. Miriam Fisher said. She emphasized that multinational bodies and institutions should be strengthened, a concept which many of the panellists had underscored as well. We need to work together towards a unified response and we need to learn from each other. From the conference, she also learned that it is important to have a dialogue across all sectors and with all stakeholders, at the local, national and international levels.

Ms. Miriam Fisher took the opportunity to also assure the audience that KAS would continue to facilitate platforms for multinational and multisectoral dialogues, in order to enable continuous exchange. KAS remains committed to strengthening people connections. She then thanked KAS’ partner, MiDAS, for the successful cooperation in organizing the conference. She looked forward to hosting the 2021 conference again in Kuala Lumpur, in person. And she concluded,

Thank You, Terima Kasih, Danke schön

Session 1

**Moderator**

Ms. Nadia Azmi, Ms. Nadia Azmi, is an experienced News Anchor with a demonstrated history working in the broadcast media industry. She is skilled in Show Hosting, Radio Host, Storytelling, Emcee and On-air Hosting. She has a strong media and communication professional background with a Bachelor of Laws - LLB focused in Law from the Northumbria University



General Tan Sri Hj Affendi bin Buang, RMAF, was born 21 August 1962 in Kuching, Sarawak. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi joined the Malaysian Armed Forces as an RMAF Officer Cadet in 1980 and received his basic training at the Officer Cadet School, Sebatang Kara, Port Dickson. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi together with the former Chief of RMAF General Tan Sei Rodzali (Retired) and current Chief of RMAF Gen Dato' Sri Ackbal, were the pioneer cadres for the induction of the MiG-29 into RMAF operational capability. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi was also one of the founding members of the RMAF MiG-29 tactical aerobatics team popularly known as 'Smoket Bandits'. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi is a proponent of lifelong learning and believes in the importance of gaining knowledge as a part increasing competency as well as proficiency in handling appointed

tasks. General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi also undertook tertiary level studies to qualify himself as a holder of Master of Art (Strategic Studies) from Deakin University, Australia. As a part of the RMAF Senior Management and in recognition of his capacity, General Tan Sri Dato' Sri Hj Affendi was presented with the opportunity to gain knowledge, experience and networking at the Royal College of Defence Studies (RCDS) London in 2011.



Datuk Dr. Norhayati binti Rusli is the Director of Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia and was appointed as a Board Member of SOCSO representing the Ministry of Health Malaysia. She obtained her Bachelor of Medicine from the University of Malaya and subsequently a Master of Public Health from Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Datuk Dr. Norhayati binti Rusli is a Public Health Physician and has been appointed as the first Health Officer of Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) Health Office before joining the Disease Control Division, Ministry of Health Malaysia. After joining Control Disease Division KKM, she continued her excellence in contributing to the good image of Malaysia internationally. Among her great contributions are, Malaysia's recognition as one of the countries that has successfully met all health needs under the IHR, 2005 by WHO and she is also one of

the pioneers of the ASEAN Emergency Operation Centre (ASEAN EOC) network initiative that has been praised at the WHO level in Manila and Geneva and subsequently set an example for other WHO regional countries. She is also actively involved in managing preparedness, and response to the epidemic and national disaster in Malaysia such as Sg Kim Kim chemical contamination (2019), Measles outbreak in Kelantan (2019), Polio outbreak in Sabah (2019) and Pandemic COVID-19 in 2019 – 2020.



Colonel Dr. Rolf Walter is the Head of Branch Health Service Support at the Federal Ministry of Defense, Forces Policy Division. He has two Master degrees one is a Master of Dentistry and the other is Master of Arts, Military Leadership and International Security. He also has a PhD in medical dentistry from Helmut- Schmidt-University, Hamburg. His primary specialty is in Medical Operations/Plans and his secondary specialty is in Dentistry. Colonel Dr. Rolf Walter von Uslar was first commission in 1991 before joining the Federal Ministry of Defence in 2019. He has contributed and works in various positions and has received numerous awards and decorations. Among the awards and decorations received are the Adolf-and-Inka-Lübeck-Award, University of Würzburg, Bundeswehr Honor Cross in Gold, Bundeswehr Foreign Duty Medal (ISAF), NATO

Non-Article 5 Medal for ISAF and the Knights Cross of the Order of St.John. His hobbies are long distance running and contemporary history.

Session 2



Dr. Lo Ying-Ru Jacqueline was appointed WHO Representative to Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore in October 2017. In her position as Head of Mission, she leads strategic and policy dialogues with ministries of health and partners. Dr. Lo is an infectious disease physician from Hamburg, Germany with over 30 years of experience as a clinician and public health adviser. She started working for the World Health Organization (WHO) in 1998, holding positions at country, regional and headquarters levels. Her focus has been on translating research into implementation. Dr. Lo led the introduction of HIV treatment in Asia in the early 1990s. As a global coordinator in Geneva, she led the development of WHO guidelines related to HIV and viral hepatitis and reinvigorated WHO's HIV prevention programme. She later led the introduction of hepatitis treatment in Asia in her position as a regional coordinator in the

WHO Regional Office for the Western Pacific. As WHO Representative, she now oversees WHO's support for the COVID-19 pandemic response in Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia and Singapore and the poliovirus outbreak response in Malaysia. Since the beginning of her career, Dr. Lo's focus has been on improving public health in Asia and increasing the role and visibility of Asian expertise in global health. To support her work, she has raised considerable funds and created a vast network of collaborators.



Mr. Tajul Ariffin bin Muhamad is a member of the Malaysian Administrative and Diplomatic Service, graduated from International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) in 2001 majoring in Political Science; Diploma in Public Management from the National Institute of Public Administration; and Master of Corporate Communication from Universiti Putra Malaysia in 2018. He has been with the National Security Council (NSC), Prime Minister's Department for over 17 years. Prior to the current position, he has served as the Assistant Director and Principal Assistant Director at the Intelligence and National Crisis Management Division of NSC between 2003 to 2011 and as the State Security Director for the National Security Council of State of Terengganu and Negeri Sembilan

between 2011 to 2018. Throughout his service with the Government of Malaysia, he has involved among others in the managing and operation of few major crises including the hijacking of Malaysian ships at the Gulf of Aden in 2008 and 2009 as well as the evacuation of Malaysian nationals from conflict zone in Middle-East in 2011. His special focus is in the fields of management of national intelligence, national crisis, transnational crime and anti-terrorism.



Mr. Heiko Rottmann-Großner was born on August 1st, 1975 in Plettenberg/Germany. Since 2018, Mr. Rottmann heads the Department of Health Security in the Federal Ministry of Health (MOH) in Germany. This department includes units e.g. for infectious diseases, crisis management, pandemic preparedness and counter bioterrorism. From 2013 to 2018, Mr. Rottmann was the Head of Executive Group of the MoH. Before joining MoH, from 2009 to 2013, he operated for the political party Christian Democratic Union (CDU) of Germany in Berlin as head of Office of the Secretary General. From 2002 to 2008 he worked as Personal Adviser to Minister of State and State secretary in the Federal Chancellery and to Member of Parliament in the German Bundestag in Berlin. Mr. Rottmann holds a bachelor degree of Political Sciences and Economics. He holds the military rank “Major” in the reserve of the

Medical Service of the German Armed Forces (Bundeswehr).

Session 3



Lt Gen Dato' Pahlawan (Dr.) Md Amin bin Muslan was born in Johor Bahru, Johor on the 13th Sep 1961. After graduating with a degree in medicine from the University of Malaya in 1987, he joined the Malaysian Armed Forces on 3rd of Aug 1987 and was commissioned as a Captain (Dr.) in the Royal Medical and Dental Corps. Lt Gen Dato' Pahlawan (Dr.) Md Amin bin Muslan has served in various appointments at the regiment, brigade, division and headquarter level. During his tenure in the Malaysian Armed Forces, he was actively involved in the Military Operation and in humanitarian program. His other involvement in the International Humanitarian Aid Program includes the city of Aceh during the tsunami in 2004, and Jogjakarta during the earthquake in 2006, Indonesia. He was also given the opportunity to serve in the Peacekeeping Mission under the United Nations in Namibia. Lt Gen Dato' Pahlawan (Dr.) Md Amin Muslan has been conferred and honoured with

strings of accolades for his contributions to the nation as both a military officer and a doctor from His Majesty the King and from the other Royal Highnesses, Rulers of the Malaysian Sultanates.



Colonel (GS) Dr. Frank Richter is head of the branch Politik II 1 “Strategy Development” in the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany. He joined the Bundeswehr upon his secondary-school graduation and served in the Armored Infantry. He held various positions in the Bundeswehr, the Federal Ministry of Defense, the Supreme Headquarter Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) as well as the NATO Headquarters, and was deployed to Kosovo as Commander of Prizren Task Force. Colonel (GS) Dr. Frank Richter holds a degree in Education from the Bundeswehr University Munich and a doctorate of Administrative Sciences.



Thomas Koruth Samuel is at present the Regional Consultant for Terrorism Prevention with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). He has an honours degree in Biomedical Technology (2000) and a Masters degree in Strategic and Defence Studies (2005) from the University of Malaya, Malaysia. He is currently pursuing his PhD and is studying the role of the quest for personal significance in motivating terrorism among Malaysian youths. His main areas of research includes Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE), the role of education, law enforcement & Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in PCVE, the narratives of the terrorists and the subsequent counter-narratives, the radicalisation process, strategic communications and youth involvement in terrorism. He lectures frequently and writes extensively on counter-terrorism and international security and has delivered lectures

and briefings all over the world. At the international level, he was appointed in 2014 as a Senior Fellow with the International Centre of Excellence for Countering Violent Extremism (Hedayah Centre) based in Abu Dhabi. In 2018, he was appointed for a two-year term, as a member of the Commonwealth Countering Violent Extremism (CVE) Cadre of Experts.

Session 4



Thomas Benjamin Daniel is a Senior Analyst in the Foreign Policy and Security Studies Programme of ISIS Malaysia. His interests lie in the security/strategic challenges and impacts of major power dynamics on ASEAN and its member states, the South China Sea dispute, and Malaysia's national security and foreign policies. Thomas also looks at the policy implications of refugees, asylum seekers and other displaced persons in Malaysia, and the Malaysian government's refugee policy of "not having a policy". Thomas obtained his Master of Arts in International Studies from the University of Nottingham (Malaysia). He also holds a BA in Communication and Media Management, and a BA Honours in Communication, Media & Culture

from the University of South Australia. Previously, he was a public relations practitioner focusing on social media management and media engagement strategies for clients from the government and enterprise technology sectors.



Edmund Terence Gomez is Professor of Political Economy at the Faculty of Economics & Administration, Universiti Malaya. He specializes in state-market relations and the linkages between politics, public policies, and capital development -- a subject on which he has published extensively, writing not only for academia but also more widely. He has held appointments as Visiting Professor and Visiting Fellow at various institutions including the School of International Relations & Pacific Studies at the University of California-San Diego, and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies, Denmark. He has served as Project Manager and Research Coordinator of the programme area 'Identities, Conflict and Cohesion' at the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD) in Geneva, Switzerland. Terence has undertaken various research projects and convened numerous international conferences--among

others. He also serves on the editorial board and advisory committee of the various international journals including Journal of Development and Society, East Asia: An International Quarterly, and Journal of Asia Entrepreneurship and Sustainability. He is also an editor of the "Chinese Worlds" Series and the "Malaysian Studies" Series for Routledge, London & New York.



Lilianne Fan is International Director and Co-Founder of Geutanyoë Foundation, a regional humanitarian organisation based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia and Aceh, Indonesia; Regional Director of Rohingya Project; and Chair of the Asia Pacific Refugee Rights Network's Rohingya Working Group (APRRN). She is a cultural anthropologist and humanitarian professional with more than 20 years of experience working with refugees, internally displaced persons, and communities affected by conflict and disaster, including in Aceh, Myanmar, Haiti and with Syrian refugees in Jordan, and currently specialises on the situation of the stateless Rohingya in Rakhine State and in ASEAN. She provides regular expertise to a range of institutions and governments including the UN, the World Bank, ASEAN, the Government of Malaysia and the Government of Indonesia. Between 2005 and 2012 Lilianne served in several large-scale post-crisis recovery missions, including with the UN-led humanitarian response in post-earthquake Haiti; as Advisor to the ASEAN Special Envoy on Post-Nargis Recovery in Myanmar; as a member of the Advisory Team of the Governor of Aceh on sustainable development following the Aceh peace agreement of 2005; and as Senior Policy Coordinator for Oxfam International in Aceh and Nias from 2005-2008. She holds an MA in Anthropology from Columbia University, New York.

Rapporteur



Gerard George, Conference Rapporteur, is a public affairs specialist and independent consultant, after retiring as Director of the Lincoln Resource Centre, U.S. Embassy KL, in January 2018. Gerard is also a lecturer (ACT—Asia College of Technology, a learning centre of the University of Malaya) and English teacher (secondary and high school students, and professionals, including Army personnel (Brillington Language Centre). At ACT, Gerard taught macroeconomics, business writing and communications, and public speaking. During his tenure as Director of the Lincoln Resource Center (2003-2018), Gerard was also involved in research and U.S. speaker programming in international relations, economics, trade, environment, English teaching, and the arts. He wrote a monthly column in the Star entitled, "Lincoln Corner Presents" and

managed U.S. grants, budgets, and programmes bridging the Embassy with Malaysian institutions. Education: MBA (James Cook University), ALAA (Associateship of the Library Association of Australia). Gerard received training in public affairs in the U.S. and in key cities in the Southeast Asian region. He holds teaching permits (Management and Administration, English) from the Ministry of Education. Media experience: researched and compiled news briefs for high level U.S. official delegations. Memberships: English Speaking Union, James Cook University Alumni, Malaysian Association for American Studies.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APEC	Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ADMM-PLUS	ASEAN Defence Minister's Meeting Plus Eight Dialogue Partners
C2	Command and Control
CMCO	Conditional Movement Control Order
COVAX	Covid-19 Vaccines Global Access Facility
EADRCC	Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre
EMCO	Enhanced Movement Control Order
EOC	Emergency Operation Centre Network for Public Health
EPI (Curve)	Epidemic Curve
ERCC	(European) Emergency Response Coordination Centre
EU	European Union
EWER	Early Warning, Early Response
GLC	Government-linked (investment) Companies
HPAI	Highly Pathogenic Asian Avian Influenza A (H5N1)
IHR	International Health Regulations (2005)
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MAF	Malaysian Armed Forces
MCO	Movement Control Order
MEDEVAC	Medical Evacuation (transporting patients to a location for medical attention)
MERS	Middle East Respiratory Syndrome
MIT	Mujahiddin Indonesia Timor
NADMA	National Disaster Management Agency
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NSC	National Security Council
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction (Covid swab test)
P/CVE	Preventing/Countering Violent Extremism
PUI	Persons Under Investigation
RMAF	Royal Malaysian Air Force
RMCO	Recovery Movement Control Order
RT-PCR	Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction (Covid swab test)
SARS	Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats
UNICEF	United Nations International Children's Fund
WHO	World Health Organization

A SELECT WEBLIOGRAPHY

PANDEMICS – DEFINITION & HISTORY

What Is a Pandemic? World Health Organization (WHO), 24 February, 2010.

The WHO defines what a pandemic is and also provides web links to alert and response operations, diseases, biorisk reduction, and disease outbreak news.

Visualizing the History of Pandemics by Visual Capitalist.

A visual presentation of the history of pandemics from the early centuries right up until 2020, i.e., from the Antonine Plague, the Black Death (Bubonic Plague), Smallpox, 17th and 18th century great plagues, Yellow Fever, Spanish Flu, Russian Flu, HIV/AIDS, SARS, MERS, Ebola until Covid-19.

10 Pandemics Throughout History by Loraine Balita-Centeno. World Atlas, April 14, 2020.

Aided by classic photos and other historical images, this site describes salient features of 10 of the world's worst pandemics.

WORLDVIEW

WHO Coronavirus Disease (Covid-19) Dashboard by the World Health Organization.

This dashboard provides up-to-date information of the global Covid-19 situation by region and country: confirmed cases, new cases in the last 24 hours, deaths, transmission classification, etc.

Coronavirus and Global Health Emergency. United Nations Covid-19 Response.

Together with its many sub-web links, this portal provides a comprehensive look at United Nations' global initiatives to help confront the Covid-19 scourge. It makes the case for interdependence of all governments, public and private agencies, and laypersons in combatting the invisible enemy ravaging the world: the Coronavirus, and provides guidance on all aspects of preserving lives and good health.

Multilateralism – Is the International Order Hanging by a Thread? International Reports Of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Issue 3, October 5, 2020. Access via <https://www.kas.de/en/web/auslandsinformationen/ausgaben/issues/-/content/multilateralism-is-the-international-order-hanging-by-a-thread>

This periodical responds to questions concerning international issues, foreign policy and development cooperation. It is aimed at access of information about the international work for public and experts. 75 years ago, the Charter of the United Nations was signed in San Francisco. It laid the foundation for a new international order based on the ideal of institutionalised cooperation. Cooperation instead of confrontation – that was the lesson learnt from the catastrophes of two world wars. How is international cooperation doing today? Is there any truth in all the gloom, all the voices bemoaning the end of the multilateral world order? Why is it important, despite all difficulties and weaknesses, to continue to defend this policy model?

Challenges of Global Governance Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic. Perspectives From Council of Councils Institutes, May 21, 2020. Access via <https://www.cfr.org/report/challenges-global-governance-amid-covid-19-pandemic>

The Challenges of Global Governance Amidst the COVID-19 Pandemic paper series includes contributions from thirteen Council of Councils institutes. Eight of these papers consider the broader implications of the pandemic for international cooperation and the trajectory of the global system. The remaining five papers examine major gaps in the international management of global public health emergencies and propose reforms to increase the capacity of the multilateral system and national governments to better prevent and anticipate, detect, and respond to future pandemics.

The EU's Global Health Crisis Management: Past and Present by Susan Bergner, April 17, 2020. Access via <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/17/the-eus-global-health-crisis-management-the-past-the-present/>

This article will show that a successful EU's crisis response depends on four key aspects. Firstly, the creation of sustainable and rapidly available medical and human resources on EU level. Secondly, the willingness and ability to proactively contribute to an international response. Thirdly, the delegation of responsibilities to the European Commission in health crises. Lastly, the involvement of civil society actors to include social impact assessments in policy planning and implementation.

PANDEMIC RESPONSE AND EFFECTS ON SECURITY

[Malaysia's Emergency Preparedness and Response: Building Resilience against Covid- 19 Pandemic and Other Public Health Emergencies.](#) WHO News Release, 27 November, 2020.

A group of international and national experts jointly reviewed Malaysia's health security which turned out highly positive. Dr. Lo Ying-Ru, WHO Head of Mission and

Representative to Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam and Singapore said the "timely and proactive preparedness has helped establish a stable foundation for the outbreak response to COVID-19". Read [The Joint External Evaluation of IHR Core Capacities of Malaysia Mission Report, 21-25, October 2019.](#) On the WHO website 13, October 2020, Dr. Lo Ying-Ru characterized Malaysia as, "[A Country United in the Face of the Pandemic.](#)"

[Counterterrorism in a Time of Covid](#) by Daniel L. Byman and Andrew Amunson. Brookings Institution, August 20, 2020.

The authors opine that the Covid19 pandemic offers jihadi-linked terrorism and counterterrorism new opportunities for terrorists and poses distinct challenges for the governments that seek to combat them. As budgets shrink and public health costs swell, overall counterterrorism budgets may decline and reduce European and allied assistance to partner nations dependent on Western support for funds, training, and counterterrorism weapons, thus allowing terrorists to expand their operations and influence.

[The Coronavirus Crisis in the Middle East: State and Society in a Time of Crisis](#) edited by Brandon Friedman. Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung.

This collection of essays critically examines how several Middle East countries have coped with the pandemic as the first wave spread from February through April 2020, and presents an understanding of the interplay between state and society. Surprisingly, despite tensions, there are levels of coordination in the Israeli-Palestinian region.

[NATO's Response to Covid-19: Lessons for Resilience and Readiness](#) by Giovanna De Maio. Brookings Foreign Policy, October 2020.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic and political tensions across the Atlantic, NATO was able to leverage its experience in crisis management: containing coronavirus spreading through movement of ground troops, countering Chinese and Russian disinformation, coordinating the delivery of medical aid across and beyond NATO. Further success is dependent on a re-launch of trans-Atlantic relations.

[Coronavirus and International Security: Risks and Opportunities](#) by Alistair Harris OBE RUSI, 1 May, 2020.

The author is an associate of the Royal United Services Institute, the world's oldest and UK's leading defence and security research-led think tank. He says that threats to international security are proliferating and is also concerned that the impact of the pandemic on resurgent great power competition will likely be felt long after the curve flattens and a modus vivendi has been reached with the virus. Despite the challenges, he believes there are opportunities and a growing realization that there is no "them", only "us".

[“The Covid19 Pandemic: Scenarios to Understand the International Impact.”](#) Defence and Military Analysis Programme. The International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), October 2020.

This research paper by IISS (London) presents European perspectives in assessing what could be the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the global political, economic and military balance of power over the course of the next five years. In presenting possible futures for decision-makers to be better prepared, it focuses on six clusters of drivers of change: politics (governance and geopolitics clusters), economics (economic reordering and recovery clusters), and military (armed conflict and military posture clusters). A coherent and cohesive Europe is vital to avoid battles and to exploit opportunities.

COVID-19 – Germany

[The 4 Simple Reasons Germany is Managing Covid-19 Better than Its Neighbors. Coronavirus is surging in Europe – but less so in Germany. Here's why](#) by Julia Belluz., Vox Media, October 15, 2020.

What's often cited for Germany's success in managing Covid-19 is an effective deployment of technology such as contact tracing app, mass testing program, the oversupply of ICU beds which was controversial before the pandemic, and Angela Merkel who has a doctorate in quantum chemistry and heads a country that treats scientists like superstars.

[Security - New Threats.](#) Sicherheit Neue Bedrohungen, Issue 565, November 23, 2020.

Thirty years after German reunification, the international order is in upheaval. The threats have become more diverse and incalculable: transnational terrorism, fragile and failed states, humanitarian disasters, uncontrolled migration movements and the effects of climate change are endangering security. Hybrid warfare and attacks in cyberspace are new dangers alongside conventional ones. The new threat situations require an expanded concept of security, internal and external security must be considered together. The changed security situation, the networking of threat fields and the expansion of the actors require threat defense and risk prevention. A credible security policy must be based on political readiness and the military ability to enforce stability and security, if necessary also by military means. Security is not available for free. The public must face the issue and debate what a life in safety is worth to them.

[Corona - erste Einsichten und Erfahrungen,](#) Issue 563, July 27, 2020. (In German)

In der Pandemie durchläuft die Globalisierung ein tiefes Wellental. Deutlich treten weltanschauliche Bruchlinien zutage, wie sie etwa die Begriffe „Grenzen“ oder „Offenheit“ markieren. Seit Erscheinen von Karl Poppers „Die offene Gesellschaft und ihre Feinde“ vor 75 Jahren hielt man in den westlichen Demokratien Offenheit für einen positiven Leitwert, während sich der Gegenbegriff „Geschlossenheit“ mit totalitären Systemen verband und negativ konnotiert war. In der Beklemmung des Lockdowns stieg aber das Abgrenzungsbedürfnis wohl mindestens ebenso sehr wie die Sehnsucht nach mehr Außenwelt. Ist das Ideal der Offenheit womöglich nun selbst vor aller Augen an Grenzen gestoßen? Angesichts der noch immer kaum auszulotenden Dimension des Krisengeschehens hat unsere Redaktion die Autorinnen und Autoren des vorliegenden Bandes – teils sind sie der Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung eng verbunden – gebeten, erste Einsichten und Erfahrungen zur Corona-Pandemie darzulegen. Auch sie waren zuletzt, wie alle, ein Stück weit „aus der Welt“ und entwickeln in ihren Texten Perspektiven für die sich wieder weitenden Horizonte.

Covid-19 - Malaysia

[Malaysia – Overview](#) by the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to the WHO, as of 8 December, 2020, Malaysia had 74, 294 confirmed cases of Covid-19, with 384 deaths reported. Daily records since January are also traceable.

[Covid-19 Vaccine to Be Given Free to Malaysians – PM Muhyiddin.](#) Prime Minister's Office. Bernama, November 27, 2020.

The Prime Minister said the vaccine will be free to Malaysians, it will not be compulsory, it will be

of high quality, safe, and effective, based on the results of the producer companies' clinical trials. There will be advocacy efforts by the government to inform the community about immunization benefits but children will not be the focus at this time.

[Ministry of Health \(Kementerian Kesihatan Malaysia\) Covid-19 Management Guidelines](#)

With regular updates, the [Ministry of Health](#) provides medical and related health professionals, and the public, with essential information on Covid-19 and guidelines on how to manage the challenges pose by the pandemic.

[My Sejahtera](#). Government of Malaysia.

My Sejahtera is a digital application to manage the Covid-19 pandemic. It was developed jointly by the National Security Council (NSC), the Ministry of Health (MOH), the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU), and the Malaysian Communication and Multimedia Commission (MCMC). The application enables tracking of users' health condition and treatment if necessary.

[Covid-19 Malaysia](#). Government of Malaysia.

This website provides up-to-date information by districts and states about the pandemic situation across Malaysia, incorporating daily statistics, scientific information, info graphics and other visuals, and frequently asked questions, and standard operating procedures to manage the pandemic's challenges.

[Ministry of Health \(MAHTAS\) Response to Covid-19](#)

MALAYSIA-ASEAN-U.S: Meeting Covid-19 Challenges

[Intervention \(Exchange of Views\) During the Special ASEAN-US Foreign Ministers'](#)

[Meeting on Covid19 by YB Dato' Seri Hishamuddin Tun Hussein Minister of Foreign Affairs, Malaysia](#), Wisma Putra, 23 April 2020.

In presenting Malaysian perspectives in combating the Covid19 scourge, the Honourable Minister, YB Dato' Seri Hishamuddin, said Malaysia would be taking a "whole of society" approach, including initiatives in healthcare, economy, food security, education, and social systems.

DEVELOPMENT OF SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures)

[SOPs – Movement Control Order](#). Government of Malaysia.

Here are the SOPs (constantly updated) to manage the "new normal" associated with the Covid-19 pandemic. It includes the Movement Control Order (MCO) and related procedures, and SOP lists for isolation programmes, restrictions and related updates for public and private programme activities, and for the prisons, etc.

[Standard Operating Procedures for Case Management and Infection, Prevention and Control](#) by the Ministry of Health, Community Development, Gender, Elderly, and Children, United Republic of Tanzania, March 2020.

This publication provides clinical guidance and lays down the standard operating procedures in detail for Tanzania's health professionals and support staff who manage the combat against Covid-19 and related health challenges.

[Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\) for Triage of Suspected Covid-19 Patients in non- US Healthcare Settings: Early Identification and Prevention of Transmission during Triage](#), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), September 11, 2020.

The CDC works with international partners to respond to Covid-19. This website is dedicated to medical professionals who work in non-U.S. healthcare settings to manage the Covid-19 pandemic.

IMPACT BEYOND HEALTH

[What's Next for COVID-19 Apps? Governance and Oversight](#) by Alessandro Blassime et al. Science, 13 November, 2020.

COVID-19 found the world unprepared, but now it is time for governments to carefully predispose all the necessary measures to boost resilience and minimize future harm. This article discusses digital contact tracing, public reluctance, adaptive governance, how to engage the public; technical, legal, and ethical aspects, reflexive adaptation, and makes the case for robust oversight and the use of digital contact tracing to manage future large-scale crises in public health and possibly beyond.

[Future: How Will Coronavirus Change the World?](#) by Simon Mair, BBC 31 March 2020.

This award-winning science website by the BBC provides comments and analyses associated with the future of human society as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic. It discusses possible futures dependent on how governments and society respond to the pandemic and its economic aftermath and raises the question: what is the economy for? The author is concerned whether ultimately there will be a better and more humane society or would the world slide into something worse.

[How Malaysia Can Thrive in the Post-Covid-19 Era](#) by Mohamad Yusman bin Ameran. The Edge Markets, 9 December, 2020.

The author opines that technological solutions introduced in Malaysia will help businesses rapidly adapt and grow in the post-Covid-19 era. He believes the Digital Nation for all Malaysians—consumers and businesses alike, will help build resilience to confront future upheavals.

AUSTRALIA – Post Covid-19

Below are a series of publications by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) which provide expert analysis of the many issues and policy drivers to steer Australia in the post Covid-19 era.

[After Covid-19, Vol 1: Australia and the World Rebuild](#) edited by John Coyne and Peter Jennings. https://s3-ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/ad-aspi/2020-05/After%20Covid-19%20Australia%20and%20the%20world%20rebuild%20%28Volume%201%29_1.pdf?118YBWW711CYhxOvZatd5fSJbKn1tbrO

This report analyses 26 key topics, countries and themes, ranging from Australia's domestic situation through to the global balance of power, climate and technology issues. [Chapter summaries.](#)

[After Covid-19, Vol. 2: Australia, the Region and Multilateralism](#) edited by Michael Shoebridge and Lisa Sharland.

Building upon volume 1 above, the authors identify some of the future challenges and opportunities as they relate to Australia's role in the region and the multilateral system.

[After Covid-19, Vol. 3: Voices from Federal Parliament](#) edited by Genevieve Feely and Peter Jennings. Australian Strategic Policy Institute, December 2020.

The authors in this volume attempt to address the following questions for Australia's future: What will be the key strategic, economic and social challenges for government after the crisis? • What considerations should shape the recovery? • What sectors will define and boost Australia's economic recovery? • Is this an opportunity for a full reset, and will that opportunity be taken?

[Report Series: A Primer on Covid-19 Vaccine Development, Allocation, and Development](#) by the Johns Hopkins University of Medicine.

This series of current brief reports sheds light on the global vaccine development and its future. Topics include safety and efficacy of Covid-19 vaccines, principles for vaccine allocation, strategies for deployment and delivery, confidence and demand issues, and economics.

[How Covid-19 Changed the Face of the Future of Travel](#) by Caroline Rowe and Rishi Talwalker. Diplomatic Courier, 12 November, 2020.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a universal impact of crippling economies and spreading an all-pervading sense of cabin fever. As the world grapples with the possibility of a second wave, possible return of lockdowns, and an uncertain future, the certain reality is the effect the pandemic has had on travel and hospitality. Mindfulness and domestic travel is taking center stage for the future of these industries.