



SPC1: Special Conference on Global Threats

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Issue: Ensuring humane containment and quarantining in the cases of pandemics

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Committee:	Special Conference on Global Health Threats (SPC1)
Issue:	Ensuring humane containment and quarantining in the cases of pandemics
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I. Introduction

For centuries, when it came to pandemics, the question was never “if”, it was “when”. Provided the microorganisms keep developing themselves, a pandemic now and then will be inevitable. Nevertheless, this need not mean that humankind should suffer devastating consequences every other decade. A pandemic can be eradicated in the first couple of stages if all nations and the citizens within them stop the spread.

Stopping the spread of a germ will have a profound impact on the case and death toll as it will drastically lower the number of people infected. To do so, people will have to quarantine themselves until the last case vanishes. Therefore, to prevent the damage which may be inflicted on its citizens, countries put forth new legislation that aims to limit human contact as much as possible.

Succeeding SARS, MERS, and the Swine Flu, the most recent prevailing pandemic is the novel coronavirus (nCoV-2019). Still taking thousands of lives every day, COVID-19 had huge socioeconomic impacts on society and the communities we live in. The main reason was the quarantine, an approach taken by numerous countries to limit the exponential growth of cases.

Quarantining is crucial, mostly in the early stages because most developing countries, which have weak systems and health infrastructures, met their full capacity in the first couple of months of the pandemic. Moreover, some don't even possess the required equipment to treat or at least maintain the immunity of the patients arriving day by day. Therefore, most Asian countries (followed by the Western countries) started shutting down the borders, even the internal movement of their countries.

This new concept, however, brought a lot of differences to people's lives. Pandemic obligated people to remain in their dwellings. This prevented them from working, hence, producing a great amount of job and income loss. As of April 2, 2020, almost 50 percent of the global population was in lockdown, not all having the opportunities to work from home. Being well aware of this state, on March 27, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) stated that the world is in recession and that the longevity of this recession will depend on properly containing the virus and having a planned and sufficient response to it.



The tourism industry taking the lead, industries such as service and manufacturing took immediate detrimental impacts after the first measures. Nevertheless, at the same time, some sectors took advantage of the situation. Technological and online products, medical and product delivery services being some of the mentioned. The most affected segment of the population by the pandemic will be, however, unfortunately, the poorest. The World Bank foresees that approximately 11 million people will be impoverished across East Asia and the Pacific. “Almost 100 million immigrant workers across India are attempting to return to their hometowns in hopes of safe environments and fundamental nourishments” (UNDP).

Most of the countries also are hosts to many foreign and immigrant citizens. As their attempts to return were mostly prohibited due to the shutdown of the borders, they had to resume their residence at the place. However, like the mistreatment of African people in China, there was discrimination against a portion of people and forced them to be tested for this new virus.

In conjunction with the internal spreads, even though most countries shut the borders, some managed to return to their countries or fly away before the shutdown took place. This puts the global community in a severe situation. To prevent such an action from occurring there wasn't an existing global guideline or assistance plan for the countries, nor a stable communication. The low levels of communication made some countries unacquainted with the situation, therefore making them unable to take early quarantine measures.

To conclude, this unfamiliar concept of quarantining has put humankind in a situation in which the global communities were harmed initially by the health aspect, however, followed by some vital ways such as sociologically and economically. This, if overlooked, will continue to harm people for a long period after the pandemic.

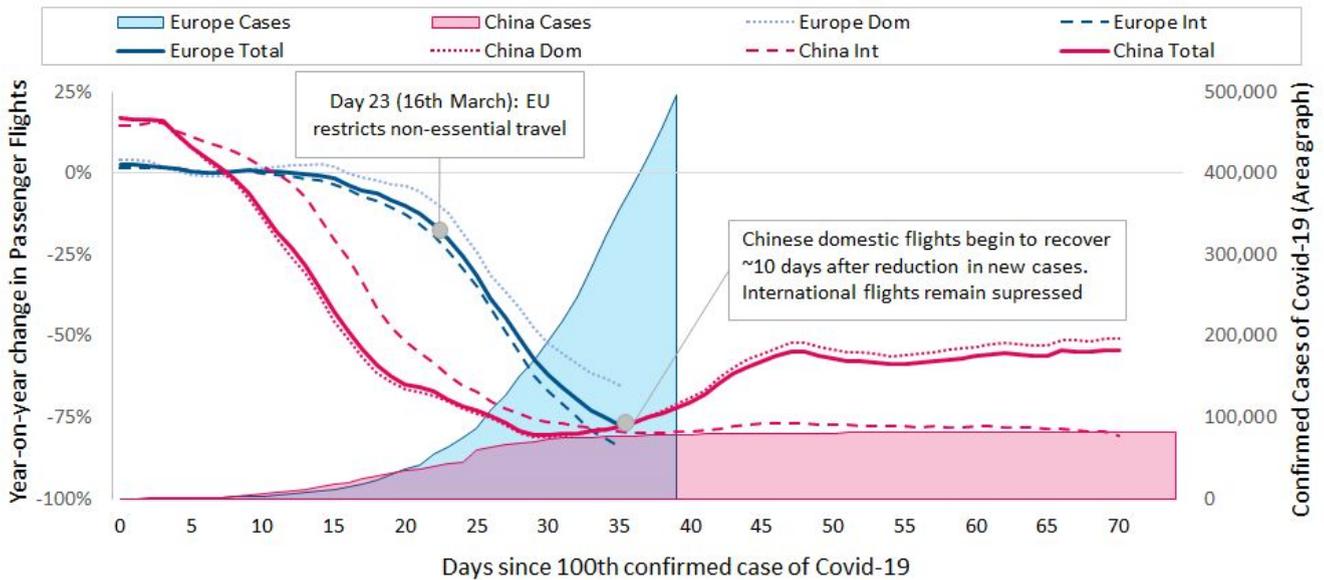
II. Involved Countries and Organizations

People's Republic of China

Being the sprout of the pandemic, China was the first country to experience all which the pandemic brought. The whole pandemic started with a cluster of pneumonia cases reported on the 31st of January 2020, in Hubei province. Nevertheless, it should be acclaimed that China was able to contain the virus inside the country in no more than three months. All because of the rigid measures, China was able to get up and revive from the hit its economy and industry received. According to the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) report on the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Asia and Pacific, the manufacturing sector was back around 80 percent by the end of March. Most significantly, “China's



case curve flattened earlier than many have expected “(Kupferschmidt). The shaded areas below in the figure show the difference between the curves fairly enough.



“Graph 1: Case curve in China (pink shaded area) compared to Europe (blue shaded area)” (Flightradar)

As a response to the strongly opposing views to the country by the United States and Australia, China’s President Xi Jinping claims that Beijing was very transparent and informative during the process and defends his country’s way of coping with the situation. President of the United States, Donald Trump, said, “As I watch the Pandemic spread its ugly face all across the world, including the tremendous damage it has done to the USA, I become angrier and angrier at China. People can see it, and I can feel it!” (Anadolu Agency). “Xi thinks that WHO should take the initiative at this stage. He also paid other countries a total amount of 2 billion dollars to compensate for the impacts of the pandemic. Despite this, President Trump still claims that they should do much more than that and calls the act an attempt of overshadowing China’s responsibility in COVID-19.” (Reuters).

Another critical point was China’s discriminatory acts against people of African descent residing in their country. They forced people of African descent out of their houses to designated places to self-quarantine, even after their test results yielded to be negative. African nationals were taken by a medical team, being informed that it was the order of the government in line with Chinese law.

Elaborating more on the publicly acclaimed measures of China, 50 million people went to mandatory quarantine in the Hubei province and all events and shops (excluding ones regarding food and pharmaceuticals) were shut down with an early notice. Aggressive social distancing measures also made sure no one wandered outside without a mask. Nevertheless, some apps such as AliPay and



WeChat were utilized by the government to track down people's location status and even sometimes enabled a "traffic light system" for people. According to this system, if a person had a green light, it meant that they were clear and could have access to designated areas such as the train stations and other checkpoints. However, it could be argued that whether such measures are viable in the sense of privacy. China's easy implementation and citizens' conformity with the regulations generally rely upon the authoritarian structure of the government itself. "Xu Zhangrun, a professor in China, accused the President of ruling tyrannically and accused the deception and censorship taking place in the country regarding the information upon COVID-19. Later, he was prosecuted and arrested because of his claims" (Al Jazeera). Furthermore, right before the strict lockdown in Wuhan, "almost 5 million people escaped the province to avoid being stuck in the place"(Collman). This was probably the turning point of the situation which facilitated the initial internal spread which then leads to an international level. Although people escaped in the first place, after the initial shock it appears to be people obeyed or forced to obey the rule set by the Chinese government.

South Korea

One of the best examples out there, South Korea tackled the issue both in an efficient manner and without putting rigid restrictions. It was able to catch the "three key concepts to beat the pandemic: detection, containment and treatment (not with a medication at this point)" (Our World in Data). Firstly, the country built a lot of sophisticated and high-capacity clinics and hospitals dedicated to pandemic purposes, around the country. Furthermore, it worked meticulously (also with the private sector) to make sure there were enough testing sites to find and eradicate the disease at the first sight. Eventually, the country was able to construct almost 600 testing sites during the process, each having a capacity of 15,000 to 20,000 testing per person.

Secondly, for containment, they encouraged compliance by providing income support and unemployment protection for their citizens rather than imposing them a set of rules and regulations and putting penalties for those who do not obey them. This approach has also worked effectively considering the fact that along with China, South Korea was one of the countries to flatten the curve in the early 2 month period as well. Nonetheless, there was one aggressive feature which was also a key part of their renewal process, "Contact Tracing". They had a network of contact tracers who were epidemiological intelligence officers that gathered information upon the people who contracted the disease. These people gathered intel from almost everywhere they could, starting from cellular data in people's phones to credit card transactions to track down people with the virus and advise them to self-quarantine or quarantine in one of the designated facilities. (Our World in Data)

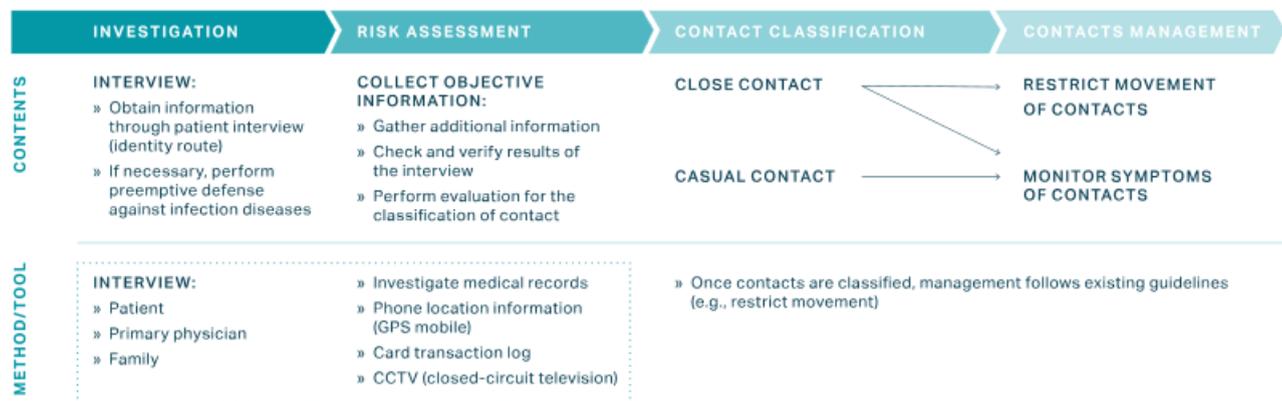


Figure 1: “Approaches used by South Korea regarding the containment process” (Our World in Data)

Lastly, the healthcare facilities were segmented into specific patient classes, depending on the severity of a patient’s COVID-19 experience. When moderately ill people were sent to community hospitals, critical ones were sent to specifically designated clinics. Furthermore, one vital point which South Korea did not overlook was the importance the country gave to protecting its health-care workers. This allowed the country not to lose any significant staff while enduring this process.

Republic of India

Surpassing the case toll of Brazil on September 8th, India has the second-most cases in the world with a total of 5.31 million. The case numbers rise more and more every day. Also being a country with numerous stateless people and undocumented immigrants, India has a huge number of people who acquired the disease but cannot be tested because of their unofficial status. People are, thus, deprived of one of the most basic rights: their right to have medical attention. With these people ignorant of the contagious state of their bodies, the spread grows ten-fold. Furthermore, some claims include, from the British Broadcasting Corporation, that low-testing is also one of the factors that hide the much higher case rates.

Even in light of this situation, the Indian government eases quarantine measures for international travelers and lowers the quarantine period to 7 days. Also, some international arrivals do not even have to abide by the quarantine regulations if they apply for exemption with “compelling reasons” some of which are being accompanied by a child younger than ten years old, pregnancy, death of a closed one, and serious illness. These people sometimes create the perfect medium for the virus to settle inside the country.



In contrast to most countries, India made a good start with early precautionary measures. Interestingly enough, the number of cases started to rise around mid-July and continues to increase day by day. This is mainly because people began not to take measures seriously. Besides, it should not be overlooked that countries that are massive in population like India pave the way for quick transmissions.

The main issue is the high number of slums and the uncountable amount of people who reside in them in India. The narrow streets and unhygienic environments of the slums make them breeding grounds for the virus, and even if people do quarantine there, the close nature of houses facilitate the spread. Moreover, these people suffer so severely from poverty that they are unable to purchase any sanitary products or at least protect the dwelling which they spend every single day. However, one of the biggest slums in Asia, Dharavi in Mumbai, was able to contain the virus with the monitoring of the government. A medical officer working in the slum stated that “the biggest role belonged to the fever camps established to quarantine the diagnosed.”(Biswas).

Lastly, the people who are afraid to approach the authorities to get tested is also a concerning problem. India has a great population and this entails some undocumented immigrants and illegal entries to the country. These people are more frightened of the response they will receive from the authorities for their unofficial status rather than the illness itself so even if they have contracted the virus, they just conceal the truth and create another medium for transmission.

The United States of America

Being one of the most powerful and resourceful countries in the world, the US certainly was expected to have a much more effective response to the virus. Nevertheless, a lot of lacking aspects combined to be one big obstacle before stopping the spread of the virus. Firstly the misleading political leadership of the country deceived the citizens by pulling a drape over reality. “President Trump underrated the severity of the situation for weeks before things went downhill. He insisted that the virus would prevail around a couple of weeks and then vanish eventually.”(Yong). However, that was not the case. When he was about to announce recommendations from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the White House, he disagreed with the administration’s experts’ well-thought notions and said that the state of wearing a mask or not should be voluntary and not be obligatory.

Even after President Trump started to come around to the general notion of the world, surveys done among the US suggest that his initial hesitant attitude may have impacted his party’s followers, Republicans Opinion. Still at this point in which the US has thousands of cases every day, at most “58% of the Republicans say they would be willing to wear a mask” (Associated Press). This means almost the other half doesn’t wear a mask, and not even quarantine at all. Another reason for the early spreads was



the testing infrastructure of the country. An important point considering the fact that testing lets people keep track of the disease.

The most differentiating aspect of the Western countries (the US has this conviction among the citizens the most) compared to the Eastern ones is the idea of individualism. Individualism suggests that “people are free to live and pursue their preferences without the interference of the state” (Fitzpatrick). Most people, thus, think acting up against common sense is empowering even though there is a public emergency out in the open. This belief should be broken and people should be provided with sufficient scientific evidence of what is going on and why any method is required.

The individualistic approach of the States therefore makes people disobey the quarantine and social distancing rules as they think they shouldn't be told by someone else to do what they need to do. The main reason behind people not complying with the quarantine is that they are not educated about the purposes and the benefits it would bring if they cooperate. Also, along with the United Kingdom, the US was warned about this quarantine ignorance by the WHO, yet they did not consider the warning as if the disease would behave differently in the US.

Lastly, being one of the most well-off countries out there the US spends only 2.5 percent of its tremendous health-care budget on public health. Fund-lacking health departments were struggling with a couple of other cases such as opioid addiction and contaminated water beforehand, now with COVID-19, the health infrastructure became much more evident to the public eye.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations, responsible for global health. The organization's main goal has been determined to “improve equity in health, reduce health risks, promote healthy lifestyles and settings, and respond to the underlying determinants of health”. During such a health-related crisis, the organization's task is vital. From the very beginning of the spread, WHO kept track of every action regarding the disease and advised the impacted countries with its expert counsel. On February 3rd, WHO published a “Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan” for COVID-19. Also around February, the rising severity of the issue made WHO and China cooperate under the name of the WHO-China joint mission. Teams consisting of experts from different nationalities went to China's key locations to assess the disease. On March 11th, WHO finally declared COVID-19 as a pandemic. Soon after that, the UN Global Humanitarian Response Plan was launched by WHO. Most crisis conferences were transferred to virtual environments (G20 summit, World Health Assembly). Additionally, WHO announced the initiation of a new platform called the “Independent Panel for



Pandemic Preparedness and Response” for the assessment of the approaches done against the pandemic all around the globe.

Furthermore, WHO sent around 2 million essential health-protective products to 74 countries that needed them the most. However, the US stopped funding temporarily the WHO on the 14th of April, 2020. President Trump defended his action claiming that “They wanted to see if their generosity was being put into good use or not.”(Winsor). On top of this, the President also accused the WHO of “being inadequate and discreet when it needed to be more transparent and punctual with the information”(Winsor). A couple of months later, he permanently stopped the funding saying that the WHO favors China by overlooking the fact that they ignored the reporting obligations and thereby they misled the world. Around July, President Trump announced that they will be formally withdrawing from the body the following year.

Later on, WHO’s director-general Tedros made some statements regarding masks and cloth coverings. However there was this one claim which stood out, he said that masks were only equipment to use if you need to go outside, and they are not a replacement for physical distancing and hygiene measures. He also said, “The cornerstone of the response in every country must be to find, isolate, test and care for every case, and to trace and quarantine every contact. That is what we know works. That is every country's best defense against COVID-19.”(Tedros). Thus, highlighting the importance of quarantine and physical distancing.

[Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)

Established on the 8th of August 1967 in Thailand, ASEAN is the association of Southeast Asian nations. Some of its principles are to accelerate the economic growth by the member states supporting each other, maintaining a stable peaceful environment in the area, and collaborating in industries and trade to facilitate a better improvement. Even though the states were much more vulnerable to the disease considering the location, they fared better than the western countries with the comparison of the death rates. They also made a specific summit on Coronavirus which they later have written down into a declaration.

III. Focused Overview of the Issue

As the initially regional COVID-19 started spreading all over the world, almost all countries needed to take measures to secure their citizens' well-being. Countries took a wide range of measures differing from one another. Their effectiveness was more or less reflected upon the case and death toll of their citizens. There is also the point of how this brand new concept fits into society and its community



Individualism in the Western culture was again one of the main obstacles in front of quarantining mainly put forth by the UK and US citizens which then felt the first wave of the pandemic and gradually started to practice the concept.

Lastly, for countries hosting large populations of people, quarantining can be even insufficient at times. For example, Indian slums are so densely populated that a person who got sick from the disease in a certain neighborhood inevitably infects everyone residing there, because the houses are right next to one another. People clean in and drink from the same water and numerous hygiene issues arise from the infrastructure of the slums and the penniless states of its residents.

Overall, quarantining is mandatory when it comes to pandemics and it has data full of approaches with their case tolls that prove the concept. However, the only dilemma would be concerning people who cannot even quarantine safely in their houses because of the circumstances they are in.

1. Socioeconomic Impact of the Quarantine

International Labor Organization (ILO) expects a devastating 6.7 percent loss in working hours globally in the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to 195 million full-time workers, 125 million of which are in Asia-Pacific. This statistical fact would mean a huge income loss for a group of people that needs even the smallest amount of money the most.

The socioeconomic status of people plays a decisive role in their health conditions during this pandemic. Wealthier people can protect themselves more sufficiently when compared to people with less fortunate socioeconomic classes for several reasons, mostly because of their privilege to quarantine themselves without taking financial damage. This incident occurs when governments fail to support the private sector as the private sector then proceeds to protect itself with crucial methods. When comprehending the threat of COVID-19, people want to quarantine themselves; however, people in charge should create the necessary grounds to make the citizen's demand possible. In other words, governments should carry out to create, enable, and then provide for their citizens during these days.

As most countries in Asia wouldn't be able to provide such financial resources without any assistance, countries have been looking forward to creating stimulus funds and incentives and may look into the option of collecting these funds from the people with higher incomes and create a balance of some kind. UNDP is supporting countries in Asia and the Pacific to prepare, respond to, and to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated economic crisis using its integrator and convening role, its global network, and its mobilization capacity. This means that UNDP will try to execute an inclusive policy when trying to endure the well-being of the entirety of the citizens. To have a planned approach to the issue at hand to tackle it more efficiently countries should be seeking global cooperation



including the assistance of the UN specialized agencies to mitigate the devastating effects of this ongoing pandemic. Guidance should also be provided for parties that are in conflict with each other to peace and use the resources saved for public health and education, improving livelihoods, and helping the vulnerable. Diplomatic disputes shouldn't interfere with the decisions countries are making.

2. Regional Focus on Southeast Asia

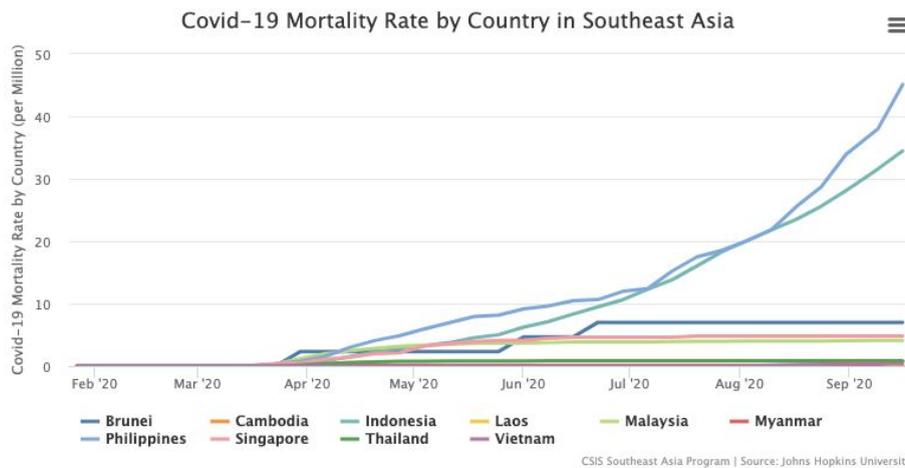
COVID-19, first, entrained Southeast Asia countries to its body due to their geopolitical position. Even though the number of cases did not tremendously increase for the first few weeks in the region, they were certainly undercounted and remained unreported in the region due to the ominous period of the quarantine, inadequate economies of the Southeast Asia countries, and the continuous demand towards healthcare. At this point, each member state demonstrates distinct levels of vulnerability and adheres to distinct post-virus plans based on their own geopolitical, economical, and social circumstances. Hence, there is not a standardized method to fight against the virus that applies to every country because of its unique circumstances.

For the case of Southeast Asia countries, the current circumstances did not leave them another chance other than relying on international assistance and funding. For that matter, the COVID-19 has also been a medium to bring up and heat the rivalry between the two great powers, China and the United States, for influencing the Southeast Asia countries. Beijing has agreed to provide more health assistance and information to Southeast Asia states in order not to receive condemnations and preserve the country's international reputation. Under the name of "mask diplomacy", the Chinese government, therefore, began sending supplies and experts to train local medical teams in Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Cambodia, and Indonesia. It provided similar assistance to Laos, Myanmar, and Brunei in April, and to Singapore in May. In the meantime, the United States \$76.9 million has been spared to donate to Southeast Asia countries. Nevertheless, this assistance will not contain medical supplies due to the ongoing urgent circumstance of COVID-19 in the United States according to the remarks of the Secretary of State, Mike Pompeo. Overall, the United States assisted the Philippines — under the name of Economic Support Fund (ECF), International Disaster Assistance (IDA) due to the Philippines' critical position, Migration and Refugee Assistance — Indonesia, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, Malaysia, and Vietnam demonstrating an intense effort help Southeast Asia countries to fight against the virus.

During this period, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) responded to the virus with a sequence of meetings about how to handle the pandemic along with external partners such as the European Union (EU) and the United States. However, there has been little and insufficient collective action. Southeast Asian leaders attended the 36th ASEAN summit taking place virtually. A



post-pandemic recovery plan has been established in which ASEAN will provide a COVID-19 response fund for medical supplies and aid.



Graph2: "COVID-19 Mortality Rate by Country in Southeast Asia" ("Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker.").

According to the graph from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in which data is retrieved from the Johns Hopkins University, there is a substantial increase in the mortality rates of the Philippines and Indonesia while other Southeast Asia countries have a more stabilized mortality rate.

Evaluating with a country-specific approach, the Philippines, a new peak in the cases overwhelmed the health system and damaged the economy as the government majority of the restrictions in June. Although quarantine has been re-implemented and tests increased, the government failed to take the spread of the virus under control. In the meantime, public protests against job losses and food shortages accelerated while the government dissented. Likewise, the Indonesian government loosened up the restrictions as well. Based on Indonesia's "New Normal" policy, many tourist sights have been visited by a large number of local visitors and social and religious activities continued negligently ("Southeast Asia Covid-19 Tracker."). Hence, the country gave up on curbing the peak for the sake of the economy. Nevertheless, the official government and international media have verified that the economy continues to get tenuous.

4. Importance of Global Transparency and Communication

In the days of self-quarantine and this pandemic as a whole, one of the most looked for news has been the daily statistics of COVID-19 cases. The number of cases is decisive in many other areas



including the markets. Being aware of the vitality of the daily cases, certain countries or governments tend to alter the number of daily cases before they announce them.

However, such corruption has deep detrimental effects both to society and thus, is self-destructive in the long-term. Firstly, presenting the number of cases as lower than it deceives citizens and makes them comprehend the situation as less lethal than it is. The behavior of a citizen will rightfully differ according to his country's COVID-19 cases in terms of the level of fear and cautiousness.

Establishing a platform of transparency can only be achieved with the cooperation of the United Nations, its specialized agencies, and the governments of the member states. Experience has shown that prioritizing all risks in the frameworks that will be established is the crucial first step to take. Tailored to each scenario, this framework should determine which governance, transparency, and accountability mechanisms must be integrated into all COVID-19 public health response planning and design. The aforementioned framework should also prioritize deterring those forms of corruption that severely undermine both the quality and the speed of the public health response. However, transparency shouldn't only be restricted to announcing cases. A major aspect of transparency also includes the allocation of funding by governments and its officials. International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATA) is a global campaign to create transparency in the records of how aid money is spent. This initiative hopes to thereby ensure that aid money reaches its intended recipients. Throughout the process of recovering from COVID-19, the aforementioned agency should be auditing the allocation to maximize the utilization of funds.

IV. Key Vocabulary

Quarantining: A period in which a living being contained with an infectious disease is kept isolated from others to hinder the growth of the spread. This can also mean an uninfected being keeping itself away from the others in order not to contract the disease. It has been the key concept when it comes to stopping the spread of a highly contagious disease.

Pandemic: A disease existing almost in all available areas, regions, and groups of people, animals, and plants. Pandemics have huge impacts on global health, however often overlooked, they have profound influences on communities regarding sociological and economical aspects as well.

nCoV-2019: Novel coronavirus, (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease, which has a high air transmission through the nose and mouth. Common symptoms include coughing, fever, and shortness of breath. Still a prevailing virus, COVID-19 created a pandemic in late January and made people quarantine since.



Asymptomatic Carrier: Asymptomatic or passive or healthy carriers are those who never experience symptoms despite being infected. There are two types of asymptomatic carriers: those who never develop symptoms and those who are detected during the incubation period (pre-symptomatic detection) prior to symptom onset.

V. Important Events & Chronology

Date	Event
December 31, 2019	WHO's Country Office in China picked up a media statement by the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission from their website on cases of 'viral pneumonia' in Wuhan, China.
January 10-12, 2020	WHO published a package of guidance documents for countries, covering topics related to the management of an outbreak of a new disease.
January 16, 2020	The Japanese Ministry of Health, Labour, and Welfare notified the WHO of a coronavirus case in a person who traveled from Wuhan.
January 21, 2020	WHO convened the first meeting of the global expert network on infection and control.
January 27, 2020	The WHO Regional Director for South-East Asia stated through a press release that urged countries in the region should be ready for any sudden report of cases.
February 11, 2020	It has been announced that the contagious diseases should be referred to as COVID-19.
March 9, 2020	The Global Preparedness Monitoring Board requested an immediate transfer of US\$8 billion for efforts towards COVID-19 (<i>Organization, World Health</i>).
March 26, 2020	UNESCO collaborated with WHO and others to release the Global Education Coalition during COVID-19.
April 4, 2020	WHO reported that over 1 million cases of COVID-19 had been confirmed worldwide and ten times increased in less than a month (<i>Organization, World Health</i>).
April 8, 2020	Launch of The UN COVID-19 Supply Chain Task Force
May 18-19, 2020	During the 73rd World Health Assembly, a resolution promoting international collaboration to fight COVID-19 was adopted (<i>Organization, World Health</i>).
June 4, 2020	The Global Vaccine Summit took place to accelerate immunization in lower-income countries.
July 3, 2020	A second summit on COVID-19 research and innovation has been held by WHO.
July 13, 2020	The UN's 'State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World' infers that the pandemic could affect over 130 million more people in terms of chronic hunger by the end of 2020 (<i>Organization, World Health</i>).



VI. Past Resolutions and Treaties

- [A/RES/74/274](#)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 20 April 2020: The resolution acknowledges the crucial leading role played by the World Health Organization" concerning coordinating the global response to control and contain the spread" of COVID-19.

- [The Security Council Resolution 2532 \(2020\)](#)

Resolution 2532 that has been adopted by the Security Council on July 1, 2020, through a video conference meeting expresses the United Nations' appeal for a global ceasefire to merge the efforts to fight with COVID-19. The resolution also highlights that the socioeconomic impact of the pandemic on refugees, women, and children, internally displaced persons, older persons, and persons with disabilities should be overcome by national, regional, and international cooperation. Notably, the Chinese government has been constructively engaged in the consultations for the resolution.

- [Landmark Resolution in the 73rd World Health Assembly](#)

The resolution targets to bring the world together to fight with COVID-19 on a national and global level. The resolution specifically calls for the intensification of efforts to control the pandemic. It emphasizes the disproportionate and heavy impact on the poor and the most vulnerable, addressing not just health but also the wider impact on economies and societies and the "exacerbation of inequalities within and between countries".

- [The World Health Organization \(WHO\) and UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency's treatment signed on May, 21](#)

Two organizations are working side by side to curb the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and ensure that forcibly displaced people can access the health services they need, to keep safe from COVID-19 and other health challenges.

- [The final declaration of the ASEAN's special summit on the topic of Coronavirus.](#)

The document investigates the approaches that will be taken by the ASEAN countries to fight against COVID-19. Also, includes some insight upon how to rebalance economic complications.



VII. Failed Solution Attempts

Humane containment and quarantining are two of the most appropriate actions that someone who displays the symptoms of the COVID-19 should be following. The indicator of success or failure is the comprehension of citizens and it brought forth self-control after it. In countries that necessary precautions aren't taken by citizens and the pandemic is underestimated either because of being ignorant or careless, then combating the issue at hand would be impossible without a full-time strict curfew. Informing the public and waiting for them to react accordingly should be the ideal solution however harsher solutions should be prepared and waited accordingly.

As we have seen during this pandemic, nations that haven't reacted rapidly enough were the ones that were affected the most. South Korea has experienced a relatively less painful pandemic when being compared to countries that are similar to its population, and China has started to control the number of cases with extreme actions despite having the first reported case of this outbreak. However, we have seen that countries like the United States and the United Kingdom have failed to deliver in making accurate decision-making during such crucial times. The speed of reaction time and the courage to take some extreme measures when needed are two of the distinguishing features of these two groups of countries (of course the other reason is the awareness of their citizens but not educating them is still a criticism that should be made to the governments).

When mentioning the concept of concrete actions in the context of quarantine, one of the first ideas that come up to our mind is a curfew and such an action nearly guarantees a decrease in reported cases.

However, declaring a curfew isn't as easy as it may sound since both governments and individuals have aspects that they aren't fully comfortable with. Such a curfew isn't preferred by governments on account of its possibility of demolishing an already fragile, weakened economy after this pandemic. During these past few months, we have seen governments prioritize maintaining a stable economy more than enduring the health of its citizens, especially ones with lower socio-economic classes. Governments with monetary policies that put economic growth in the center of their agendas may carry out this incautious behavior and thus the number of cases may not follow a significant decrease. Moreover, a revolt to a possible curfew has been constantly made by wealthy people who put their businesses or companies before the people working for them, through social media. With that being



said, people in most countries can freely roam in the streets without taking the necessary precautions, making it difficult for the number of affected people to decrease by a significant margin.

An important part of this issue is people who don't display the symptoms of the virus but are carriers, scientifically referred to as asymptomatic carriers. These people don't even realize they are infected and thus don't find it necessary to self-quarantine themselves. The detection of asymptomatic carriers can only be made with a Coronavirus test but the tricky part is such people also don't see taking tests necessary, as they immediately think of themselves as not infected for not displaying the symptoms. On account of the aforementioned situation, it's utterly difficult for countries to decrease their daily cases to zero.

It should also be noted that the issue at hand is ongoing and thus the failed solution attempts don't necessarily indicate failure but instead, they are actions or policies that may have executed differently so that it would produce a more successful hypothetical outcome than it did in real life.

VIII. Possible Solutions

Before taking any action regarding these pandemic countries should truly acknowledge the seriousness of the situation. Economic harm is more nothing but inevitable during the span of this virus, so countries should be looking to mitigate its effects by planning elaborate economic policies that are as support for people as possible. An equilibrium between protecting the financial state of their citizens and their economy should be found by countries with. As the issue at hand is concerning a very infectious disease that may have horrific outcomes if people aren't quarantined adequately, immediate action should be taken. Governments should be acting rapidly as slowness in the decision-making process could lead to the deaths of thousands. The main criticism directed towards certain specialized agencies and organizations was because of their speed of reaction and governments shouldn't make the same mistakes as their role in this crisis is more prominent.

An elaborate approach that consists of different aspects must be adopted by countries. Every minor detail should be estimated beforehand to nip any problems in the bud. Firstly, countries should instantly take measures regarding including financial penalties in their legislations and announcing these penalties on public television where millions of people can see them. However, a notable point is as proven, severe penalties without people acknowledging the crime don't translate as a decrease in the crime rates. With that being said, everyone should be acknowledging facts about the COVID-19 virus as how infectious it is, how lethal it is for people with weaker immune systems, and how an appropriate



self-quarantine should be made. In this process, governments can emphasize the lethality of the agenda. Providing information can be done by international organizations to work more collaboratively.

Determining penalties for incautious people who aren't quarantining themselves or taking fundamental measures to protect the people around them like wearing a mask can be a path to follow. However, harsh penalties wouldn't be sufficient by themselves. As proven, severe penalties without people acknowledging the crime don't translate as a decrease in the crime rates. Instead, an inclusive process of ensuring the self-quarantining by people should be adopted by nations. Nations should act transparently and shouldn't try to cover up the reality. The audit of data presented by countries is made by international organizations; however, the inspection they make doesn't oblige the nations to provide more accurate data. A binding treaty that will make countries legally bound to publicize honest data and asking them to show the accuracy of their data to a commission of people with expertise on the matter can be formed.

As for the second part of tackling the issue, the number of tests should be augmented by countries. People should know they are infected by this virus to quarantine themselves from others in the first place. Public testing spots can be established and countries with sufficient technological resources can make these spots function without an active person to eliminate any infection. For the countries without the aforementioned technological infrastructure, the duty of health commissioners and doctors become even more overwhelming. Governments and specialized agencies should be providing any financial assistance and moral assistance to those people as their workload is nothing but massive.

All in all, many more solution ideas can be proposed than the ones presented in these few paragraphs. However, the process of quarantining requiring a detail-oriented approach should be a consensus among delegates. Circumstances, to establish a healthy quarantining process by minimizing the drawbacks for such an action, should be very well decided in both domestic and global organs. We should be physically apart but mentally stronger than we ever were, thinking ahead of our steps. If such a mentality is set, then humanity can get over this crisis with the least damage possible.

IX. Useful Links

- This link includes the overview of China's initial response to the pandemic from multiple aspects such as economic, social, and health-care related ways. How the country was able to tackle the problems in spite of the special circumstances and the country's experiences on the matter [People's Republic of China's experiences with coronavirus and economic meltdown \(the resilience\)](#)



- The latter mentions the economic approaches taken and used by the countries during the course of COVID-19. Also, when the country's shut down their borders and their lockdown approaches impacts on the economy as well. [Economic policies regarding COVID-19 of countries by the IMF](#)
- The following report is a perfect regional focus for Southeast Asian regions' responses and experiences with the recent pandemic: [UNDP report of Socioeconomic impact of COVID-19 on Asia and the Pacific](#)
- This report is the official strategy plan published by the WHO to diminish the risks associated with the spread of COVID-19. Can provide some useful information regarding the health measures. [Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan for nCoV-2019 by World Health Organization](#)



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