COVID-19 Lessons Learned
Perspectives from Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam

A DISCUSSION WITH:
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DESCRIPTION
In December 2019, health authorities in China notified the world that they had discovered a cluster of pneumonia cases from unknown causes in Wuhan, the capital city of Hubei province. Over the next three months, what was just a small cluster transformed into a global pandemic. The virus, which later became labeled as COVID-19, or the coronavirus more informally, spread throughout first China and other Asian countries, and then into the rest of the globe. In an effort to stop the pandemic's spread and protect their citizens, countries around the world have adopted measures to varying scales.

Now, four months into the outbreak, the world is beginning to witness the effects of different government responses. Public transparency, mass testing, movement restrictions, and certain prevention and control measures are among the tools that governments around the world have utilized in their fight against the virus. This webinar will focus on the approaches of three countries: Singapore, South Korea, and Vietnam. How have these governments responded to the coronavirus, and what lessons have they learnt? Join us to learn about these countries’ efforts to combat the virus from three health experts.

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BIOGRAPHIES

Professor LEE Hoon Sang is a visiting professor at Yonsei University School of Public Health in Korea. He is a member of the Health Sector Advisory Committee of KOICA and a board member for Korea Society of Global Health. He teaches various lectures on the issue of global public health and also provides various advices and consultations on various issues in global health in issues regarding North Korea health support. Prior, he has worked as health adviser for KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) in the areas of Maternal and Child Health, community based health as well as health system strengthening and health programs using mHealth and innovative technologies. Later as a health adviser in KOICA Ghana country office, he has worked on the development of KOICA Ghana community based primary health strengthening projects and other community based maternal child health projects. Also, Dr. Lee has been instrumental in formulation of Global Health Security support project for Ghana together with US CDC, as well as Ghana Better Life for Girls project with UNICEF Ghana country office. He has also contributed for the development of USAID-Samsung mobile health information system partnership project together with Ghana Health Service.

Before KOICA, Dr. Lee has worked in Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Korea CDC) as a medical officer in the area of Measles and hepatitis B immunization program as well as immunization program for migrant population. Also, in Korea CDC, Dr. Lee has worked on the North Korea Immunization Assistance Program as well. He has also worked in the Department of International Health as a post-doctoral fellow working on the issue of North Korea Health and Policy Analysis for Health of Children in China. Prof. Lee studied Economics and Public Policy in University of Chicago and has graduated from Yonsei University College of Medicine. Later he completed MPH for Global Health Policy and Management at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health.

Professor TEO Yik-Ying is Dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore, and concurrently the iOMics Programme Leader at the Life Sciences Institute, and an Associate Faculty Member of the Genome Institute of Singapore.

Professor Teo majored in statistical genetics, having completed his doctoral training at the University of Oxford after obtaining a Distinction for his Masters in Applied Statistics at Oxford and graduating top of the cohort for in the Bachelor programme in Mathematics at Imperial College, UK. He pursued his postdoctoral training with the Wellcome Trust Center for Human Genetics, where he was concurrently appointed as a Lecturer at the Statistics Department in Oxford University.

A keen researcher by nature, Professor Teo has gained international recognition for his work in genomics, where his focus is in the development and application of mathematical and statistical techniques to understand the genetic causes of human diseases and genetic evolution in worldwide populations. He has conducted large scale genomic studies on populations from Africa, Europe and Asia, and currently chairs an international consortium investigating the genetic diversity of cosmopolitan and indigenous populations in Asia.

Professor Teo has served as the Director for the Centre for Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Research, where the Centre works closely with the Ministry of Defence to develop capabilities for disease surveillance, consultation and research to deter and to control potential infectious disease outbreaks. He was also the Founding Director for the Centre for Health Services and Policy Research, which approaches systems-level healthcare issues from a multidisciplinary perspective, connecting healthcare workers, patients, researchers, policy- and decision-makers to tackle complex themes in the fast-changing nature of health services delivery.

For his contributions and achievements to academic and public health, Professor Teo was the recipient of numerous awards, including the Singapore Youth Award (2011), the Young Scientist Award by the Singapore National Academy of Science (2010), the NUHS-Mochtar Riady Pinnacle Young Achiever Award (2015), and the Outstanding Young Persons of the World award in the category of Academic Leadership and Achievements (2015). He was also conferred numerous scholarships during his education, including the Public Service Commission scholarship (1997), the Shell Centenary Scholarship (2000), the Lee Kuan Yew Postgraduate Scholarship (2003) and the NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship (2003). Growing up in a family of educators, Professor Teo is both a passionate and exceptional educator, and has won numerous faculty and university awards for teaching excellence from both NUS and Oxford.

Dr. Luong Ngoc Khue is the General Director of Department of Medical Service Administration, Ministry of Health Vietnam; Vice Head of COVID-19 Treatment Sub-National Steering Committee UNDER National Steering Committee on COVID-19 Prevention and Control; Director of Vietnam Telemedicine Center for COVID-19 Outbreak Control.

He received First Degree of Specialization in Odonto-Stomatoloy at Hanoi Medical University then Master of Health System Manager in Thailand and PhD at National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology. He was endorsed by the Government to be Assoc. Professor in 2011. Visiting Professor of Hanoi Medical University; Hanoi Public Health School, Institute of Military Health.

After more than 20 years working at the Ministry of Health in Vietnam, he’s been working at different position from Secretary of Vice Health Minister (1997-2001), Vice - Director of Department of the Medical Services Administration (2001-2009), Ministry of Health and currently serving as General Director of the Department of Medical Service Administration (2009 to present).

He is one of the leading decision makers who actively involves
in developing health policies and system management, especially focusing on development and performance of hospital service system. His contribution has made a profound impact on establishing Law of Examination and Treatment; Law of Drug; Developing national clinical guidelines and regulations; Developing disease diagnosis and treatment guidelines; Developing national action plan on anti-drug resistance; Developing strategic plan of national hospital network; Developing national hospital quality standards; Developing national action plan on hospital quality improvement.

He is in charge of consulting for Health Minister on COVID-19 treatment guidance and supervision: Setting up the Consulting Committee to develop guideline on COVID-19 diagnosis, treatment and infection control; Hospital Service responses to different scenarios of COVID-19 epidemiology in Vietnam; in charge of providing guidance on logistic and capacity of all hospitals in Vietnam to respond to COVID-19; being chair of medical professional committee to diagnose COVID-19 cases.

He’s leading several training courses on hospital management held by Ministry of health as well as doing research and medical projects recently, such as “Assessment of training programs and materials in medical service system in Vietnam”, “Assessment of policies and situation of human resource development in medical service system in Vietnam”, “Situation of prescription, drug use for inpatients in general hospitals”, “Assessment of human resource and professional capacity in preventing influenza in hospitals” and “Research on the organization and activity of medical laboratories”.

He is an advisory board member of Hospital Management Asia (in 2012, 2014, 2015).

Rachel MacKnight serves as the Vice Chairman of the Congressional Circle for the US-Asia Institute and is a principal at Sycamore Strategies, a consulting firm focused on public diplomacy, strategic communications and government affairs. A veteran of Capitol Hill, she served as Deputy Chief of Staff to Senator Barbara Mikulski, the first woman Chair of the Appropriations Committee. Off the Hill, Ms. MacKnight has worked for the Oregon Health & Science University, the National Endowment for the Arts and Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. She has organized and traveled on official Congressional Member and staff delegations to China, Korea, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

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