



SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS RAISED
CALD Executive Committee Special Session
2 April 2020 (Thursday), 14:00 – 16:30 (GMT+8)

<i>Political Party</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>COVID-19 Country Response Update</i>	<i>Political Issues/Concerns</i>
Democrat Party	Thailand	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 2 April, Thailand has 1875 confirmed cases of COVID-19; 505 fully recovered; 15 deaths • The rate of infection seems to have stabilized a bit • COVID-19 spread out to most provinces due to relaxed guidelines on people's movements; almost half a million people left Bangkok when "soft lockdown' was imposed • Phuket, which has the most number of cases, is currently under a curfew; there is still no curfew in Bangkok, but it appears that it will eventually be imposed in the capital and in other parts of the country 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Thailand is now under a State of Emergency; all decisions are made by the Prime Minister, and all ministries report to him • At the moment, there are no complaints yet of possible "abuse of powers" against the Prime Minister, in line with the declaration of the State of Emergency • As there are many migrant workers from neighboring countries in Thailand, a question was raised on the availability of medical services for them, in case they would be afflicted by COVID-19
Democratic Progressive Party	Taiwan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 2 April, Taiwan has 329 confirmed cases of COVID-19; 45 fully recovered; 5 deaths • Learning from SARS, the government started preparations very early on: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) monitored temperature of passengers coming from Wuhan & China as early as January; 2) isolated and tested targeted individuals who had close contact with COVID-19 cases; and 3) strictly implemented mandatory quarantine – tracked movement using a scanned barcode, which served like a "virtual electronic fence" 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is strong support for Taiwan's WHO membership, especially in light of solving and containing the COVID-19 pandemic • The Taiwan government attempted to notify WHO at the end of 2019 & early 2020 about the human-to-human transmission of COVID-19 from Wuhan, China, but was not taken seriously

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hence, potential risks of local transmission were removed very early on • Acknowledging the cost of testing and personnel expertise needed, Taiwan did not do mass testing but a targeted testing on high-risk people • However, limited testing will only work (as per Taiwan's case) if a country starts early in targeting individual cases • At the moment, Taiwan's international borders are still closed; only few flights for Taiwanese citizens coming back in; exempted visitors are required to undergo 14-day quarantine • Taiwan is not going to declare a State of Emergency or lockdown – it may resort to special laws instead • Three (3) Features of Taiwan's Successful Strategy for Addressing COVID-19: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Social & Public Management <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - managed fake news by imposing heavy fines for sharing false information - daily press conference by the government on COVID-19 - government regulations on face masks: (a) adults are allowed to purchase 3 masks per week, and 5 for children; starting April 9, 9 masks/week can be purchased; b) mask prices are regulated (\$.20 cents/piece) - government subsidy for small and medium enterprises: if company revenues fall below 50%, government will subsidize 50% of employee salary 2) Medical Expertise & Professionals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - learning from SARS, health institutions have been placed on very high alert early on - all health institutions are required to stockpile 30-day supply of medical equipment and instruments - special hospitals have been designated for COVID-19 cases 3) Private Sector & Industry 	
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Liberal Party	Philippines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 2 April, Philippines has 2633 confirmed cases; 51 fully recovered; 107 deaths • Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) is in place in the island of Luzon; no outward mobility except essentials; borders are currently closed; social distancing strongly encouraged, although this is difficult to practice in urban poor communities • The main issues and problems are the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) National government transferred bulk of the responsibility for COVID-19 response to the Local Government Units (LGUs), without adequate support or guidelines 2) Possible social unrest due to lack of access to food in poor communities 3) Taking into account its capacity to provide food supply, the government is rethinking the ECQ extension, but second wave highly possible when ECQ is lifted in the middle of April 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Philippine President has been granted Emergency Powers to address the pandemic, together with 275 Billion Pesos realigned budget • Despite this, there is still no clear and concrete plan from the President on how the budget will be utilized • There is a concern that the concentration of power in the Presidency is a slippery slope (i.e. Philippines, Thailand, Hungary) • Politicization of donations: There is a government directive to centralize donations, which appears to target the Office of the Vice President's efforts in getting donations for medical frontliners • Filipinos have been very vocal now in social media in terms of demanding government

		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Lack of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) and masks; lack of coordination in their distribution 5) Testing kits from China are claimed to be defective 6) The number of published cases might not be accurate due to the current practice of testing under the supervision of the Department of Health (DOH), which only tests severe and critical cases; hence, people with mild symptoms are only asked to self-quarantine rather than mandatory quarantine controlled by the government; some people died without knowing their test results or even getting tested 	<p>accountability, although troll farms propagating fake news are also in operation</p>
Parti Gerakan Rakyat Malaysia	Malaysia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 2 April, Malaysia has 2908 confirmed cases; 45 deaths; 16 red zones (districts with more than 41 confirmed cases); 7760 pending cases • Malaysia's recent wave of cases can be traced to a Muslim gathering in Kuala Lumpur where 9,000 of around 15,000 attendees tested positive • Government regulations in place because of COVID-19: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) One (1) person per vehicle policy; no vehicle on the road by 10PM; traveling outside provincial borders is not allowed 2) All places of worship (mosques, temples, churches) are on lockdown since 18 March 3) Public gatherings are banned, weddings/funeral should not be more than 10 people 4) Social distancing is encouraged 5) International flights are limited 6) Wet markets and petrol stations are restricted 7) Mask prices are controlled (supply come from China, but government is not exploring Taiwanese suppliers) 8) Funds are made available for SMEs 9) In terms of communication, the government is using WhatsApp and Telegram for its COVID-19 announcements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The incumbent government, while new, is doing a relatively good job • Hence, politics has taken a back seat as people are now more concerned with COVID-19

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government also plans to designate COVID hospitals soon • On the part of PGRM, it is giving away masks, hand sanitizers and other protective gears 	
Singapore Democratic Party	Singapore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Singaporean government handled the 1st wave of COVID-19 well, but it became complacent that a 2nd wave happened within a very short span of time – from less than 300 to 1000 cases in less than 2 weeks. The government keeps on asking the citizens to live their lives normally, thus allowing people to continue travelling, which, in turn, contributes to the surge in the number of cases • The government was perceived to be doing a good job because of its announced relief packages, which many perceived as vote-buying • Despite the recent surge in cases, the government is considering changing travel restrictions to allow Chinese to enter Singapore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government announced that it may go ahead with the election, but no announcement of when the Parliament will be dissolved • With COVID-19 measures in place now, if election is called at this time, no campaign rallies will be allowed and campaign of not more than 10 in a group is allowed; this will make campaigning difficult for the opposition • As in the past, the campaign period is limited to 9 days • Holding the election in the midst of a pandemic would be strongly disadvantageous to the opposition; it also shows the government put power over the well-being of its people
Cambodia National Rescue Party	Cambodia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 2 April, Cambodia has 110 confirmed cases; 34 fully recovered; 0 deaths • However, these figures are not reliable as the government appears to be hiding the facts • The main issues and problems are the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The Prime Minister has contradictory policies and announcements on COVID-19 2) Public communication is problematic – there are no information on how to protect oneself from COVID-19 3) There are currently no clear and concrete measures or plans to address COVID-19 – Prime Minister Hun Sen even said before that COVID-19 would never reach Cambodia 4) There are no testing or social distancing measures or lockdown 5) Flights to & from China are not suspended; direct flights are still ongoing - especially from Wuhan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prime Minister Hun Sen tried to declare a State of Emergency and launched a crackdown on members of the opposition (i.e. possible shutting down of Sam Rainsy's Facebook page) • Authorities now are going after the people speaking up about COVID-19 • The government created the National Committee on COVID-19, with Prime Minister Hun Sen heading the committee • Hard-hit countries now are highly industrialized: U.S & Europe; the 2nd wave can be those countries that lacks health resources with large segments of population in poverty (Cambodia included)

		<p>6) This is due to the very close relationship between Cambodia and China - China has colonized parts of Cambodia, turning them into Chinese cities, like a Little Macau</p> <p>7) An estimated 45,000 migrant workers returned to Cambodia, while 61,000 factory workers lost their jobs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The health situation is very telling of Prime Minister Hun Sen's leadership • Serological tests (instead of PCR tests) could be used to allow the immunized population to be identified and return to work, and in the process, limit COVID's impact on the economy • Cambodia can learn a lot from how Taiwan, South Korea, Singapore are handling the crisis 	
Democratic Party	Hong Kong	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Hong Kong government is not doing well in terms of COVID-19 response, but the territory is doing relatively well • This is largely because of the population (80-90% of the people are wearing masks, practicing social distancing), and of a robust healthcare system • Local district politicians are also contributing their share by distributing masks to their constituents • However, Hong Kong is on high alert now and can be on the brink of a breakdown • The influx of returning students from overseas results in a second wave of COVID-19 cases • While the government is releasing lots of money to rescue the economy, there is still a significant increase in unemployment rate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Political movement has calmed down for now as people are concentrating their energies on surviving COVID-19 • However, the political atmosphere remains tense; people are very unhappy and have no confidence on the Carrie Lam administration • At the moment, protesters are still getting arrested, and there is a concern that the government is using the pandemic to detain people • If the government does not handle this crisis well, the protests will come back stronger