

Defending and Promoting Democracy Together!



April 1, 2020

Dear Friends of ADN,

We send greetings of peace and health to all of you during these difficult and uncertain times.

The COVID-19 has made a global impact and has changed the way we work and go about our lives. These strange unforeseen times has made us realize how we took for granted everyday normal aspects of life and the value of being connected to each other. It is also a staggering reminder that global solidarity is vital in this fight against the pandemic.

The spread of COVID-19 has proven to be an indicator of the limitations and effectiveness of our institutions during a crisis. It has also made it clear of how vast economic and social disparity is across the globe when we see the severe impact on vulnerable populations.

Currently across Asia many countries, in the name of containing the virus, are increasing its authoritarian measures. Although it may seem that it is necessary, we must be reminded that through maintaining democratic principles and values, it is more effective and possible to overcome this crisis through a rights based approach.

Democratic countries like, South Korea and Taiwan, has displayed that it is possible to manage the virus democratically. We are seeing in these countries that the number of infected are plateauing all without extensive lockdowns but through physical distancing, media freedom, transparency, keeping the public informed with accurate and consistent information, and importantly accessible virus testing for all. The frequent and open communication between the public and the administration was vital to improving its virus management strategy.

These strange times have tasked civil society with coming up with alternative ways to continue our advocacy for our causes. It is more time than ever for us to come together in solidarity to overcome the crisis. Let us come together to discuss how we can better strengthen our solidarity and what alternative ways we can support each other.

Through solidarity we will overcome this together and in the end we will be better for it. To all of you from the bottom of our hearts, be safe and healthy.

Let's show social solidarity to flatten the curve by physically distancing ourselves to save the lives of the vulnerable.

In Solidarity,
Asia Democracy Network

Resources and Articles:

1. CIVICUS Resource Page – Resources for Civil Society during the COVID-19 Crisis
<https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/news/blog/4345-resources-for-civil-society-in-the-midst-of-the-covid-19-pandemic?fbclid=IwAR0CpSKdxuIWIk0b0ljyPNQy8tQdrhX-IrmEOIYCEsr7WaVIE2UMGZ8jG4>
2. Yuval Noah Harari: the world after coronavirus
<https://www.ft.com/content/19d90308-6858-11ea-a3c9-1fe6fedcca75?fbclid=IwAR0 UCwPYWMcO5ol-YEvvfA3Tg6iBwemywCSBlv0ctbI5utWoda5jkAIJQ4>
3. How South Korea Flattened the Curve
<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/23/world/asia/coronavirus-south-korea-flatten-curve.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR152c6gsuwoRoMXxL8ELcDz9Mu1mNeCNsZcc4uTSCl6a0rQLO9c0YFQ-MI>
4. We Need Social Solidarity Not Just Social Distancing
https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/14/opinion/coronavirus-social-distancing.html?smid=fb-share&fbclid=IwAR3IQoE-nz11qlbrljU-XELYisgU7jF6AFzutBJ3y3toABlfi_hyrAwVW48
5. The Coronavirus Could Reshape Global Order
https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/china/2020-03-18/coronavirus-could-reshape-global-order?utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter_cta&utm_campaign=cta_share_buttons
6. Google and Microsoft is Making Available Premium Online Services Free for a Limited Time during the Crisis to help organizations work from home
<https://www.theverge.com/2020/3/3/21163744/google-microsoft-free-access-coronavirus-google-hangouts-meet-teams>
7. South Korea shows that democracies can succeed against the coronavirus
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2020/03/11/south-korea-shows-that-democracies-can-succeed-against-coronavirus/>
8. Taiwan has only 77 coronavirus cases. Its response to the crisis shows that swift action and widespread healthcare can prevent an outbreak.
https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-taiwan-case-study-rapid-response-containment-2020-3?utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook.com&utm_campaign=sf-bi-ti&fbclid=IwAR3CEkWNMJw7ooy3ZB8Ux0dW_I5IY4jcStooRkFWv5CjU40zyg0LsV6XxPk
9. Taiwan Might Hold the Key to Preventing the Coronavirus
https://www.usnews.com/news/best-countries/articles/2020-03-10/lessons-learned-from-taiwans-response-to-coronavirus?fbclid=IwAR1a7uDJNqJJEtWhzQq3FbDFfssNrfqfVMjONGDgUoImx_1nfRX1I8_BTQI
10. [JOINT Statement] ASEAN Urged to Heed UN Sec-Gen Call for Ceasefire and Ensure Human Rights amid COVID-19
<https://adnasia.org/2020/03/31/joint-statement-asean-urged-to-heed-un-sec-gen-call-for-ceasefire-and-ensure-human-rights-amid-covid-19/>