



Leveraging Technology to Fight COVID-19:

The China Experience and Collective Subregional Response

Report Launch and Discussion

June 28, 2021, Monday

9:30 - 11:00 am (GMT+7)



CONCEPT NOTE

1. INTRODUCTION OF THE PROJECT

As the most influential and devastating “black swan event”¹, COVID-19 outbreak on international scale has stricken almost every country in the world so severely. Faced with this unprecedented challenge, China has rallied support from the entire nation, fully utilized the latest technologies and exerted coordination of people from all walks of life. China waded through the adversities and won the victory against COVID-19 pandemic and then continued its efforts in the post corona era and contributed generously to international community. With the support from Chinese Government, this study on China’s Way of Utilization of Technology to Tackle COVID-19 Pandemic aims to understand current situation of the utilization of technology in China to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic to define the good practices and share the good practices which is applicable to other countries in Lancang-Mekong Region and recommendations or strategies for the post-COVID-19 new normal.

The project makes a depth research on three types of technologies deployed in China, specifically big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) by interviewing with a private business start-up Shukun Technology and Shanghai QR code research and development team under the auspices of Shanghai Municipal government as well as DJI, a technology company. From the three cases, it is highly recommended that strong foundation of information infrastructure construction and close coordination of different departments be in position as preliminary steps for future technology

¹ Black Swan Event–Coronavirus. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/black-swan-event-coronavirus-ronald-bishop?articleId=6649003303537557504>

application. Equally important is lifting the awareness of ordinary people to follow the technological guidance of government, meanwhile authorities are supposed to embrace technology for bettering lives of people and advancing digitalization of cities. It is not so much technological force as the discipline and high coordination from the whole nation that made success the pandemic fight. With regard to media, this study investigates into news articles concerning utilizing technology and making quantitative analysis of data. Additionally, fifteen people from various sectors as representatives accepted interviews for this survey.

2. OBJECTIVE OF THE EVENT

The overall objective of the event is to share the results of the study, China’s good practices on utilizing technologies in COVID-19 response and practical recommendations with other Lancang-Mekong countries for reference.

3. TARGET PARTICIPANTS

Members of the Lancang-Mekong Region countries, officials of government agencies particularly those working in the public health emergency response, development practitioners, MI Alumni, and representatives for the private organizations are highly encouraged to join.

The event also welcomes participants from research institutes, the academe, non-government/civil society, non-profit development organizations, support agencies in the region as well as media.

4. PROGRAM AGENDA

The event will be organized online via zoom application on June 28, 2021 from 9.30 to 11.00 am (UTC+7) and lived stream from the official Facebook page of Mekong Institute. Guests can view the sessions through the following Facebook channels: /mekonginstitute.org.

Time (Bangkok Time)	Event
9.00 am-9.30 am	Online Registration via Zoom <i>All Participants</i>
9.30 am-9.40 am	Welcome Remarks <i>Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn, Executive Director, Mekong Institute</i>
9.40 am-9.50 am	Opening Remarks <i>Mr. Ke Yousheng, Permanent Representative of China to UNESCAP and Mekong Institute Steering Committee Member for China</i>
9.50 am-9.55 am	Project Overview and Objectives of the Event <i>Ms. Tina Wang, Program Coordinator, Mekong Institute</i>
Leveraging Technology to Fight COVID-19: Experience Sharing	
9.55 am-10.25 am	Presentation of the Study Results and Video <i>Ms. Liu Yanqin, PhD. Candidate, School of Journalism, Fudan University</i>
10.25 am-10.30 am	Lao PDR Experience and Comments to the Study <i>Dr. Phengta Vongphachanh, Consultant on COVID-19 Vaccination of National Immunization Program, National Center for Mother and Child Health, Ministry of Health, Lao PDR</i>
10.30 am-10.35 am	Thailand Experience and Comments to the Study

	<i>Prof. Dr. Wongsu Laohasiriwong, Dean of Faculty of Public Health, Khon Kaen University, Thailand</i>
10.35 am-10.55 am	Discussion
10.55 am-11.00 am	Way Forward and Closing Remarks <i>Mr. Suriyan Vichitlekarn</i>

5. CONTACT

Ms. Tina Wang
Program Coordinator
Mekong Institute
Tel: + 66 (0) 4320 2411 Ext. 4012
Email: jwang@mekonginstitute.org