

# Logistics Industry in the Event of Pandemic (Covid-19): Malaysia Experience

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## Background

- Globalisation and integration of markets has increased the volume of international traffic of both goods and people at an accelerating pace.
- Improved access to travel and global integration of economies has also eased the ability of infectious diseases to spread from nation to nation.
- With a significant increase in the world's population, international travel and globalisation of trade, the possibility of a recurrence of the 1918 epidemic would result in a significantly higher death toll.
- The impending threat of highly infection diseases has reverberating effects on the landscape of international health, trade liberalisation and the economic progress of developing nations.





## Background (cont.)

- The survey by World Economic Forum revealed that the Avian flu crisis was ranked as the number one risk concerning multinational businesses and national leaders, with bioterrorism ranked as second.
- Thus, the avian flu situation poses a direct threat to global health and international economic and political stability.
- Pandemics of the size of Covid-19, have huge economic impacts not just from the costs of managing the health of people, but stopping them, and keeping the economy working.



## Historically, an influenza pandemic is expected to occur three or four times in a century (WHO, 2004).



## Influenza Pandemic Past 100 years

1918-1919

1957-1958

1968-1969

1997

2009-2010

#### Spanish Flu (H1N1)

50 million deaths in 18 months.

Suspected outbreak was in China.

The Great War was believed to have contributed to the rapid spread of the disease, due to mass movement of men and goods aboard ships.

#### Asian Flu (H2N2)

First reported in Singapore in Feb 1957, Hong Kong in April 29157. In coastal cities in the US in summer 1957.

Estimated 1.1 million deaths worldwide.

#### Hong Kong Flu (H3N2)

First noted in the US in Sept 1968.

Estimated 1 million deaths worldwide.

Excess deaths were in people 65 years and older.

#### Avian flu (H5N1)

The first case of human infection occurred in Hong Kong in 1997.

Infection confirmed in 18 individuals, 6 of whom died. Infections were acquired directly from chickens.

The outbreak was halted by a territory wide slaughter of more than 1.5 million chickens at the end of December 1997.

#### Swine Flu (H1N1)

Respiratory disease of pigs caused by type A influenza virus. Swine flu viruses do not usually infect humans, but rare human infections have occurred.

Approximate number of deaths up to 575,000.

Likely emerged from Mexico in April 2009.



Ref: Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (2020), accessed at <a href="https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm">https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/index.htm</a>



## Public Health Threats from emerging infectious disease in ASEAN



#### NIPAH VIRUS (1988/1999)

Outbreak among pigs affected pig handlers in **Malaysia** resulting in 257 human cases and 105



#### **SARS (2003)**

Originated in Southern China, spread rapidly to Vietnam resulting in 63 human cases and 5 deaths. 238 cases in Singapore and 33 deaths.

#### H5N1 (2004)

Avian flu suffered by poultry in Southeast Asia. The virus was controlled through the culling the infected poultry flocks.

Ref: Lee, V., (2017), ASEAN and Pandemic Challenges, in Koh, T, Seah, S.L. and Chang, L.L. (Eds.) 50 Years of ASEAN and Singapore, World Scientific, pp. 63-69.



H1N1 (2009)

routes. .

Spread rapidly from the Americas

through global trade and travel

## Coronavirus Disease 2019

COVID-19



Covid-19 is an infectious disease caused by Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2).

Covid-19 was first identified in Dec 2019 in Wuhan, the capital of China's Hubei province. Since then, the disease has spread globally resulting in an ongoing 2019-20 coronavirus pandemic.

As of 22 April 2020, more than 2.56 million cases have been reported across 185 countries and territories resulting in more than 177,000 deaths, and more than 686,000 people have recovered.

The outbreak of Covid-19 in Malaysia traces its origin on 25<sup>th</sup> Jan 2020 from travelers from China. Reported cases remained relatively low and largely confined to imported cases until localized clusters began in March, the largest cluster was linked to a religious gathering held in Kuala Lumpur.



# Comparisons of Confirmed, Recovered, Deaths of Covid-19 Selected Countries in Asia



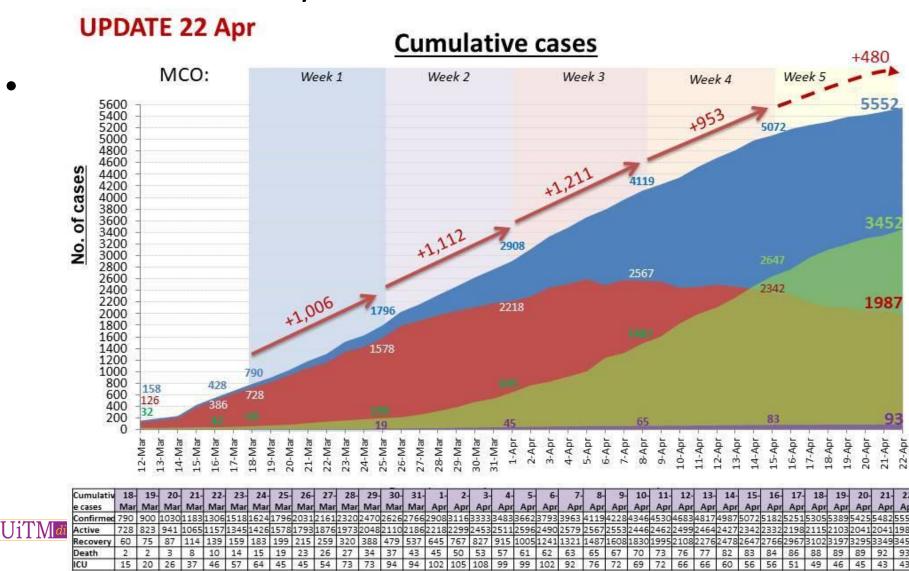
Countries	Confirmed	Recovered	Deaths
Malaysia	5532	3452	93
China	82,788	77,151	4632
Singapore	10,141	896	12
Indonesia	7418	913	635
Philippines	6710	693	446
Thailand	2826	2352	49
Hong Kong	1030	650	4
Vietnam	268	223	0
South Korea	10,694	8277	238



Latest updated: 22 April 2020

### Confirmed, Active, Recovery and Death Cases in Malaysia





## Issue



Health



Wealth <



Trade-off



### Sources of Data





5 CEOs and 4 Senior Executives of Malaysian and International Logistics companies



RM300k - 1.5 mill - 6 (US68k - 344k) RM15 mill - 50mill - 2 (US344k - 11.5mill) More than RM50 mill - 1 (More than 11.5mill)



- Rubber
- FMCG
- Electronics
- Retail
- Heavy Cargo
- Pharmaceutical
- Oil and Gas





#### Univers Teknol Mara

# Malaysia Logistics Industry Scenario in the Event of Covid-19: Company level

- Different interpretation of the term 'essential services' among the enforcement agencies causing confusion to logistics players.
- No lead agency in providing guidelines to the logistics players and in the enforcement. Instructions comes in many forms from different agencies.
- Need strong financial support from the government in order to survive.
- Plant shutdown.
- Retrenchment.

- Lower sales volume/ cashflow/ revenue –
  - Sales drop 41-60% 55% respondents
  - Sales drop less than 20% 44.4% respondents.
- Survival rate of companies
  - Less than 3 months 33.3%
  - 4 to 6 months 22.2%
  - 7 to 9 months 22.2%
  - More than a year 22.2%





# Malaysia Logistics Industry Scenario in the Event of Covid-19: Industry level

• The understanding on the term of the supply chain makes it difficult to enter operation.

"If you are part of the essential services supply chain, you should be allowed to operate because supply chain entities are interconnected."

- Logistics players do not feel secure during operation because the requirements are different when it comes to the enforcement agencies.
- The industry is not ready to face the lockdown phenomena.
- The national economy will suffer and will take long time to recover.
- Need strong government support.
- Retail sales drop when buyers income drops.

10 essential services under the second phase of MCO:

- Food
- Water
- Energy
- Communications & internet
- Security and defence
- Solid waste & public cleansing management & sewerage
- Healthcare & Medical, including dietary supplement
- Banking & Finance
- E-commerce
- Logistics confined to the provision of essential services



## Malaysia Logistics Industry: Post Covid-19





Planned project cannot take-off



Growth in storage demand as manufacturing companies are expected to have more stock due to reduction in demand.

UiTM di hatiku



Force to innovate and renovate processes and product offerings



Target sales fall below 50%. Slow demand.



Business will be closed for 6 months to 1 year.



Increased retail prices







Strategies Taken by the Logistics Companies





Reform

- Seeking new business opportunism
- Diversify into Software as a service business engineering model

#### **Resolve Immediate Challenges**

- Reduce Operation and Fixed Cost
- Reduce manpower
- Lower company's overheads

#### Resilience

- Collect all cash and divert to other new business
- Address cash flow and return to full operating scale



## Suggestions



Industry views on how industry should react to move on with the business and at the same time contain the spread of the disease

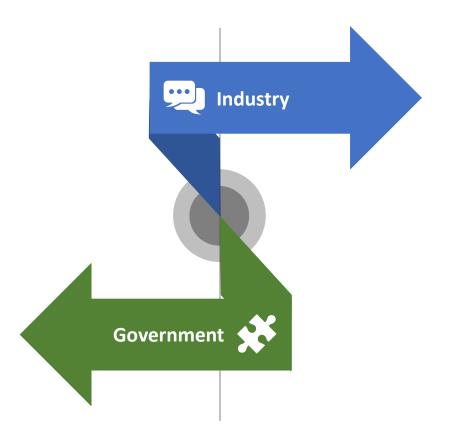
#### What Government should do?

Government appoints one-stop center to govern all procedures and guidelines to coordinate to avoid chaos and confusion.

Engage with LSP to ensure smooth flow within all facets of supply chain in order to avoid bottlenecks and disruptions that will reduce supply and increased prices.

Longer and more precise intervention, in terms of financial support.

Get best vaccine quickly in order to get back to normal.





#### What Industry Should Do?

Business as usual but at the same time comply to the Min of Health guidelines and Min of Transport needs to adopt best practices quickly from in order to have a robust logistics policies.

Fully Implemented uCustom.







### Lesson Learned to the Malaysia Logistics Industry

#### **Nation**

Preparedness: Learn from the past

A vulnerable and uncontrollable pandemic disease would be major risk to a global supply chain (Ruguet, 2006).

Historically, an influenza pandemic is expected to occur three or four times in a century. Thus, preparedness in main affected sectors is therefore vital. Government agencies

#### **One-stop** centre

Government appoints one-stop center to govern all procedures and guidelines to coordinate to avoid chaos and confusion to the logistics players.

#### Companies

Be resilient logistics company

Resilient – fast decision making and enabled by a well-prepared organization. Studies show that in the lead-up to the recession, resilient companies took steps to achieve extra financial flexibility. They reduced balance-sheet debt. When the downturn hit, resilient companies moved faster and further than others, selling off businesses and cutting costs through improvements to operational effectiveness

#### Government agencies

Supply chain of the essential services

The support for supply chain sectors of the essential services should be allowed to operate so that the manufacturers of the essential goods will not face difficulties sourcing for raw materials.

One of the ways to improve pandemic preparedness is to identify sectors that could be most seriously affected during a severe pandemic (Nicoll et al(2012)









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