

## The COVID-19 Crisis

With a population rapidly approaching five billion people, Asia is home to three-fifths of the human race. The continent has also played a prominent role in multiple pandemics of the past seven hundred years. This volume chronicles how Asia responded to the COVID-19 Crisis of 2020-2022, and how its response has reshaped the broader world. The book also probes Asia's preparations for future pandemics.

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The Reischauer Center Coronavirus Policy Research Task Force, founded in March 2020, has worked intensively over the past two years to explore Asia's role in the world's response to pandemics and the broader implications for global affairs.



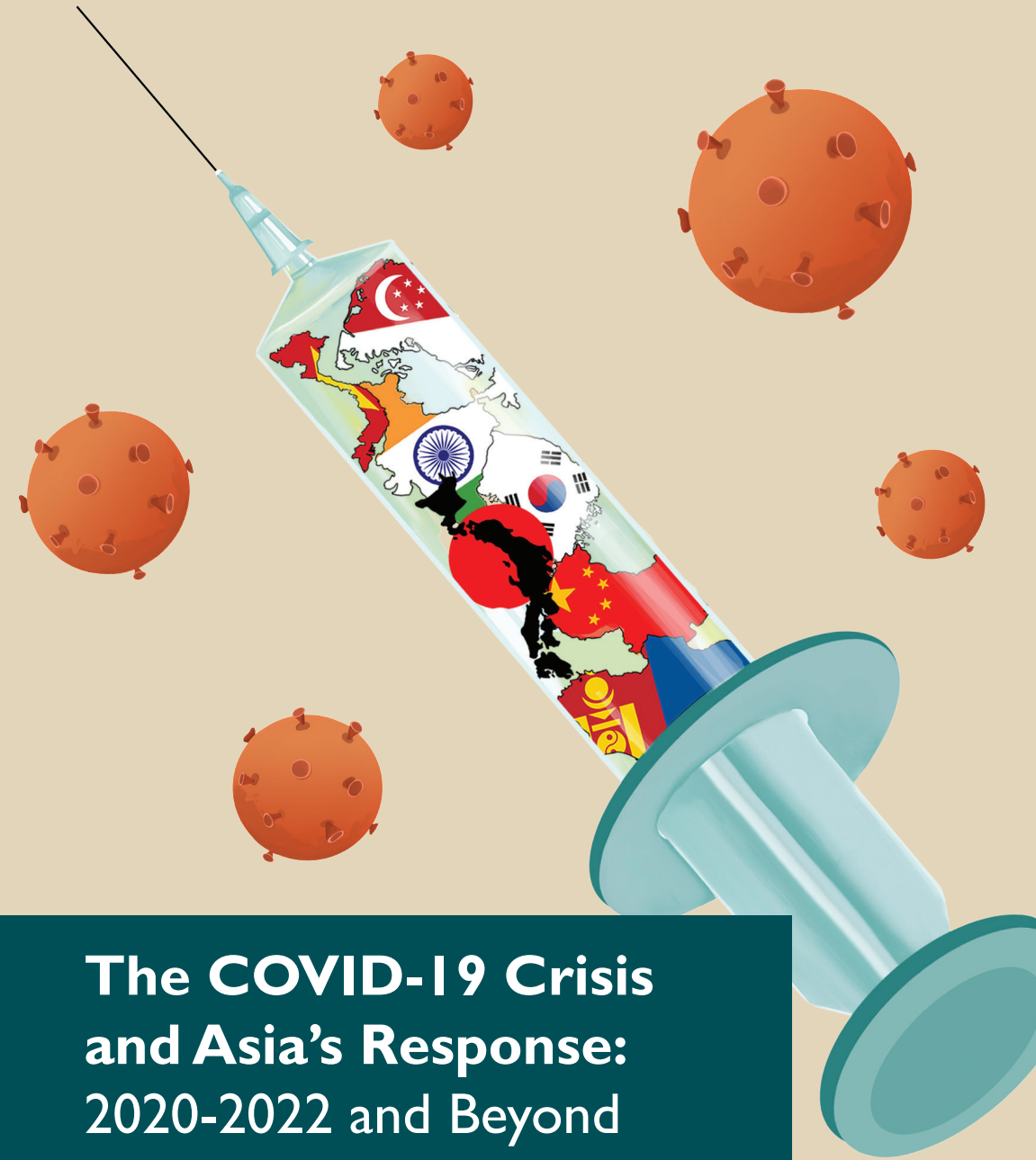
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THE EDWIN O.  
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The COVID-19 Crisis and Asia's Response:  
2020-2022 and Beyond

Edited by Kent Calder  
and Neave Denny



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COVID-19 Policy Research Task Force  
Edited by Kent Calder and Neave Denny

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Neave Denny

COVID-19 Policy Research Task Force  
Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies  
Johns Hopkins University SAIS



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**REISCHAUER CENTER**  
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## **The Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies**

Established in 1984, with the explicit support of the Reischauer family, the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) actively supports the research and study of trans-Pacific and intra-Asian relations to advance mutual understanding between Northeast Asia and the United States.

The first Japanese-born and Japanese-speaking US Ambassador to Japan, Edwin O. Reischauer (serv. 1961–66) later served as the center’s Honorary Chair from its founding until 1990. His wife Haru Matsukata Reischauer followed as Honorary Chair from 1991 to 1998. They both exemplified the deep commitment that the Reischauer Center aspires to perpetuate in its scholarly and cultural activities today.

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# **COVID-19 Policy Research Task Force 2020-2022**

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# **Introduction**



## Introduction

The Asian continent, home to nearly half of the world's people, has also been frequently wracked, across history, by pestilence. And its sufferings have often had global implications. The bubonic plague of the fourteenth century, reputed to have originated in central China, caused intense suffering across Asia before morphing into the Black Death that wiped out a third of Europe's population. Although the Black Death was no doubt *sui generis* in world history, other pandemics originating in Asia have also taken tragic global tolls. The Asian flu of 1957-58, for example, became widespread in England, and led to 16,000 deaths in the United States, as well as around 1.1 million fatalities globally.<sup>1</sup>

Even though there have been numerous tragic pandemics in the past, the COVID-19 Crisis of 2020-2022 will no doubt loom large across global public health history.<sup>2</sup> By the spring of 2022, it has already cost over 6 million lives worldwide, the greatest toll for such a pandemic in over a century, even in an era of advanced medical capabilities. And Asia, where the pandemic originated, is among the hardest-hit regions in terms of cumulative deaths caused by COVID-19, with more than 1.3 million confirmed deaths as of March 2022.<sup>3</sup>

Asia's experience with COVID-19 is, like its confrontation with the plague six hundred years ago, a public health encounter with much broader global implications. Since Asian people, many concentrated in huge, densely populated nations like China and India, make up around 60% of the human population, Asian pandemics almost by definition are of fateful significance for the broader world. Since the Asian economy also generates at least one third of global GDP, the economic implications of pandemics in Asia are also of major international importance. And because developing Asia, including China and India, where the bulk of the continent's people live, has a unique combination of dense population, rapid growth, and an intimate human interface with nature and the animal world, the dangers of zoonotic transfer that can give rise to novel diseases is high.

The global health security implications of such zoonotic transfer within Asia are also significant, given Asia's prominent share of both world population and economic activity. A pandemic in Asia can easily have global implications, as the world has seen

so graphically of late. Like the continent's encounters with SARS and MERS in the recent past, Asia in the era of COVID-19 and beyond arguably will continue to provide unique healthcare lessons in the emergence of pandemics that are of vital importance for the broader world.

The importance of developments in Asia today is further magnified by deepening global interdependence. It took two or three years for the bubonic plague of the fourteenth century to systematically infect Europe from Asia. Due to the pervasiveness of air travel today, however, and the advanced transportation technology that facilitates it, COVID-19 was able to spread from China to Europe, and to the United States as well, in a matter of days.

Indeed, following the first confirmation of COVID-19 cases by the Chinese government on January 7, 2020, initial cases were reported in Europe on January 17, and in the US on January 20.<sup>4</sup> The economic implications of lockdowns in the West due to COVID-19, conversely, were felt by factories in Asia in a matter of weeks, and magnified by the high prevailing degree of trade interdependence. The COVID-19 Crisis thus clearly demonstrated, even in its earliest days, how profoundly intertwined health security and transcontinental economic trends have recently become.

The aggregate implications of pandemic developments in Asia for the rest of the world are unquestionably large. Contrasting sub-patterns within the continent, however, are also internationally consequential. That China suffered from COVID-19 first, and then recovered, through draconian control measures, while India engaged in a much more protracted struggle, has been geopolitically important. Expert handling of the pandemic in its early stages by South Korea and Taiwan enhanced their international standing, while also establishing paradigms for testing and contact tracing that have proven to be of best-practice relevance worldwide.

Conversely, missteps in pandemic management by India, among others, have also been instructive as global reference points. Given China's weak health infrastructure in certain areas and mixed-efficacy vaccines, the necessity of controlling large-scale community spread in the most populous nation on earth are clearly apparent.<sup>5</sup> In 2020 and early 2021, China's "COVID Zero" policies appeared to have arrested the spread of COVID variants, including the Delta strain originally identified in India, but at great social cost. The perverse short-term economic impact of such policies on global supply chains has also become increasingly apparent.<sup>6</sup> In addition, the highly transmissible Omicron variant which appeared in late 2021 has shown that non-pharmaceutical measures may not be enough to contain COVID-19 as the virus continues to evolve.

## **Nature of the Project**

This work is an effort to place Asia's challenges and policy responses to COVID-19 in a global comparative context and to assess the broader international implications of those responses. It is the product of two years of concentrated study at the Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies of Johns Hopkins SAIS concerning how Asia reacted to COVID-19, beginning in March 2020, soon after the pandemic was first officially recognized by the World Health Organization. This work culminated in six major task-force reports, covering varied political, economic, and policy-related dimensions of the pandemic. These reports drew on two major international conferences, which the Reischauer Center co-sponsored, on the global impact of COVID-19 and Asia's own response to the COVID Crisis. The first conference was held virtually in association with the T-20 Global Think Tank Summit, an affiliate of the 2020 G-20 Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the second was convened, also virtually, together with the Asian Development Bank Economics Department, based in Manila, Philippines.

The research reports presented in this volume were followed soon after their online issuance by Reischauer Center webinar presentations, in which outside specialists critiqued our research work. Two of the task-force report webinar presentations were also presented on the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center website. Details of the webinar events, including speakers and commentators, are provided in Appendix B.

Following this introduction, which summarizes the broad problems for analysis considered in the volume as a whole and provides a capsule overview of general themes, the six task force reports are presented in chronological order of their appearance. As the reader will observe, we were struck by the speed of East Asia's initial response to the pandemic, especially with respect to testing and tracing, and drafted a related "best-practice" report on policy lessons (Chapter 1, April 2020) that might be drawn, especially from Korea, Taiwan, and Singapore. We followed this with an assessment (Chapter 2, June 2020) of prospective post-COVID-19 geopolitical dynamics, identifying greater Chinese international assertiveness as an emerging theme.

The next report (Chapter 3, August 2020) focused presciently on the rising dangers of COVID-19 in the developing world, and the prospective role that Northeast Asian nations, including Japan and Korea as well as China, might play in response. In a follow-on report (Chapter 4, February 2021), the Task Force took up economic-security dimensions of the pandemic, exploring both the pros and cons of reshoring as well as the less often presented concept of "near-shoring" to like-minded nations, especially democracies such as Japan and Korea. The reshoring and "near-shoring" research thus prefigured the March 12, 2021 policy prescriptions of the Quad virtual

summit, and also the US-Japan bilateral summit during the following month, on April 16, 2021.<sup>7</sup>

In late March 2021, the Reischauer Center Task Force moved on to the challenges of economic and social reopening, as the pandemic began to wane. It completed a report (Chapter 5) comparing approaches across Asia to development, production, and distribution of vaccines, highlighting the contrasting, yet complementary approaches of China and Japan. The report, like its predecessors, highlighted the important global role that Northeast Asia, in particular, is destined to play in coping with the pandemic, both within the continent and beyond, especially in the developing world.

By the summer of 2021, it had become clear, due to the global spread of increasingly dangerous COVID-19 variants, as well as the slowing pace of vaccination in the industrialized world, that the COVID-19 Crisis could well become more protracted than originally anticipated. The Task Force thus prepared an additional report (Chapter 6, March 2022) detailing the second year of struggle against the virus, including an assessment of the flare-up in COVID-19 infections within Asia itself, and the continent's surprisingly lethargic approach to vaccination. Contrasting Asia's slow response to vaccination to its rapid earlier response to the first signs of pandemic, this latest report strives to unravel the puzzle of Asia's contrasting policy strengths and weaknesses.

The final chapter of this volume looks to the future, considering Asia's emerging approach to the challenge of future pandemics. More than most regions of the world, modern East Asia has developed institutions striving to systematically forecast future challenges, and to systematically prepare for them. Clearly, future pandemics could be a formidable challenge to East Asia's future, given its large population and propensity to zoonotic infection. And East Asia, given its rising economic strength and geopolitical ambitions, seems destined to play a large role in supporting, and even leading, the global response as well, as we argue in the concluding chapter.

### **Problems for Analysis**

Due to the nature of this project, undertaken amidst an ongoing pandemic as a series of comparative public policy assessments of national responses to imminent health-policy challenges, thematic continuity across the volume has been difficult. Throughout the volume, however, we have pursued five central lines of inquiry, as follows:

- *The effectiveness of Asia's policy response.* In Appendix A, statistics on how effectively key Asian nations have controlled infections, limited fatalities due to COVID-19, and administered vaccines are provided. The chapters also, however, explore political-economic dimensions of efficacy—how rapidly Asian nations

responded, in various dimensions; what economic consequences ensued; and how the national policy responses to the pandemic were received in domestic politics.

- ***Why Asia has responded in the way it has.*** This line of inquiry focuses particularly on the paradox of why Asia was so quick to embrace masks, testing, and social restrictions for containing the virus, and yet proved so slow at vaccine distribution.
- ***What lessons Asia’s experience provides for other global regions.*** This analysis considers both “best practice” Asian paradigms, and also policy missteps that should be avoided elsewhere.
- ***How Asia will be different, as it emerges from the pandemic.*** The analysis considers, first of all, relations among Asian nations, especially the powerful states of Northeast Asia, including China, Japan, and Korea. Will Asian nations become more cooperative? More conflictual? More interdependent? More autarkic? More competitive?
- ***How Asia’s own role in the world will be different as the region emerges from the pandemic.*** At the national level, the key question considered is a possibly re-defined role for China. Will China provide clearer and more locally acceptable regional leadership? Or will it be an alienated outsider? How far will reshoring and “near-shoring” proceed, and what does this mean for China?

## A Word of Thanks

This short monograph is a study in comparative public policy, undertaken by the Coronavirus Policy Research Task Force of the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins University SAIS. It focuses, as noted above, on the diverse responses of Asian nations to the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022, known here as the COVID-19 Crisis. A full list of active members is appended to this report, with deepest thanks to each of them.

This publication has truly been a group effort based on both individual research and weekly or biweekly group discussion sessions continuing over two long years. The particular responsibilities of some individual task force members, however, should also be noted. Evan Sankey played a key role in drafting Chapter 2. Monica Weller was the catalyst for and principal author of Chapter 3 (“Shadows”), as well as Appendix C, and played an important overall coordinating role. Jonathan Canfield, was the principal author for Chapter 4 and contributed greatly to Chapter 6. Hana Anderson and Luke Chen jointly spearheaded Chapter 5 and Chapter 6. In the final editing process, Adriana Reinecke prepared and updated Chapter 6 for publication. Vivian Chen crucially supported throughout, and contributed greatly to graphics and design in

the Task Force's early stages. Lam Tran produced all graphics in the final manuscript process. Neave Denny played a central research coordination role throughout, while Hana Lord oversaw design and copyediting, and prepared the final manuscript for publication.

We sincerely appreciate the role that all speakers and organizations have played in contributing to the content and development of our research. In particular, we are thankful for the support of the Asian Development Bank and the T-20 Global Think Tank Summit, organized by the King Abdullah Policy Studies and Research Center (KAPSARC), with whom we co-sponsored webinars. We also appreciate the officers of the Japanese Embassy in Washington, D.C., with Hiroki Tanaka playing an especially important coordinating role, whose support helped make this study possible. Special thanks to the Japan Foundation and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs for supporting this research, which hopefully will be of value to students and scholars.

The Reischauer Center is proud of the global role that our university has played in monitoring and advising on policies for coping with the COVID-19 pandemic, and we have benefitted greatly from the insights of our public health specialist colleagues at Johns Hopkins, who have participated in much of our programming. Professors Sara Bennett, Martin Bloem, and Jennifer Nuzzo of the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health, for example, have joined us in several of these webinars to discuss the global and Asian trajectory of COVID-19, as well as broader socio-economic implications. Professor Lainie Rutkow, project lead of the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center, and now Vice Provost for Special Projects at Johns Hopkins University, has also provided valued introductions and personal encouragement. Health specialists from other major academic institutions, including Duke University, as well as relevant officials from the Japanese and Indian governments, have also assisted us, although none of the above are responsible for conclusions presented here. None of our task-force members, we should stress, are health policy specialists per se, so we have purposely avoided technical judgements in the analysis presented in this monograph. As editor, I deeply appreciate the support and advice of the many colleagues mentioned above, but accept responsibility for the research presented here as ours alone, with the hope that readers will find it informative and useful at a pivotal time, as the world finally begins to emerge from the historic COVID-19 pandemic.

Kent Calder

Washington, D.C.

April 2022

**ENDNOTES**

- 1 “1957-1958 Pandemic (H2N2 virus),” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Jan. 2, 2019, <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/pandemic-resources/1957-1958-pandemic.html>
- 2 We define the “COVID Crisis” as the holistic set of social, economic, political, and healthcare consequences flowing from the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020-2022. We focus particularly on the period between January 2020 and the Spring of 2022 during which healthcare policymakers and practitioners grappled actively and publicly with COVID-19.
- 3 “Cumulative Confirmed COVID-19 Deaths by Region,” Our World in Data, Feb. 12, 2022, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/cumulative-covid-deaths-region>.
- 4 Michelle L. Holshue et al., “First Case of 2019 Novel Coronavirus in the United States,” *New England Journal of Medicine* 382, (2020): 929-936, DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2001191.
- 5 Recent Beijing University modelling suggests that China could suffer 630,000 COVID-19 infections daily if it were to reopen in a manner similar to the U.S. See James Mayger, “Why the World Needs China’s Covid-Zero Policy,” *Bloomberg Businessweek*, Feb. 8, 2022, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2022-02-08/what-china-s-covid-zero-policy-means-for-world-supply-chains-and-inflation>.
- 6 “‘Covid Zero’ Havens Find Reopening Harder Than Taming Virus,” *Bloomberg Businessweek*, May 13, 2021, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2021-05-13/-covid-zero-havens-find-reopening-harder-than-containing-virus>; Philippe Aghion et al., “Aiming for Zero COVID-19 to Ensure Economic Growth,” *VOX EU*, Mar. 31, 2021, <https://voxeu.org/article/aiming-zero-covid-19-ensure-economic-growth>.
- 7 “Fact Sheet: Quad Summit,” The White House Briefing Room, Mar. 12, 2021, <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/03/12/fact-sheet-quad-summit/>; “Japan-US Summit Meeting,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Apr. 16, 2021, [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page4e\\_001123.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page4e_001123.html).

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- “Japan-US Summit Meeting.” Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Apr. 16, 2021. [https://www.mofa.go.jp/page4e\\_001123.html](https://www.mofa.go.jp/page4e_001123.html).
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## **Chapter 1**

### **The COVID-19 Crisis: Policy Lessons from East Asia**

## **Chapter 2**

### **The COVID-19 Crisis: East Asia in a Post-COVID-19 World**

## **Chapter 3**

### **Shadows of COVID-19: The Developing World and East Asia's Response**

## **Chapter 4**

### **Diversifying Medical Supply: Lessons from the COVID-19 Pandemic**

## **Chapter 5**

### **COVID-19 Vaccines in Asia: Development, Production, and International Assistance**

## **Chapter 6**

### **The Challenge of Future Pandemics**

## **Conclusion**



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## **Appendices**

## **Appendix A: COVID-19-Related Data**

### **Tables and Figures**

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## Appendix B: Reischauer Center Events

### List of Events

April 20, 2020	Grappling with COVID-19: Policy Lessons from East Asia
June 3, 2020	East Asia in the Post-COVID-19 World: China and Beyond
August 26, 2020	Shadows: COVID-19, The Developing World, and East Asia's Response
September 23, 2020	Japan Faces Disaster: A Look at COVID-19 and the 3/11 Triple Disasters
September 29, 2020	International Relations in the Post-COVID World: Strategic Competition and the Future of the Liberal Order
October 6, 2020	Will COVID-19 Curtail European-Eurasian Integration?
November 11, 2020	COVID-19, East Asia, and the Global Response
February 18, 2021	Diversifying Medical Supply: Lessons from COVID-19 in the US and East Asia
March 3, 2021	Meeting the COVID-19 Challenge in Asia
April 14, 2021	Overcoming COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Japan
October 25, 2021	Reischauer Memorial Lecture: US-Japan Relations in the Post-COVID World
March 30, 2022	Dawn of a Post-COVID World? Prospects for the COVID Pandemic in Asia and the World

## EVENTS RELATED TO TASK FORCE REPORTS

### Grappling with COVID-19: Policy Lessons from East Asia

April 20, 2020

At the “Grappling with COVID-19: Policy Lessons from East Asia” webinar on April 20, 2020, speakers examined the COVID-19 Policy Research Task Force’s first report (Chapter 1 of this publication) about how and why many East Asian countries have been effective in mitigating the effects of COVID-19. The panel included Ambassador David Shear, former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Asian and Pacific Security Affairs and US Ambassador to Vietnam; Dr. Wonhyuk Lim, former Associate Dean of Korea’s renowned KDI School of Public Policy and Management; Professor Jeremy Shiffman, Bloomberg Distinguished Professor at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health; Ms. Neave Denny, Research Coordinator of the Reischauer Center and Japan specialist; with Moderator Dr. Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center and Vice Dean for Faculty Affairs and International Research Cooperation at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

Leading off the discussion, Dr. Calder raised key points regarding East Asia’s overall response to the crisis thus far, emphasizing a number of successful practices the region has undertaken, such as drive-thru testing, that have inspired emulation in other parts of the world. East Asia’s success in combating the outbreak, Dr. Calder stated, could have significant diplomatic and geopolitical implications for the region in coming years. Following this introductory statement, Dr. Lim gave remarks regarding South Korea’s effective governmental response to its coronavirus outbreak, detailing the country’s extensive testing as well as its distribution of information and medical supplies to slow the spread of the virus and reduce stress on the health-care system. Speaking next, Ambassador Shear gave an overview of his general observations on the crisis, emphasizing that it is too early to draw many conclusions from the pandemic while also stating that clear lines of authority and consistent government messaging appear crucial to response efforts. Professor Shiffman argued that the COVID-19 crisis entails a plethora of complicated questions, and that trust in experts is crucial to fighting the virus. Finally, Neave Denny raised the importance of identifying ways each of these countries and medical planning sectors can improve their response in preparation for the second wave. After their initial remarks, the panelists fielded a number of questions raised by Dr. Calder as well as by members of the online audience.

Amb. David Shear  
Dr. Wonhyuk Lim  
Prof. Jeremy Shiffman  
Ms. Neave Denny  
Dr. Kent Calder



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## **East Asia in the Post-COVID 19 World: China and Beyond**

June 3, 2020

While considering the changing role of China in regional and global affairs, speakers at the June 3, 2020 “East Asia in the Post-COVID-19 World: China and Beyond” seminar examined in detail the heightened evaluation of other Asian nations, including Korea, Japan, and Singapore, in their pandemic responses and dynamic medical diplomacy. Speakers also debated emerging patterns of conflict, and how East Asia’s centrality in the world medical supply chain might be reconfigured in response to medical supply legislation reform in Europe and the United States. The report discussed at this seminar became the second chapter of this publication, “East Asian in the Post-COVID-19 World.”

Amb. David Shear  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Ms. Neave Denny  
Mr. Evan Sankey  
Mr. Sam Frost  
Ms. Vivian Chen  
Ms. Monica Weller  
Ms. Ayane Nakanoh



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## Shadows: COVID-19, The Developing World, and East Asia's Response

August 26, 2020

During the “Shadows: COVID-19, the Developing World, and East Asia’s Response” webinar on August 26, 2020, speakers reflected on the Task Force’s report on the advances of the coronavirus in the developing world, and how East Asia can support other nations’ management of the pandemic as a basis for discussion (Chapter 3). Speakers included Amb. Cinnamon Dornsife, Senior Advisor of International Development at Johns Hopkins SAIS, and Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa, Senior Vice President of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), who discussed opportunities for cooperation and joint research on COVID-19 in LICs and LMICs alongside the Director of the Reischauer Center, Dr. Kent Calder. Reischauer Policy Research Fellows, Monica Weller and Vivian Chen, as well as Research Intern, Corinthians Payne, questioned panelists on topics such as the use of high and low technological adaptations in COVID-19 spread prevention as well as what Japan’s role in supporting these countries looks like going forward. In discussion, panelists addressed the major central question: If this pandemic is a wake-up call, what are we waking up to?

Amb. Cinnamon Dornsife  
Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Ms. Monica Weller  
Ms. Vivian Chen  
Mr. Corinthians Payne



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## **Diversifying Medical Supply: Lessons from COVID-19 in the US and East Asia**

February 18, 2021

In this February 18, 2021 webinar, Director Kent Calder introduced the Task Force's report on reshoring medical supplies and the possible role of strategic cooperation in responding to this challenge (Chapter 4). Policy experts Minister Shinichi Saida from the Embassy of Japan and Ambassador Kurt Tong of The Asia Group contributed their own ideas to the various opportunities and challenges associated with reshoring, underscoring the need for finance collaboration and flexible responses to address regional supply chain gaps. Following their remarks, Reischauer Fellow Jonathan Canfield posed several questions for Minister Saida and Ambassador Tong to start off the Q&A discussion, with additional questions from other members of SAIS.

Minister Shinichi Saida  
Amb. Kurt Tong  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Mr. Jonathan Canfield

## **Dawn of a Post-COVID World? Prospects for the COVID Pandemic in Asia and the World**

March 30, 2022

On March 30, 2022, the Reischauer Center held a seminar titled “The Dawn of a Post-COVID World: Prospects for the COVID Pandemic in Asia and the World,” moderated by Director Kent Calder. Panelists included keynote speaker Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo, an associate professor at the Bloomberg School of Public Health; Mr. Hirokazu Saito, a senior advisor on Eurasian Affairs at the Mitsubishi Corporation; and Dr. William Brooks, a professor of Japan Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).

In her presentation, Dr. Nuzzo reflected on the public health lessons learned over the course of the past two years. Countries that saw early success with non-pharmaceutical measures have been overwhelmed in recent months by highly transmissible variants that even public health officials could not have predicted. This fact is particularly true for Asia, a region from which the global community has learned a great deal about the basic epidemiology of COVID-19 and the efficacy of various countermeasures. Nuzzo emphasized that global pandemics such as those caused by COVID-19 are now our new normal. However, as her work with the 2021 Global Health Security Index revealed, the world has not yet made the long-term investments and policy changes to prepare for the next great pandemic.

The ongoing Ukraine-Russia War represents a haunting new humanitarian crisis that at the same time poses further threats to the global community’s ability to respond to a public health crisis, Mr. Saito pointed out in his talk. Saito emphasized that disruptions from the war and resultant sanctions have already impacted commodity markets.

Finally, in his concluding remarks, Dr. Brooks highlighted how Japan, in particular, has been affected by the Ukraine-Russia war. The historically energy-dependent country has been grappling with a depreciating yen and sanctions against Russia which limit its own access to energy supplies. This conflict in addition to the COVID-19 pandemic have thus caused Japan to reconsider its supply chain dependencies. Following their remarks, panelists answered questions from an online audience.

Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo  
Mr. Hirokazu Saito  
Dr. William Brooks  
Dr. Kent Calder



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## **ADDITIONAL COVID-19 RELATED EVENTS**

### **Japan Faces Disaster: A Look at COVID-19 and the 3/11 Triple Disasters**

September 23, 2020

On September 23, 2020, the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies hosted a virtual round table seminar with Dr. Daniel Aldrich, Professor and Director of the Security and Resilience Studies Program at Northeastern University.

His presentation, “Japan Faces Disaster: A Look at COVID-19 and the 3/11 Triple Disasters,” alternately titled “How the People Saved Japan (Twice),” emphasized the role of community-centered resilience to emergencies. Professor Aldrich argued that in both the 3/11 Triple Disaster and the current COVID-19 pandemic, Japan has fared relatively well because of bottom-up responses to these crises, rather than just central government or private market responses. Despite its aging demographic, high population density, and frequently used public transportation system, Japan has had some of the lowest confirmed number of COVID-19 cases, in part, because citizens in Japan stayed home and limited their normal daily interactions. Dr. Aldrich argued that strong social capital and mutual trust between civil society and the state are preconditions for this type of individual response to COVID-19 and to any national emergency.

Following his presentation, Dr. Aldrich answered questions from Reischauer research fellows, Visiting Scholars, and moderator Dr. Calder.

Dr. Daniel Aldrich  
Dr. Kent Calder

## **International Relations in the Post-COVID World: Strategic Competition and the Future of the Liberal Order**

September 29, 2020

On September 29, 2020, the KDI School of Public Policy and Management and the Reischauer Center cohosted a webinar titled “International Relations in the Post-COVID World: Strategic Competition and the Future of the Liberal Order.” Panelists explored the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on future international relations given ongoing vacuums in global leadership. SAIS professors Dr. David M. Lampton and Dr. Kent Calder shared presentations on China, after which SAIS professor Dr. Carla Freeman led a discussion. Dr. Wonhyuk Lim of the KDI School discussed the general origins of this collaborative project. Following these presentations, additional panelists, including SAIS professor Dr. Matthias Matthijs, Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe of the German Institute for Security and Political Affairs-SWP, and University of Toronto professor Dr. Alan S. Alexandroff focused their presentations on Europe, Eurasia, and opportunities for multilateralism, respectively. The moderator was Dr. Stephan Haggard of the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. David M. Lampton  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Dr. Carla Freeman  
Dr. Wonhyuk Lim  
Dr. Matthias Matthijs  
Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe  
Dr. Alan S. Alexandroff  
Dr. Stephan Haggard



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## **Will COVID-19 Curtail European-Eurasian Integration?**

October 6, 2020

Eurasia is the world's largest landmass; connectivity across the continent has been powered by new technological and political realities, at least before the COVID-19 pandemic. Since early 2020, the pandemic's formidable shocks have not spared the continent, generating significant consequences for this strategic region. But what is the true extent of the shocks? What exactly are the emerging or foreseeable outcomes of the current pandemic for the continent? And what does COVID-19 leave for the future of Eurasian integration, a renewed push, or a lost opportunity?

This October 6, 2020 webinar, co-hosted by the Reischauer Center and the European and Eurasian Studies Department at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) as well as the Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard University, answered these questions from the perspectives of several major powers of the continent. The director of the Reischauer Center, Dr. Kent Calder, whose 2019 book *Super Continent: The Logic of Eurasian Integration* by Stanford University Press touches the very same topic, moderated the webinar. Other speakers included Professor Marsha McGraw Olive from European Eurasian Studies of JHU SAIS, Professor Nargis Kassenova from Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies at Harvard, Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe from SWP-German Institute for International and Security Affairs, and Ms. Yun Han, a doctoral candidate at SAIS.

The panelists shared reflections from Germany, Hungary, Greece, Russia, and Central Asia on the progress and setbacks of Eurasian integration during the pandemic. In the discussion, they also answered questions on the pandemic's effects on innovations and new policies from the region.

Prof. Marsha McGraw Olive  
Dr. Nargis Kassenova  
Dr. Jacopo Maria Pepe  
Ms. Yun Han  
Dr. Kent Calder



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## **T-20: COVID-19, East Asia, and the Global Response**

November 11, 2020

On November 11, 2020, the Reischauer Center convened a virtual conference on “COVID-19, East Asia, and the Global Response,” in cooperation with the T-20 Global Think Tank Summit. T-20 is the Track II arm of the G-20 Global Economic Summit, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. Speakers from six nations, including India, Saudi Arabia, Nigeria, Singapore, Japan, and the United States, presented remarks at this cosmopolitan event.

Mr. Alan Donnelly, Convenor of the G-20 Health and Development Partnership, delivered the keynote address, stressing the growing need to overhaul existing global health frameworks through regional cooperation and participation of finance officials and economists in global health organizations. Following his remarks, three panel discussions, moderated by Johns Hopkins SAIS faculty, covered various dimensions of the global response to COVID, including health system crisis resilience; environmental and food system implications; and East Asia’s emerging role in the post-COVID world.

Professor Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center, moderated the first panel, featuring Keiichiro Nakazawa, Senior Vice President of Japan’s International Cooperation Agency; Vikas Sheel, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in India; and Dr. Sara Bennett, Director of Health Systems at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health. Key themes included the importance of relating financial outlays and services more closely to local need.

Ambassador Cinnamon Dornsife of SAIS moderated the second discussion, featuring two Johns Hopkins University health policy and nutrition specialists, Dr. Martin Bloem and Dr. Jessica Fanzo, as well as a health and development specialist from Duke University, Dr. Osondu Ogbuoji. All three panelists underscored the need for equitable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic challenge, including the under-appreciated problem of needy citizens in middle-income societies, as well as the importance of far-sighted financial backing and multilateral cooperation in preparing for future pandemic contingencies.

Ambassador David Shear, Senior Fellow at the Reischauer Center, moderated the last panel with presentations from Ambassador Bilahari Kausikan, long-time Permanent Secretary of the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as Dr. Yoichi Funabashi, Chairman of the Asia-Pacific Initiative, from Japan. The rising role of ASEAN countries in trade, the standing of American foreign policy in response to domestic struggles to contain COVID-19, and Japan’s efforts to navigate shifting geopolitics were major themes at this third panel.

Dr. Fahad M. Alturki, Chair of the T-20 Global Think Tank Summit, provided thoughtful closing remarks. He highlighted the key themes of multilateral cooperation, prevention planning, and a people-centered approach to healthcare in confronting the

unique and unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor Calder delivered final thanks to the speakers, panelists, and audience, gathered virtually from throughout the world.

Mr. Alan Donnelly  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Mr. Keiichiro Nakazawa  
Mr. Vikas Sheel  
Dr. Sara Bennett  
Amb. Cinnamon Dornsife  
Dr. Martin Bloem  
Dr. Jessica Fanzo  
Dr. Osondu Ogbuoji  
Amb. David Shear  
Amb. Bilahari Kausikan  
Dr. Yoichi Funabashi  
Dr. Fahad M. Alturki



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## Meeting the COVID-19 Challenge in Asia

March 3, 2021

On March 3, 2021, the Reischauer Center convened a virtual conference on “Meeting the Challenge of COVID-19 in Asia,” in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). President Masatsugu Asakawa of the ADB delivered the keynote address that focused on the ADB’s response to COVID-19. He stressed that in addition to the ADB’s \$9 billion Asia Pacific Vaccine Access Facility (APVAX), the organization is also providing immediate response through grants and support for the private sector. Following his remarks, two panel discussions covered various dimensions of the global and regional challenges of COVID-19, including vaccine production and distribution, reopening Asian economies, food security, digitalization, an environmental reset, and infrastructure.

Ambassador David Shear, Senior Fellow at the Reischauer Center, moderated the first panel on “Exiting the COVID-19 Crisis,” with presentations from four experts: Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada, Chief Economist of the ADB; Dr. Eduardo Banzon, health specialist of the ADB; and health and food policy specialists Dr. Jessica Fanzo and Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo from Johns Hopkins University. Strengthening health systems, the need for regional and global cooperation for public goods such as vaccines, and the importance of smart lockdowns in cities were major themes from this first panel.

Mr. Joseph E. Zveglic Jr., Deputy Chief Economist of the ADB, moderated the second panel titled “The Great Reset in Asia,” featuring Johns Hopkins public health specialist Dr. Martin Bloem; former US Ambassador to the ADB, and faculty of Johns Hopkins SAIS Cinnamon Dornsife; Chief of ADB’s Digital Technology for Development Unit Thomas Abell; and former director of the Trade, Investment and Innovation Division in United Nations ESCAP Dr. Mia Mikic. Key themes included bridging the divide in regional connectivity, sustaining international assistance to developing countries, and building the infrastructure needed to address future pandemics. Dr. Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center, provided concluding remarks for the event, highlighting the unique opportunities and challenges facing Asia, as well as the region’s global responsibility moving forward.

Mr. Masatsugu Asakawa  
 Amb. David Shear  
 Dr. Yasuyuki Sawada  
 Dr. Eduardo Banzon  
 Dr. Jessica Fanzo  
 Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo  
 Mr. Joseph E. Zveglic  
 Dr. Martin Bloem  
 Amb. Cinnamon Dornsife  
 Mr. Thomas Abell  
 Dr. Mia Mikic  
 Dr. Kent Calder



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## **Overcoming COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Japan**

April 14, 2021

On April 14, 2021, the Japanese Minister for Economic Revitalization Yasutoshi Nishimura delivered a keynote address on Japan's policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic at the "Overcoming COVID-19: Challenges and Opportunities for Japan" webinar. Minister Nishimura introduced three new proposals on digitalization, a green growth strategy, and human capital investment. He also highlighted the importance of the US-Japan alliance in providing a globally coordinated response to the pandemic. Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo, Senior Scholar at the Johns Hopkins Center for Health Security, provided an overview of three major challenges to the world's COVID-19 response: limited use of public health capacity, poor communication of COVID-19 risk to citizens, and nationalism over global approaches. Dr. Nuzzo also commended Japan for its use of targeted health interventions such as cluster tracing and its commitment to multilateral solutions for the pandemic. Dr. Kent Calder, Director of the Reischauer Center, moderated the event and led the Q&A session following the speakers' remarks.

Minister Yasutoshi Nishimura  
Dr. Jennifer Nuzzo  
Dr. Kent Calder



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## Reischauer Memorial Lecture: US-Japan Relations in the Post-Covid World

October 25, 2021

On October 25, 2021, Japanese Ambassador to the United States, Koji Tomita, delivered the 2021 Reischauer Memorial Lecture. Reflecting on his time as Japanese Ambassador to Israel and South Korea, Amb. Tomita highlighted the important role of diplomats in addressing the “broken dialogue” between countries, a concept first outlined in US Ambassador Edwin O. Reischauer’s 1960 article “The Broken Dialogue with Japan.” Although the development of communication technology has changed the role of diplomats today, Amb. Tomita emphasized the importance of finding coherence and building trust in diplomatic efforts.

Amb. Tomita explained his outlook on the future of the US-Japan alliance in the face of rising international strategic competition between liberal democracy and authoritarianism. He discussed four major areas that require close collaboration between the two countries: upgrading deterrent and responsive capabilities in the Indo-Pacific, strengthening economic resilience and competitiveness, responding to threats to global society such as COVID-19 and climate change, and advancing diplomatic efforts to create an international community with shared values and principles. Amb. Tomita highlighted several efforts that the US and Japan have already undertaken in order to meet these goals, including those by the QUAD to address vaccine cooperation and to deepen diplomatic ties in the Indo-Pacific region. In the Q&A session, Amb. Tomita recognized the increasing complexity of US-Japan cooperation, but emphasized that this situation poses as an opportunity for the two countries to work for the global good.

Amb. Koji Tomita  
Dr. Kent Calder  
Amb. David Shear



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## Appendix C: COVID-19 Timeline

### 2019

#### December 31, 2019

- Reports of an outbreak of ‘viral pneumonia’ in Wuhan, China emerge<sup>1</sup>
- Wuhan Municipal Health Commission issued two notices to hospital networks in the city about 27 cases of pneumonia of unknown origin linked to the Huanan Seafood Market<sup>2</sup>
- The World Health Organization (WHO) was notified of the outbreak from three sources: the CDC in Taiwan, which contacted the WHO using the International Health Regulations (IHR) reporting system; a media report on ProMED that was picked up by the WHO’s Epidemic Intelligence from Open Sources (EIOS) platform; and the WHO Country Office in China<sup>3</sup>
- Taiwan implements more stringent inspection measures for inbound flights from Wuhan, China, including fever screening for arriving passengers and full-scale examinations for suspected cases<sup>4</sup>

### 2020

#### January 1, 2020

- The WHO requests information on the reported cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan from the Chinese authorities<sup>5</sup>

#### January 2, 2020

- The WHO informs Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network (GOARN) partners about the cluster of pneumonia cases in the People’s Republic of China<sup>6</sup>

#### January 4, 2020

- The WHO tweets about the cluster of pneumonia cases in Wuhan, Hubei province, and confirming that investigations to identify the cause were underway<sup>7</sup>

#### January 5, 2020

- The WHO publishes its first Disease Outbreak News report about the cluster online, with detailed information about the number of cases and their clinical status; the Wuhan national authority’s response measures; and WHO’s risk assessment and advice on public health measures<sup>8</sup>

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For more information, please contact [reischauer@jhu.edu](mailto:reischauer@jhu.edu).



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