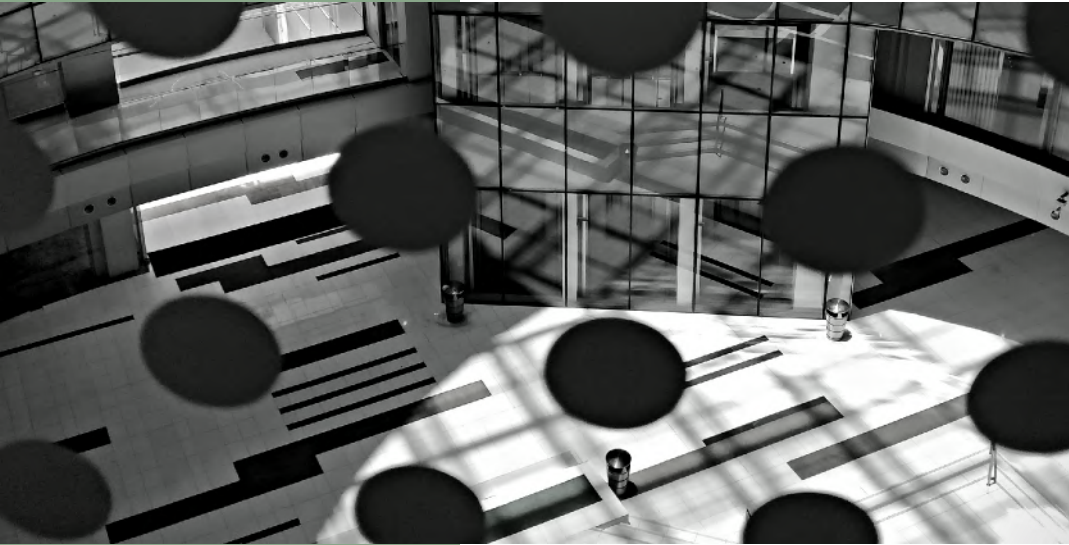


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RSOG INSIGHT

MOVEMENT CONTROL ORDER EDITION



IN THIS ISSUE

With the COVID-19 impacting countries at various stages, everyone is trying to understand what is required to protect themselves and their communities.

We spoke to some of our friends around the world, on how it has affected them and their views of the situation.

ABOUT OUR GUEST

Professor Hideaki Tanaka is currently the Dean of Graduate School of Global Governance at Meiji University. He is Professor of Policy Research, with specialisation in public finance/ economy, cultural anthropology, public governance, and policy evaluation. He began his career in Ministry of Finance before a stint as Financial Attaché at the Embassy of Japan to Malaysia in mid-1990s. He was part of Japanese Cabinet Secretariat and a Visiting Fellow at the Australian National University. He was then Associate Professor at the Institute of Economic Research at Hitotsubashi University before joining Meiji University. He holds Master of Science in Social Policy and Planning from London School of Economics and Political Science and obtained his Doctor of Policy Studies from the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies.

Disclaimer: Views expressed in the article are of their own and do not reflect the opinion of Razak School of Government.

VIEWS FROM JAPAN

In this edition, we spoke to Professor Hideaki Tanaka, the Dean of Graduate School of Global Governance at the Meiji University. He leads the Senior Leadership Programme: A Quest for Governance in Asia, focusing on civic engagement and leadership at a local level, a collaboration between Razak School of Government (RSOG) and Meiji University since 2012.

RSOG: How has the pandemic affected your daily life?

Professor Hideaki Tanaka: First of all, I stop seeing my friends and businesspeople, including having a lunch and dinner. Several lectures and seminars are cancelled. I gave up a few business trips to foreign countries.

RSOG: In your opinion what would be the leadership lesson(s) that we can learn from this global pandemic?

Professor Hideaki Tanaka: Some political leaders such as Japanese (Prime Minister Abe) and American (President Trump) said and decided something relating to the COVID-19 not based on scientific advices but political consideration. For instance, PM Abe asked all schools to shut down in the end of February without consultations to experts. Schools in local areas where there were no infected people were also shut down, and a lot of teachers and families got into trouble. How can working families take care of their children without schools? Political leaders need to think over and decide something after serious consideration based on scientific analysis.

RSOG: Any messages you would like to share with our alumni, and everyone involved, whether directly and indirectly in curbing the COVID-19?

Professor Hideaki Tanaka: The pandemic is destroying not only individual life but also society as a whole and interconnections between people. For instance, people may become more selfish. But if so, we cannot fight the pandemic. We need more mutual cooperation and altruistic endeavour. I do expect our alumni to lead such actions.

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