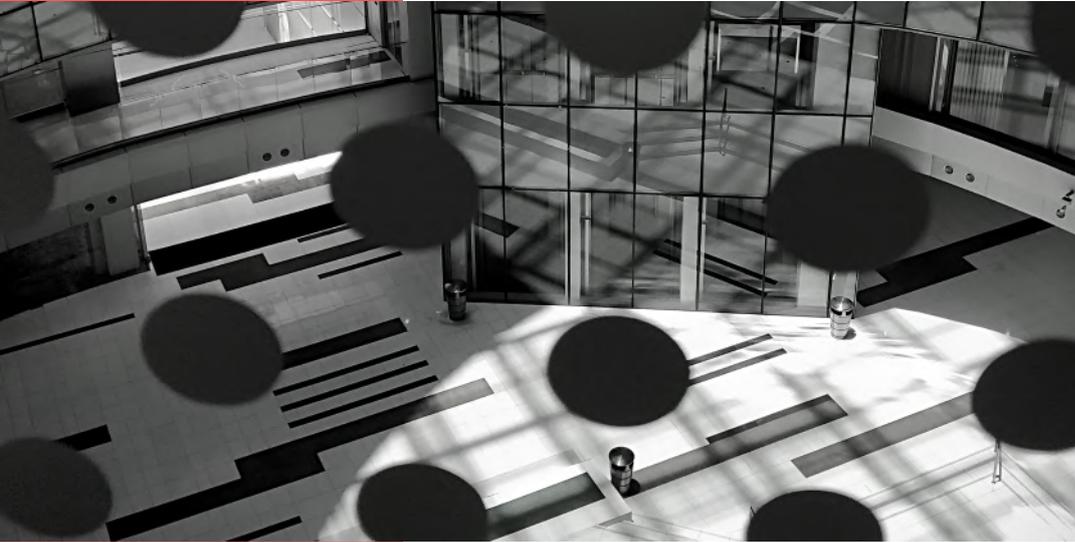


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RSOG INSIGHT

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 Dr Kamarulnizam Abdullah is Professor in National Security at the School of International Studies, Universiti Utara Malaysia. He is currently spending his sabbatical leave as Visiting Professor at the Faculty of Post-Graduate Studies, Universitas Pasundan, Bandung, Indonesia. Concurrently, he is also a visiting lecturer at the International Relations Program, President University, Cikarang Bekasi, Indonesia. He sits in various Malaysian ministerial committees such as a member of Expert Panel Committee, Malaysia's White Paper on Defence; Home Ministry's Rehabilitation, De-radicalisation and Counter-Terrorism Programmes as well as for the Formulation of Home Security Policy.

VIEWS FROM INDONESIA

In this edition, we spoke to Professor Dr Kamarulnizam Abdullah who is currently spending his sabbatical leave as Visiting Professor at Universitas Pasundan, Bandung, Indonesia. He was programme director in the delivery of learnings for Razak School of Government (RSOG) - Jabatan Perkhidmatan Awam's (JPA) Talent Acceleration in the Public Service (TAPS) Cohort 4 in 2015.

RSOG: How has the pandemic affected your daily life?

Professor Dr Kamarulnizam Abdullah: My movements are rather restricted but not in a full sense. In Indonesia, where I am based now, so far, the government has not regulated any strict Movement Control Order (MCO). We can still go out jogging or buying daily items at supermarkets or traditional markets. The approach is still focusing on the socialisation of social distancing, frequent hand washing, and working from home. But, some local governments, including where I am staying now, have already enforced strict rules on any outing and social distancing.

My classes and consultation hours are now conducted fully online by using either google class or Skype video conferencing. All lectures, students' assignment and assessment have to be conducted and submitted online. The online teaching method is, however, nothing new to me since we have this kind of blended learning introduced in Malaysian universities years ago. The extent, which it has been applied in Indonesia, is an interesting development.

Online learning is actually restricting my communication with students. I like to move around in class while giving a lecture and debating with students in between. But I cannot do it in an online lecture. You have to record your lecture, upload it in google class system, and leave it to the students to watch it during their free time. It is a one-way communication. Furthermore, live online student presentations are also constrained by unstable internet connection.

RSOG: What's your observation with regards to regional cooperation in curbing the COVID-19?

Professor Dr Kamarulnizam Abdullah: Regional cooperation is at its best. This is an exciting period to witness how close regional cooperation really is since we cannot work alone to curb the spread of the pandemic. I can see that countries in the region are sharing information. Regional countries are working together in transporting each other's citizens in specially chartered flights.

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

Professor Dr Kamarulnizam Abdullah: Always follow the advice and instructions from the authorities during this uncertain period. Refrain yourself from travelling out of your house, unless necessary. The period has taught us to become more conscious about cleanliness and health. Be prepared with a new set of social norms once this pandemic is over.

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

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