

The Corona Epidemic: Its Short- and Possible Long-Term Impacts

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The Covid-19 epidemic has spread quickly from mainland China to Southeast Asia, the European Union, and the world to become a pandemic through massive global human traffic. Owing to the “hyper-connected world”, we could watch and follow the national policies and responses of many countries so that we could share, learn, and respond better to combat this “once-in-a-century” global flu epidemic. While a few partially effective medicines were available, several pharmaceutical companies and governments began frantic efforts to develop effective vaccines yet to come. These kinds of flu-epidemics have been predicted over a few decades and indeed SARS and MERS outbreaks occurred, but their spread was fortunately limited. The impacts of the covid-19 epidemic could be felt in various sectors of our society, e.g., higher mortality among the aged. Moreover, the corona epidemic exposed our weaknesses with some negative and some positive impacts “so-to-speak”, which we will see more clearly by March 2021, the time of this seminar.



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