

Introduction message : COVID in the Pacific Island Region

Richard Herr OAM PhD, Academic Director , Parliamentary Law, Practice and Procedure Course, Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania, Australia has thought COVID in the Pacific Island Region. Normally, as an Honorary Citizen of Jeju, he is asked to contribute to this journal on themes that his home island of Tasmania might share with Jeju. On this occasion, he has been approached to contribute a reflection on how the COVID-19 pandemic has impacted on the small islands of the South Pacific where he has worked much of my academic life. He is honoured to do this. He believes that small islands like Jeju and Tasmania with established economies have developed a range of island-appropriate coping technologies to solve the twin challenges of smallness and insularity. It is his hope that this relevance might be better recognised and shared and even contributed to the post-COVID recovery of this region. Insularity has often been a blessing in dealing with the COVID pandemic. This can be seen in the statistic that, at the end of January 2021, 12 of the 14 countries and territories reporting no cases are islands. Even within countries that have experienced COVID, the value of "islandness" can be evident. Australia and South Korea have fared well by global standards. Yet, Jeju and Tasmania done even better. Both have ranked at the bottom of their national infection rates.

Post-COVID Challenges for the Pacific Islands: Some Potential for Small Island Cooperation

Richard Herr argues, in his article "Post-COVID Challenges for the Pacific Islands: Some Potential for Small Island Cooperation" that being an island has often proved a health benefit in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic. Indeed, after a year of the pandemic, virtually the only COVID-free countries are island states and territories. While both Australia and South Korea have fared well by global standards, their island provinces, Jeju and Tasmania done even better. The small island states of the South Pacific region leveraged their insularity by swiftly closing borders, tough quarantine, social distancing and public health measures when a pandemic was declared.

Their marine moat contributed significantly to health security for these islands but at great cost to their fragile economies especially those with some dependence on tourism. Vaccines promise the opportunity to reopen borders to international commerce and traffic.

However, the transition out of the pandemic will less swift and less secure than the initial dramatic first response. The apparent inevitability of COVID becoming an endemic disease will require ongoing public health measures as well as political decisions at the level of individual countries as when decide their pandemic measures can be relaxed. Travel bubbles are touted as a likely transitional stage for the global recovery but these have proved more aspirational than practical thus far. Post-COVID financial revitalisation will even more challenging for small island states. It is here that both Jeju and Tasmania can assist their national government in meeting the needs of the Pacific's small island states. They have relevant island-adapted human and physical technologies that, if recognised and mobilised, could make appropriate niche recovery aid more effective.

The Farewell to Mediation for the National Security in South Korea Reconsidered –The Agonies in Pyongtaek city–

Jin Ho Kim, Professor of Jeju National University, South Korea, in his article "The Farewell to Mediation for the National Security in South Korea Reconsidered –The Agonies in Pyongtaek city–":

Annual military exercise has been performed between the two countries, R.O.K and USA, ever since the formation of military alliances. Also, this drill has been relatively well done. But it has been shocking to the internal Korean society the annual military drill, the formal consensus between South Korea and United States, hindered by the a few NGOs for 50 minutes in March, 2006. And also, there has been doing another kind of civil war in peacetime among the local farmers, NGOs, the policemen and even the military for the land in Pyongtaek in three months. We, Koreans, are too much confused to be seen by these two cases. Quo va dis, Korean society? Let democracy work? How is to be done the national project under these circumstances? Right after the 6.29 'Democratization Declaration'(1987), the peoples of South Korea have been proud of accomplishing the democratization, in spite of the fact that there is no citizen revolution like the western countries, successively holding 1988 Summer Olympics. South Korea becomes the open society. In 1993, with the advent of the real civilian government, there has been suddenly roaring up the diverse groups of the eruptive participation in all respects of South Korea. In the meanwhile, there is one exceptional spheres not to open to the civil society. This may be the common phenomenon across the

continent. There is really no more mediation to solve the military chaos in “young democracy in Asia.” In case of South Korea, there will be the destinations going for the democratic society. South Korea has been facing the turning points for the time-consuming national project on the construction of a nuclear dump made by a resident's referendum. One of South Korea's long-term tasks, which has been embroiled in conflict for the past 19 years, may find a solution through the first experiment, a resident's referenda. Although Aomori prefecture in Japan decided to host a nuclear waste interim storage facility, there is no referendum, or citizen's vote, in Mutsu city in the prefecture, where the facility will be constructed. What we try to do in this paper is to review the range, question, aftermath of the military intervention in citizen affairs. And this paper calls attention to the central problem as to the problem-solving methods for in the case of colliding with the contracting values, peace or security.

Jeju Island: The Cry for Help

Chan Rhan Huh, Ph.D. student, Geography Education, Jeju National University, argues in his article, “Jeju Island: The Cry for Help” :

The purpose of this study is to analyze peace on Jeju Island and the nuclear problem through the lens of integral ecology. This will be done by defining the general meaning of Gaia and analyzing the types of applications of nuclear energy within Gaia in order to study the character of our planetary shadow and planetary wisdom. Both the transformation of the planetary era and Gaia theory are concerned with the living organism Gaia. Therefore, this study will be generated through reflection on the Self-organizational character of Gaia and will reflect on the cry for help in Jeju Island. It is related with historical, ecological and psychological observations.

Analysis of Local Policy Environment from Conflict Management Perspective: Focus on the Election Announcement of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province

Kwon-Oh Kang, Ph.D, Researcher of Jeju Research Institute and Kyung-Soo Hwang, Ph.D., Professor of Department of Public Administration, Jeju National University of S. Korea mention in their collaborative article, “Analysis of Local Policy Environment from Conflict Management Perspective: Focus on the Election Announcement of Jeju Special Self-

Governing Province,” :

This study was conducted to analyze changes in the policy environment in the Jeju area in terms of conflict management by local governments and to derive the need to introduce policies for conflict management. According to this study, the policy environment in the Jeju area has been constantly changing to make it easier for conflicts to occur: First, the Jeju community has been suffering from public conflicts since the past due to a number of large-scale development projects. Second, the increase in population has led to the diversification of stake holders in society, which has resulted in complicated conflict situations. Third, conflict management keywords have begun to appear directly in election announcements, which means that many local residents perceive conflict itself as an important policy agenda. In order to actively address this situation, we need to utilize the concept of ‘Social capital’. Social capital is a concept that can effectively connect various individuals or groups in the region, effectively a connecting local governments and residents and ultimately helping develop the region.

The WEIS is no longer “scratching at the surface”. Rather the journal is getting to the heart of the matter”. Indeed, as the world is coming to know more about island people, cultures, islands are becoming important actors on the global stage in an age of World Environment. The World Environment and Island Studies Journal continues not only to provide a forum for discussion and analysis, but also suggests a vision of island civilization model to the world.

In doing so, the Journal offers directions as a lighthouse to ships on the sea in a cooperative age of 21st Asia Pacific, not to mention as a script.

Thank you again for your attention to our journal..

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Editor in chief

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