Webinar:

How the Republic of Korea turned the tide on COVID-19 using ICT

Remarks by
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ROK's use of ICT in combatting the pandemic is exemplary.

But it is not an outlier in East Asia.

China, Hong Kong, China, Taiwan Province of China, and Singapore have deployed digital technologies, particularly mobile based apps, to contain COVID 19.

Developing countries will be hard pressed to follow ROK's example.

This is largely due to significant differences in: ICT Infrastructure; Digitalization of Government; Availability of Up-to-date, Accurate Data; Legal Environment; and, State Capacity

ICT Infrastructure

ROK ranked 2nd in the world for mobile internet speed and 18th for fixed broadband speed.

Philippines is 116th in Mobile, and 104th in fixed broadband.

Indonesia is 118th in mobile and 113th in fixed broadband.

Digitalization of Government

In developing countries, many government processes are manual and those where ICT is used, its use is not maximized.

- Disease reporting
- Contact Tracing

Accurate, up-to-date data in digital format

...in many parts of the world, data does not flow easily from hospitals into the public realm, or across borders. Global data standards have yet to be developed and this creates gaps in datasets and delays in how data can be used.

Data Privacy

‘Invasive’ versus ‘privacy preserving’ Digital Contact Tracing

State Capacity

ability to govern effectively

1) mobilize financial resources;
2) guide national development;
3) dominate by using symbols and creating consensus; and
4) dominate by the use or threat of force.

State Capacity

ROK shows the importance of moving early and moving decisively and effectively harnessing and deploying resources.

Viet Nam is the low-cost model

State Capacity

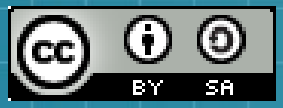
Viet Nam May Have the Most Effective Response to Covid-19

through mass mobilization of the health care system, public employees, and the security forces, combined with an energetic and creative public education campaign.

ROK's use of ICT against COVID 19 represents BEST PRACTICE

Best-practices are, in essence, methods that have worked well in one specific context. But that's the trap: its 'bestness' is context-dependent – which means that it may not be 'best' in another context.

developing countries need to ADAPT ‘best-practice’ to our context, before we adopt it in our context.



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