

# The 1st Asia Pacific Expert Conference for Criminal Justice(APECCJ)



Tasks in Criminal Policy amid the COVID-19 Pandemic :  
Evolving Trends in a Changing Landscape

# BACKGROUND

## I . The outbreak of COVID-19

On December 31st, 2019, a cluster of pneumonia cases of unknown etiology in the city of Wuhan in the Hubei province was reported by the Chinese authorities to the World Health Organization (WHO). It was revealed that the outbreak of 44 case-patients was associated with a novel severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) isolated from a lower respiratory tract sample from patients.<sup>i)</sup> In the course of the next months, the number of laboratory-confirmed cases of SARS-CoV-2 infection spread within and outside China.<sup>ii)</sup>

Epidemiologists from state health agencies suggest that SARS-CoV-2 transmits through saliva, respiratory secretions, respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs, sneezes, talks or exhales. Available evidence indicates that SARS-CoV-2 that causes COVID-19 is more contagious and associated with a longer incubation period than 2003 Severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS), 2015 Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS), and the influenza.<sup>iii)</sup>

WHO declared the outbreak of the novel virus Public Health Emergency of International Concern on 30 January, announced the official name of the disease caused by the virus as coronavirus disease (COVID-19) on 11 February, and declared the COVID-19 a pandemic on 11 March.<sup>iv)</sup> The cumulative number of confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths worldwide has exponentially grown exceeding 10,000 cases and 259 deaths on 1 February, 100,000 cases and 3,458 deaths on 6 March, 1 million cases and 61,278 deaths on 4 April, 5 million cases and 328,964 deaths on 22 May, 10 million cases and 499,978 deaths on 29 June and 17 million cases and 668,912 deaths on 31 July.<sup>v)</sup>

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## II. Socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

Given the exponential growth of COVID-19 cases and a lack of vaccines or medicines, public authorities have implemented non-pharmaceutical measures to contain the contagion. As of May 9, 2020, out of 189 countries, 119 countries imposed lockdowns, 156 countries school closures, and 184 countries movement restrictions. By mid-April, the external and internal measures affected more than 7 billion people in 183 countries.<sup>vi)</sup>

The survey of indicators on employment, economy, and education suggests the social and economic consequences of the pandemic were unprecedented in scale. The wide range of public health measures have resulted in significant loss of jobs, incomes and global trade volumes and values. During the first quarter of 2020, an estimated 5.4 percent of global working hours, equivalent to 155 million full-time jobs, were lost compared to the last quarter of 2019.<sup>vii)</sup> During the same period, the global merchandise trade volume shrank by 3 percent year-on-year. In March alone, the Free Market Commodity Price Index (FM CPI) lost 20.4 percent of its value exceeding the maximum month-to-month decrease of 18.6 percent from July to December 2008 after the outbreak of the financial crisis.<sup>viii)</sup> The school closures imposed by governments have disrupted the education of children. In the second quarter alone, the effective out of school rate for primary school-age children was 59.6 increased by 50.1 percentage points.<sup>ix)</sup>

Despite the modest success in suppressing the contagion through public health measures, the global economic and health prospects for the next quarters paint a grim picture. The global GDP in 2020 is forecast to shrink by 5.2 percent with economic recovery more likely to be protracted in countries with large domestic outbreaks and international spillovers.<sup>x)</sup> It is also predicted that in the third and fourth quarters, disruptions in health systems and a shortage of food supply could increase child and maternal mortality rate by as much as 45 percent and 38 percent, resulting in 1.2 million child deaths and 57,000 maternal deaths across 118 countries.<sup>xi)</sup>

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# PURPOSE

## I. The impacts of COVID-19 on crime

In light of the profound socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, law enforcement agencies around the world are monitoring the current developments and assessing evolving trends in the crime landscape. Among the latest crime trends observed are a) a significant increase in cyberthreats and cybercrime including online scams and phishing, disruptive malware and misinformation<sup>xii)</sup> b) trafficking in personal protection equipment and substandard and falsified medical products<sup>xiii)</sup> c) drug trafficking increasingly shifting towards darknet markets, social media platforms and encrypted communication apps.<sup>xiv)</sup> Some law enforcement authorities and experts anticipate that in the medium to long term, the crime landscape is likely to continue to be dominated by cyberthreats, cybercrime and trafficking of personal protection equipment and medical products.<sup>xv)</sup> They also forecast that an economic downturn that is likely to follow the pandemic may present opportunities for organized groups to infiltrate legitimate businesses, engage in embezzlement and misuse of public funds intended to support economic recovery, and recruit vulnerable groups.<sup>xvi)</sup>

## II. Objectives

The 1st Asia Pacific Expert Conference for Criminal Justice (APECCJ) aims to promote dialogue and the exchange of views among academics and practitioners in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice on the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime. In view of the above background, the objectives of the APECCJ are following: (a) to examine how reduced face-to-face contacts and increased online communications and transactions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic create or discourage crime opportunities and (b) to discuss the changes in index crimes, crime rates, domestic violence, cybercrime, etc. (c) to examine the human rights implications of governmental use of personal data in response to the pandemic (d) to explore factors that influenced differential impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime across national jurisdictions and suggest issues and agenda to be explored in the future research.

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- ii) Ibid.
- iii) Petersen, Eskild et al, "Comparing SARS-CoV-2 with SARS-CoV and influenza pandemics," *The Lancet* (2020), doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099\(20\)30484-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/S1473-3099(20)30484-9).
- iv) World Health Organization, "Rolling updates on coronavirus disease (COVID-19)," July 31, 2020, <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>
- v) World Health Organization, "WHO Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Dashboard - Global Situation," August 3, 2020, [https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAlalQobChMIsfibmPSA6wIVUHZgChOMzgYaEAAYASAAEgJMCPD\\_BwE](https://covid19.who.int/?gclid=EAlalQobChMIsfibmPSA6wIVUHZgChOMzgYaEAAYASAAEgJMCPD_BwE)
- vi) United Nations Development Programme, COVID-19 and Human Development: Assessing the Crisis, Envisioning the Recovery, (United Nations Development Programme: New York, 2020), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/hdp-covid>
- vii) International Labour Organization, ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work (Fifth edition) Updated estimates and analysis (International Labour Organization, 2020), <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus/impacts-and-responses/lang--en/index.htm>.
- viii) Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, How COVID-19 is changing the world: a statistical perspective (Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, 2020), <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/ccsa/>.
- ix) United Nations Development Programme, COVID-19 and Human Development: Assessing the Crisis, Envisioning the Recovery, (United Nations Development Programme: New York, 2020), <http://hdr.undp.org/en/hdp-covid>.
- x) World Bank, Global Economic Prospects, June 2020 (World Bank: Washington D.C., 2020), <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33748>.
- xi) Timothy Robertson et al. "Early estimates of the indirect effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on maternal and child mortality in low-income and middle-income countries: a modeling study," *The Lancet* (2020), doi: [https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X\(20\)30229-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S2214-109X(20)30229-1).
- xii) INTERPOL, Cybercrime: COVID-19 Impact (INTERPOL: Lyon, 2020), <https://www.interpol.int/en/News-and-Events/News/2020/INTERPOL-report-shows-alarming-rate-of-cyberattacks-during-COVID-19>.
- xiii) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Report on COVID-19-Related Trafficking of Medical Products As A Threat To Public Health (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Vienna, 2020), <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/covid-19-policy-documents.html>
- xiv) United Nations, World Drug Report 2020 (United Nations Publications, 2020), <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/covid-19-policy-documents.html>
- xv) EUROPOL, Beyond the pandemic: how COVID-19 will shape the serious and organized crime landscape in the EU (EUROPOL, 2020), <https://www.europol.europa.eu/publications-documents/beyond-pandemic-how-covid-19-will-shape-serious-and-organised-crime-landscape-in-eu>.
- xvi) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Research Brief - The impact of COVID-19 on organized crime (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: Vienna, 2020), [https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/RB\\_COVID\\_organized\\_crime\\_july13\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/RB_COVID_organized_crime_july13_web.pdf).



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# PROGRAMME AGENDA

15:00 (KST)

09:00 (EEST)

16:00 (AEST)

## Welcome Remarks

15:05 (KST)

09:05 (EEST)

16:05 (AEST)

## Opening and Participant Introductions

### Presentations

**Matti Joutsen** Special Advisor, Thailand Institute of Justice

– *The pandemic, crime and criminal policy*

**Rick Brown** Deputy Director, Australian Institute of Criminology

– *The prevalence of domestic violence among women during the COVID-19 pandemic: Findings from a survey of 15,000 women*

15:15 (KST)

09:15 (EEST)

16:15 (AEST)

**Roderic Broadhurst** Professor of Criminology, Australian National University

– *COVID-19 Related Products on Darknet Markets*

**Taegyung Gahng** Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, Korean Institute of Criminology

– *The Dynamics between 'COVID-19' and 'Human Rights': Should We Choose One, either Health or Personal Data Protection?*

**Hyebin Kim** Researcher, Police Science Institute, Korean National Police University

– *Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on crime in S.K*

16:15 (KST)

10:15 (EEST)

17:15 (AEST)

## Discussion

16:45 (KST)

10:45 (EEST)

17:45 (AEST)

## Closing

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# SPEAKERS



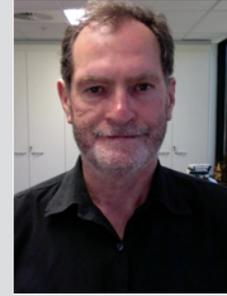
**Matti Joutsen**

Special Advisor  
Thailand Institute of Justice



**Rick Brown**

Deputy Director  
Australian Institute of Criminology



**Roderic Broadhurst**

Professor of Criminology  
Australian National University



**Taegyung Gahng**

Deputy Director  
International Cooperation Division  
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**Hyejin Kim**

Researcher  
Police Science Institute  
Korean National Police University

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## WELCOME REMARKS

**Insup Han**

President, Korean Institute of Criminology

## MODERATOR

**Jeongsook Yoon**

Director of International Cooperation Division, Korean Institute of Criminology

## DISCUSSANTS

**Hana Im**

Prosecutor, Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea

**Youngoh Jo**

Deputy Director of International Cooperation Division, Korean Institute of Criminology

**Jongchan Park**

Investigator, Seoul Metropolitan Police Agency, Republic of Korea



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# PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS

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## Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC)



Founded in 1989, the Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC) is the only national research institute in the field of crime and justice in Korea. It is mandated to conduct systematic and comprehensive research on the cause of and solution to crime for the formulation of national criminal policies. Since its founding, the institute has published more than 1,500 integrative and interdisciplinary research. Since becoming a member of the United Nations Programme Network of Institutes (UNPNI) in 2014, KIC has actively engaged with the international community for the prevention of crime at the international level.

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## Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)



Australian Government  
Australian Institute of Criminology

Founded in 1973, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) is the Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and justice. As a part of the Home Affairs Portfolio and a member of the UNPNI, AIC informs crime and justice policies and practices in the country by undertaking, funding and disseminating policy-relevant research by generating a crime and justice evidence base and establishing a national knowledge centre. Since entering into the MOU with KIC on July 6th, 2017, AIC has collaborated with KIC on many activities including organizing international forums and workshops during the annual sessions of the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

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## Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)



Founded in 2011, the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) is a national research institute affiliated with the UNPNI. TIJ works to promote a change to enhance the justice system and foster a culture of lawfulness in Thailand and the international community through research, capacity-building and policy advocacy. TIJ seeks to promote criminal justice system reform through the implementation of international standards and norms related to the vulnerable groups in contact with the justice system. Since entering into MOU with KIC on November 13th, 2016, TIJ has actively collaborated with KIC on many activities including co-organizing the Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics and expert group meetings on criminal justice system.

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## School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific



**Australian  
National  
University**

The School of Regulation and Global Governance (RegNet) at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific undertakes groundbreaking work on regulation and interdisciplinary research and education on the governance of major social, environmental and health issues. The School provides rigorous empirical evidence on complex governance challenges and proactively engages in public and policy debates in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and internationally. Since entering into MOU with KIC on July 7th 2017, the School of Regulation and Global Governance at ANU has continued a close partnership with KIC conducting joint study on cybercrime and the Virtual Forum against Cybercrime (VFAC).

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## Police Science Institute of Korean National Police University



Founded in 1980, the Police Science Institute is the only national institute affiliated with the Korea National Policy Agency. The institute is legislatively mandated to provide theoretical grounds for enhancing police capacity in maintaining public order, formulate rational and efficient long-term development of the police, sustain the knowledge base for scientific and evidence-based policing in the 21st century, and realize public safety through comprehensive policy solutions.

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## UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Network Institutes (UNPNI)



The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (UNPNI) is a network of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and eighteen interregional and regional institutes and specialized research centres established by the UN Secretariat and Member States to assist the international community in strengthening international cooperation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice at the global, regional, and subregional level. The major activities of the UNPNI include organizing workshops, side-events and regional preparatory meetings for the quinquennial Congresses and annual sessions of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and providing expert research on the substantive agenda of the UN meetings for the benefit of Member States and other stakeholders.

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