

From The Editor



The first case infected with COVID-19 outside China was reported in Thailand just a few weeks after an outbreak in Hubei, China. This deadly pathogen spread fast and widely during the Lunar New Year vacation in January 2020, when millions traveled across not only China but the entire Asia. This reflects how close to China ASEAN countries are, not only in the geographical but also cultural senses.

From then to the time of writing this article (August 2020), not a single country all over the world has been safe from this virus. The control of the spreading in Asian countries is more

satisfactory than that in Europe and America. Keys to success seem to be government's immediate actions and aggressive responses to the situation, including limited social contact, universal precaution, disease surveillance and contact tracing. It is likely that the governments of these countries learned from the legacy of the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) in 2003.

Because pneumonia is the main manifestation of Covid-19 infected patients, chest imaging plays an important role in diagnosis and treatment. Radiologists and, especially radiographers are those among the health care workers in the front line who risk their lives while helping patients. Guidelines and recommendations for appropriate usage of chest imaging in surveillance, diagnosis and management of Covid-19 pneumonia have been developed by various organizations. Most of them recommended that radiologic images not be used in detection or confirmation of the Covid-19 pneumonia.

During the past several months of this pandemic, we experienced what we needed to know or change to live and work in this situation.



The editor gave an opening speech in front of cameras in an audiovision studio in Bangkok to almost 1,000 on-line participants of the annual congress of the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand and the Radiological Society of Thailand.

Thanks to digital networks, enormous new knowledge, findings and even innovations have been reported and shared widely and quickly. We share cases happening in Thailand in the current issue. We are looking forward to hearing about situations or observations in Radiology from other ASEAN countries in the upcoming issue.

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