

Future Indonesia - An Analysis by the Japanese Expert Mr. Kazuhisa Matsui

(2) COVID-19 Spreading from Jakarta to Local Regions

- **COVID-19 not yet converged at the end of June. More spreading from Jakarta to local regions.**
- **The infection could not be restricted only in Jakarta because no application of tight lock down.**
- **“Living with Corona” will be quite tough especially in local regions with poor medical capacity.**

◆ The infection is still not over

Since the Government of Indonesia (GOI) announced the first infection on 2 March, the COVID-19 infection continues to spread.

As of 24 June, the GOI reported a total of 49,009 cases, 2,573 deaths and 19,658 recovered. In addition, 36,648 persons under supervision (ODP) with suspected infections such as fever and cough, and 13,069 patients under surveillance (PDP) with fever/cough plus dyspnea or contact with the infected.

◆ The Infection spreading from Jakarta to local regions

Each local government has been monitoring the area by zoning it into red, orange, yellow, and green according to the 15 criteria set by GOI, with concentration to identify clusters and the rich contacts with infected people.

Most of the early cases were in Jakarta. Until April, Jakarta's share to total infected people had been around 50%. It had fallen to less than 30% at the end of May, and 21.2% in 24 June. As a result of failure to contain the infection in Jakarta, it has spread to all 34 provinces, and the cases has continued to increase.

◆ Not adopting strong lock-down

This time, GOI did not apply strong lock-down like those in China and Europe.

Rather, GOI used a gradual method as in South Korea and Japan that encourages peoples to change their behavior through mobility restrictions and the Work from Home. Under the guidance of GOI's COVID-19 control team, each local government organized the same task force to realize the Large-scale Social Restriction (PSBB) to monitor the local infection situation.

A ban on Lebaran homecoming was issued at the start of the fasting month. But at the same time, GOI failed to enforce the policy as normalizing the operation of public transportation in 7 May. It resulted in inadequate regulation to the homecoming to local regions.

◆ "Living with Corona" is quite tough in local regions

The spread of infection continues in local regions with poorer medical capacity. In addition to the human resource shortage, it is concerned that nearly 200 health care workers, including about 30 doctors, have died from COVID-19, almost 10% of the total number of deaths. The demand for economic recovery is growing, but in local regions, "Living with Corona" will be quite tough.

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He has almost 35 years experiences in research, study and consulting on Indonesian affairs, such as senior researcher of IDE-JETRO (1985-2008), JICA expert in Bappenas, JETRO expert, etc. He has stayed in Jakarta, Makassar and Surabaya for more than 15 years.

