



North-East Asia Development Cooperation Forum 2020:

*Experience and Challenges of North-East Asian Countries on Development
Cooperation in the face of the COVID19 pandemic*

North East Asian countries' development cooperation to counter pandemics

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October 16, 2020

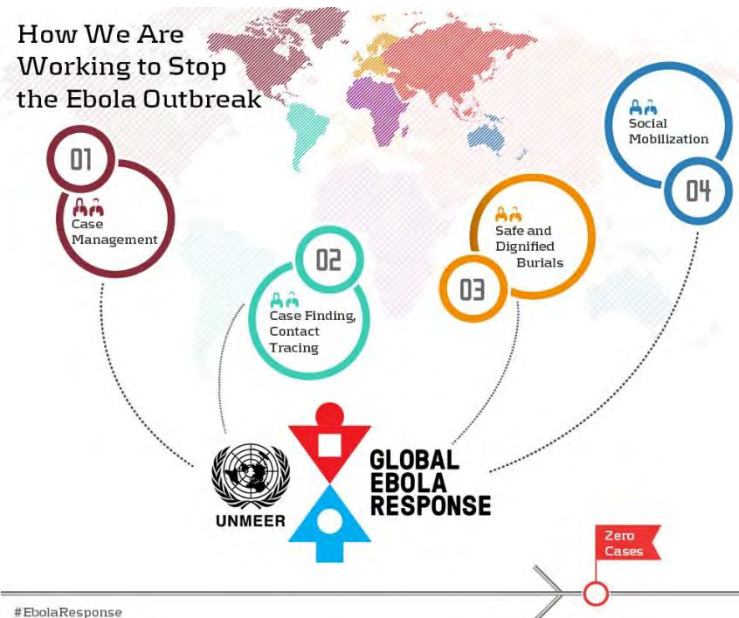
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- Challenges of international responses
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- North-East Asia Regional Responses
 - North-East Asia Development Model
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**Ebola Crisis (2014-2016) – mini-version of COVID (2019-???).
Global Unpreparedness: *missed lessons of ‘shared responsibilities’?***

UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER)

UNMEER, the first-ever UN emergency health mission, was established on 19 September 2014 and closed on 31 July 2015, having achieved its core objective of scaling up the response on the ground.



The international politics of Ebola

Articles

Article
[Introduction: Ebola and International Relations >](#)
Anne Roemer-Mahler & Simon Rushton
Pages: 373-379
Published online: 10 Mar 2016
[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [References](#) | [PDF \(470 KB\)](#) | [EPUB](#)

Article
[Crisis! What crisis? Global health and the 2014–15 West African Ebola outbreak >](#)
Colin McInnes
Pages: 380-400
Published online: 10 Mar 2016
[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [References](#) | [PDF \(1240 KB\)](#) | [EPUB](#)

Article
[WHO's to blame? The World Health Organization and the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa >](#)
Adam Kamradt-Scott
Pages: 401-418
Published online: 04 Jan 2016
[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [References](#) | [PDF \(1088 KB\)](#) | [EPUB](#)

Article
[Public health emergencies: a new peacekeeping mission? Insights from UNMIL's role in the Liberia Ebola outbreak >](#)
Sara E. Davies & Simon Rushton
Pages: 419-435
Published online: 10 Mar 2016
[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [References](#) | [PDF \(1005 KB\)](#) | [EPUB](#)

Article
[Ebola respons-ibility: moving from shared to multiple responsibilities >](#)
Clare Wenham
Pages: 436-451
Published online: 10 Mar 2016
[Abstract](#) | [Full Text](#) | [References](#) | [PDF \(962 KB\)](#) | [EPUB](#)

Sharing/Dispersing responsibility between the levels

- **National responses** – nation states have acted as *major and key actors* through a wide range of individual decisions.
- **Bilateral responses.** *National egoism VS generosity.*
- **Regional organizations** – “medical or mask diplomacy”, regional coordination – from exchange of information to sharing best medical practices, sending specialists, mutual efforts on treatments and a vaccine. *Neighborhood concerns in humanitarian assistance*
- **Global level.** *Global response to global challenge*
 - Plurilateral - G7, G20, BRICS
 - Multilateral - UN agencies, incl. WHO

In Quest for Interoperability (Complementarity) of Levels

Bilateral Responses (Case of Russia)

February-August 2020 - > 100 deliveries related to COVID assistance to 46 countries of the world



‘Agentization’ problem

COVID – narrow profile issue

⇒ needs high profile expertise and quick response

⇒ Transformation of role of MFAs & Development Agencies

⇒ Direct dialogue between specialized actors (***Track 2 diplomacy?***):

- Epidemiological surveillance & monitoring => Special public agencies (within Ministry of Health)
- Emergency responses & logistics => Emergency and Defense ministries
- Treatment & assistance in equipment, medicines, masques => Ministries of Health
- Development of vaccines => R&D bio laboratories, both public & private

New actors of development cooperation (Case of Russia)

Quite a new set of actors for humanitarian assistance!

- ✓ Russia Direct Investment Fund (RDIF) – *interstate cooperation*
- ✓ Ministry of Defence (assisting Emergency Ministry) – *logistics & military doctors*
- ✓ **ROSPOTREBNADZOR** - Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing – *technical expertise, R&D*
- ✓ Business – RUSAL & others – *financial assistance*
- ✓ NGOs (Russian Social and Business Promotion Model - Brazil), others – *financial assistance + involvement*

Major actor to combat COVID – a national STATE (*Westphalian Model*) =>

RDIF - Russia's sovereign wealth fund assures **InterSTATE cooperation** in fighting COVID pandemic



RDIF HAS FACILITATED THE EXCHANGE OF HUMANITARIAN AID BETWEEN RUSSIA AND THE UNITED STATES TO COMBAT CORONAVIRUS



RDIF WAS ONE OF THE INITIATORS OF THE ALLIANCE AGAINST CORONAVIRUS



RDIF, ROSSIYA SEGODNYA AND SECHENOV UNIVERSITY PUBLISH A UNIQUE COVID-19 PREVENTION AND TREATMENT HANDBOOK

Regional level: challenges to integration or to security?

COVID as a new challenge – Regional Organizations' Responsibility Gap

COVID regional challenges

- ✓ Transboundary proration of pandemic
- ✓ Disrupt of humanitarian exchanges (relatives, education, scientific, cultural, etc)
- ✓ Disrupt of regional trade & investments
- ✓ Rights of labour migrants

Regional Economic Communities

(EU, EAEU, ASEAN, MERCOSUR, etc)

COVID is not an economic issue

Regional Security Cooperation

COVID – *what type of security?*

- Military (NATO, CSTO) – *mostly no* (exceptions - military medical staff & logistics)
- Conflict prevention (OSCE, Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia, CICA) – *mostly no* (exceptions - human freedom's respect)
- **Human security:** Old concept for a new challenge?
 - ✓ **Reshaping the security framework**

Regional Responses (Case of Russia)

“Division of labour”

CIS Coordination of National Measures

- ✓ Working group on monitoring the situation with regard to pandemic COVID-19 (*since March 25, 2020*)
- ✓ Coordinating Council on Problems of Sanitary Protection of Territories of CIS Member States from Import and Spread of Especially Dangerous Infectious Diseases (monthly, since March 2020)
- ✓ CIS Council of Heads of Government, May 29, 2020

EAEU Tariff reduction

- Extraordinary working meeting EEC (April 14, 2020, videoconference), Joint statement of the leaders of the “Eurasian Five” => Prevention of breaking cooperation ties, the importance of preserving international trade and investment activities, the need to maintain international cooperation, the cessation of trade wars and unilateral financial and economic sanctions.
- At the level of heads of government on April 10, 2020 a number of measures were approved to create conditions for the recovery and further development of the economies of the EAEC countries.

CSTO Crisis response mechanisms

- ✓ The capabilities of the established CSTO Crisis Response Center are being actively used.
- ✓ Seeking effective joint responses to emerging challenges to biomedical safety => Videoconference (April 16, 2020) of the heads of military medical services of the CSTO member states, where Russian experts shared the latest developments in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19 infection and described the experience gained in providing assistance in Italy and Serbia

North-East Asia Development Model: ReActualization & Ready to Export

Lessons of Coronavirus:

- Strong state, resilient public services are vital to combat pandemic
- Healthcare is rather a public good than neoliberal commercial service
- Individualistic egoism is not acceptable, the rights of certain categories of people may be temporarily restricted to ensure the public good
- Advanced IT is required to trace containment

**Isn't it
North-East
Asian
Development
Model?**

North-East Asia Regional Cooperation in fighting COVID

Diversity of Regional Organizations, no Collective Security Architecture

Multilateral Level

(2 or more North-East Asia countries within multilateral format)

←
SCO (Russia, China et al)

→
ASEAN + 3 (China, Japan, South Korea)

➤ Special ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit on Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) via videoconference on 14 April 2020

Bilateral level

Case: Russia-China (mutual assistance)

February 2020: Russia provided assistance to China

April 2020: China provided assistance to Russia

The head of Rosпотребнадзор Anna Popova called China & Russia "**brothers in arms**" in fighting coronavirus

Shanghai Cooperation Organization

Combining efforts of SCO member states to combat COVID-19 pandemic

- Mutual Assistance – “Spirit of Shanghai”
- 10 June 2018 Declaration on Joint Countering of the Threats of Epidemics in the SCO Space
- Statement of the SCO on the novel coronavirus epidemic, 14 February 2020
- Meeting of health ministers of SCO countries, 24 July 2020
- The SCO Business Council Joint Statement on COVID-19 outbreak (23 July 2020)



COVID crisis pushes us:

- ***To re-evaluate Collective Security Architecture in Asia***
- ***To enhance integration through major regional structures***
- ***To transform regional solidarity into concrete actions***