



Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand

23 January 2020

Pol. Lt. Gen. Sompong Chingduang
Commissioner of Immigration Bureau
Government Center Chaengwattana Building B, No.120, Moo 3
Cheangwattana Road, Tungsohong Sub-District, Laksi District
Bangkok 10210

Dear Pol. Lt. Gen. Sompong Chingduang

Coronavirus – measures to limit spread or contain spread

The Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand (www.jfcct.org) has been serving the foreign business community for over 40 years. Our mission is to strengthen the attractiveness of Thailand as an investment and tourism destination and to support Thailand in being a good place to do business, amongst other aims.

It is encouraging to read about measures taken by the Government in response to potential threats of this virus. We would like to offer a suggestion for passenger processing at checkpoints in Thailand. We also note that the city of Wuhan is being shut off.

It is known that this virus can be transmitted by human touch.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/01/20/health/what-is-coronavirus-explained/index.html>
- relying on information from WHO.

“When it comes to human-to-human transmission of the viruses, often it happens when someone comes into contact with an infected person's secretions, such as droplets in a cough. “

“Depending on how virulent the virus is, a cough, sneeze or handshake could cause exposure. The virus can also be transmitted by touching something an infected person has touched and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes. “ [our emphasis]



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MERS and SARS are forms of coronaviruses. Measures were taken at the time of the SARS outbreak to sanitise surfaces.

At immigration check points currently (eg at Suvarnabhumi), a reading of prints from four fingers is taken on a plain glass plattern. Reports from our members are that often the glass surface is dirty and no means is provided to clean it, let alone sanitise it. Reports from members indicate that travellers often feel uncomfortable in using the glass plattern for this reason and worry about the prospect of having caught something.

If we consider experience in some other SE Asian economies, we note that in Singapore for example a sanitizing sphere is offered (in place long before news of a coronavirus). May we suggest provision of sanitizing apparatus and disposable wipes at every location. This would not only serve a purpose in the context of the coronavirus but would be (and be seen to be) a good health and safety measure.

Sincerely yours,

Stanley Kang
Chairman
Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce in Thailand

CC: His Excellency General Anupong Paojinda, Minister, Ministry of Interior
His Excellency Mr. Anutin Charnvirakul, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Public Health