

Asian Association of Social Psychology Newsletter

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Newsletter Editors: [Sylvia Xiaohua Chen](#) (President Elect) and [Keiko Ishii](#) (East Asia Region Representative)

Message from the President of the AASP



Dear members of AASP,

I hope you are all healthy and well.

AASP held its Annual General Meeting on December 7 via zoom, during which Officers presented their annual reports and discussed outstanding issues. I am happy to report to you that our organization is financially healthy, and despite all the hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, members of AASP have been engaging in a variety of activities with a great deal of enthusiasm. The Executive Committee has appointed Dr. Kevin Kim-Pong Tam as new Editor-in-Chief of AJSP. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Dr. Tam. I also would like to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Allan Bernardo, outgoing

EiC of AJSP, for his great contribution. The Executive Committee has also appointed Dr. Mostafa Zarean at the University of Tabriz as Middle East Rep-at-Large. Management of Small Group Meetings has been transferred from Education & Training Committee to Publication & Research Committee (Chair: Dr. Bernardo). I am delighted to report that

three young and up-and-coming researchers have been invited to serve the SGM-Subcommittee, Dr. Yuka Ozaki (Japan), Dr. Chanki Moon (South Korea), and Dr. Mira Noor Milla (Indonesia). Please join me in welcoming them.

Our new website will be ready soon with new features and improvements. The Social Media strategy established by Dr. Sammyh Khan is taking off, and Dr. Itesh Sachdev is working hard to develop a highly impactful program for 2021 Summer School. Lastly, Officers and Executive Committee members discussed issues related to 2021 Seoul Conference in light of the pandemic situations. The discussion led to a recognition that at this point it may still be too early to make the final decision on the format of the conference. Accordingly, the Organizing Committee of KSPPA has issued its 3rd newsletter detailing new deadlines and instructions. It is my hope that we will be able to hold the conference as scheduled so we can all get together and enjoy our time in Seoul.

I wish all of you the best and a happy new year!

Hoon-Seok Choi, Ph.D.
President
Asian Association of Social Psychology

AASP 2021 Conference Update



AASP held its 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) via zoom on the 7th of December, during which Officers and Executive Committee members discussed extensively how to proceed with the Seoul event. The discussion led to a tentative conclusion that it is too early to make a firm decision on the conference format (off-line, on-line, hybrid, etc.). Based on the discussion, we have decided to defer the final decision and continue to assess possibilities for an off-line event as scheduled.

Along these lines, we now announce a new timeline for the conference as follows:

Deadline for Abstract Submission extended to 15 February 2021.

We sincerely hope you will understand that the decision reflects our commitment to hosting a highly impactful event for the benefit of the participants. We will make regular updates as we move forward.

Please visit the website (<http://www.aasp2021seoul.org>) or contact us (aasp2021@gmail.com) for more information.

Asian Journal of Social Psychology Update



Asian Journal of Social Psychology Volume 23 Published. More Special Issues in Volume 24 in 2021

The year 2020 was an unusual year for the *Asian Journal of Social Psychology*, as it was for most people in different countries as we navigated through the changes ushered in by the Coronavirus pandemic. This year we received an unusually high number of submissions in the past 12 months, more than any previous year of the *AJSP*'s existence. But the editorial team remained as selective as it has been in the past three years. This year also saw an almost 20% increase in downloads of *AJSP* articles compared to the previous year.

Happily, the *AJSP* maintained its JCR Impact Factor in the same range (2019 JCR = 1.063), and in the CiteScore rankings, *AJSP* retained its Q3 ranking in the Social Psychology category and Q1 ranking in the General Social Science Category. The processing of submissions remains efficient, with the median speed from submission to acceptance still at 6 months. But *AJSP* has improved in its speed of Early View publication online, where it takes 41 days, on average for accepted article to be published online.

Volume 23 in 2020 included a Special Forum on “Countering Terrorism in Indonesia” and a Special Issue on “Applications of Sociocultural Models in Social and Cultural Psychology Researcher” together with numerous strong original research articles, short notes, and review articles. Volume 24 will feature more very timely special issues on “Social Psychology of Climate Change,” “Collective Remembering,” and on “Psychology of Economic Inequality and Social Class” and more original research articles and short notes.

As the *AJSP* Editorial Team of Allan B I Bernardo, Angela Leung, Yohsuke Ohtusbo, and their Associate Editors turn over editorial duties to the team of Kevin Tam, Angela Leung, and Sammyh Khan and their Associate Editors, AASP members can look forward to the continued stability and growth of the *AJSP* in the coming years.

Allan B.I. Bernardo, Ph.D.
Editor-in-Chief
Asian Journal of Social Psychology

Asian Journal of Social Psychology: A New Editorial Team



I am greatly honored to be appointed as the new Editor-in-Chief for the Asian Journal of Social Psychology. I always feel a strong sense of connection to the journal, as it can be said that it is where my research career began. I published my very first research article, which was a piece about social perception biases during the SARS outbreak, in the journal in 2004. I also managed to publish my M.Phil. dissertation study in it in 2007. Now, many years later, in the midst of another pandemic, I am about to take up the leading role for the journal.

I would like to express my gratitude to Allan B. I. Bernardo, our former Editor-in-Chief, for sharing his insights and experiences with me during this transition period. The journal has had a lot of success under his leadership, and I am very fortunate to be his successor. I would like to thank Hoon-Seok Choi, President of AASP, and the Executive Committee of AASP too for their trust in me. I am also very excited about the opportunity to work together with Angela Ka-yee Leung and Sammyh Khan; they will serve as the co-Editors-in-Chief for the journal. Angela is a long-time friend and collaborator of mine, and Sammyh and I have been serving the journal as Associate Editors at the same time during the past three years.

Let me share with readers the vision of the new editorial team. We have identified three major goals for the journal in the coming three years. First, we believe that as an international, peer-reviewed social psychological journal, the priority of the Asian Journal of Social Psychology is *to publish high-impact original research in all areas of personality and social psychology*. To achieve this, we have revised and clarified the journal's Aim and Scope in order to present a more welcoming attitude to high-quality research regardless of its origin, and to articulate our commitment to robust, reproducible and open science. We are currently revising our editorial policies to enhance its compatibility with open science practices. Some examples of the changes include clarifying our existing data sharing policy and preprint policy and adding a new open research materials policy.

Second, considering its traditional emphasis on Asian works, we believe that it is an important goal for the journal *to enhance the visibility and impact of Asian contents and Asian productions in the global social psychology community*. In the coming three years, we will actively solicit Asian contents and Asian productions through publishing special issues, dialogues, review papers, and other special sections. We are also planning to introduce a new submission type—Registered Replication Reports—to encourage submissions aimed to replicate previous findings purely based on Western populations in the Asian context. We will look for opportunities to enhance our marketing and publicity work such that contents of the journal can reach more audience both within and outside Asia.

Third, we maintain that the journal can serve as a platform *to nurture the next generation of Asian social psychologists*. We are planning two initiatives along this direction. The first one is Peer Review Mentoring Program, wherein early-career and student social psychologists will conduct manuscript reviews under the mentoring of senior reviewers. We believe that in the process, the mentees will develop into skilled reviewers who can be of service to not only the journal but also the social psychology community as a whole. The second initiative is AJSP Editor Podcast. On a regular basis, the editorial team and invited guests will discuss topics related to conducting research (e.g., how to overcome obstacles to cross-cultural research, good practices in open science) and publishing (e.g., how to comply with journal requirements). We are confident that this kind of discussion will be particularly useful for young scholars.

The new editorial team looks forward to receiving your manuscript submissions to the journal. Please don't forget to help spread our message to your colleagues, collaborators, and students.

On behalf of the team, I wish you and your loved ones happiness, health and safety in the year of 2021!

Kevin Kim-Pong Tam, Ph.D.
Incoming Editor-in-Chief
Asian Journal of Social Psychology

Regional Update

China

2020 Cultural Psychology Virtual Conference was Successfully Held Online

On November 7th and 8th, the 2020 Annual Conference of the Cultural Psychology Division of the Chinese Psychological Society (CPS) was successfully held online. This annual meeting was hosted by the Department of Psychology, Renmin University of China. The grand theme of the conference was "Promoting Cross-cultural Communication and Understanding in Changing Times".

This virtual conference was enormously successful, meaningful, and influential. The opening ceremony was presided by Professor Ping HU, followed by the opening speeches by Professor Xiaolin ZHOU from Peking University, Principal Investigator Buxin HAN from the Institute of Psychology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Professor Kaiping PENG from Tsinghua University. In the morning sessions on November 7th and 8th, 11 well-known cultural psychology scholars and experts from all over the world delivered informative keynote speeches. These renowned keynote speakers included Shinobu Kitayama from the University of Michigan, Richard Shweder from the University of Chicago, Steve Heine from the University of British Columbia, Jackson Lu from MIT, Chi-yue Chiu from the Chinese University of Hong Kong,



etc. Each of the keynote speakers shared their cutting-edge research via online platforms as well as livestreaming platforms. During the forum, all the keynote speakers also patiently answered questions from participants. The four phases of the keynote speech were chaired by Professors Xiaomeng HU, Jie LI, Xiaotian WANG, and Cai XING.



In the afternoon sessions, 12 sub-forums were organized and held via multiple online meeting rooms. Participants at the conference exchanged and discussed issues related to current challenges and future developments of cultural psychology. Discussion topics mainly included social psychological issues amidst COVID-19 pandemic, emotions and

cognitions among cultural adaptation, psychology of traditional Chinese culture, and the new theoretical developments on social psychology and social governance. Although these sub-forums spotlighted on various broader issues, various perspectives, methods and approaches of cultural psychology were explored through in-depth discussions. The committee meeting of the Cultural Psychology Division was held afterwards.

According to the records, this virtual conference attracted roughly fifty thousand audiences from the cultural psychology community and related disciplines in Mainland China as well as overseas including the United States, Japan, and Australia, etc. to attend. Moreover, hundreds of representatives exchanged their views and discussed their latest work on cultural psychology and beyond.

The closing ceremony of the conference was presided by the Chair of the Cultural Psychology Division professor Ping HU. She expressed her gratitude towards all the members in the organizing committee and young students of the volunteer groups. She also envisioned the future by saying that in order to make cultural psychology more flourishing, the Division of

Cultural Psychology will work harder to provide a cross-cultural platform for cultural psychology scholars in Asian countries as well as across the globe to communicate and exchange ideas. Finally, the next representative of the organizers for the Annual Conference 2021, Professor Yi HE from the School of Education, Wenzhou University expressed their wishes to hold the 2021 Annual Conference and welcomed everyone to attend. Participants indicated they were all looking forward to another exciting, interesting, and stimulating conference next year!

Xiaomeng Hu, Ph.D.
Renmin University of China

The 2020 Conference of Social Psychology Association in China

The 2020 Conference of the Chinese Association of Social Psychology was held in Hainan Normal University at Haikou, China during Dec 12 - 13, 2020. The main theme of the conference is “Chinese Social Psychology in a Changing World: Opportunities and Challenges.” The conference brings together nearly 300 psychologists and scholars from more than 100 universities and institutes in China. It hosts a number of keynote speeches, symposia, and workshops in diverse areas, including psychological influences of the COVID-19 pandemic, social change and Chinese psychology, cultural psychology, indigenous psychology and so on. The conference provides an invaluable opportunity for Chinese social psychologists to present their works, communicate ideas and build up social network. It also showcases the responsibility of Chinese social psychologists under the circumstance of ongoing huge social change in the current society.



Jian Guan, Ph.D.
AASP China Representative-at-Large

Hong Kong

The Hong Kong Psychological Society is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year with a webinar series including talks on health, well-being and family

(https://www.hkps.org.hk/en/conferences_and_events/). Hong Kong universities have continued an active schedule of seminars and workshops open to all, such as CUHK's Darius Chan's seminar on the psychology of socio-political attitudes, EdUHK's joint seminar with RWTH Aachen University in Germany sharing Tianyuan Li and Emma Buchtel's talks on relational well-being and morality, and HKU's Gilad Feldman's how-to workshop on Open Science. Hong Kong psychologists including Michael Bond (PolyU), Ying-yi Hong (CUHK), and Melody Chao (HKUST) were interviewed for Canadian social psychologist Igor Grossman's www.worldaftercovid.info project, aimed at creating a "time capsule" of how some of the world's leading scholars in behavioral and social sciences think the COVID-19 pandemic will affect our societies.

Emma Buchtel, Ph.D.

AASP Hong Kong Representative-at-Large

Japan

The Japanese Society of Social Psychology held an annual conference online from November 7-8. It included a symposium on COVID-19 and social change, two workshops (one is on social neuroscience and the other is on a relationship between social psychology and ELSI [ethical, legal, and social issues]/RRI [responsible research and innovation]), and 229 poster presentations. On the other hand, the annual conference of the Japanese Group Dynamics Association was postponed to 2021. Additionally, the annual conference of Japanese Psychological Association was also held online from September 9 till November 2. During the conference, a video celebration message of Dr. Hoon-Seok Choi (AASP President) had been open to the public.

Keiko Ishii, Ph.D.

AASP East Asia Region Representative

Korea

Biannual conference of Korean Social and Personality Psychological Association (KSPPA) 2020

The Korean Social and Personality Psychological Association (KSPPA) held its biannual conference on December 12th via Webex. Presenters delivered their talks at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, Korea, while audience as well as presenters in remote locations participated online.

A symposium, titled "*Developing a sustainable community*", included four presentations that have brought a variety of perspectives in social science – philosophy, sociology, political science, and social psychology.



Four junior scholars were also invited to present their research on judgment of happiness, functions of guilt and shame, motivation gain in work groups, relationship between money and life meaningfulness, respectively.

Two sessions of oral presentation followed, including original studies on trust, self, relationship, status, social cognition, happiness, criminology, and scale development for research on North Korean defectors.

The webinar also hosted graduate students' poster presentations. The pre-recorded presentations were posted on YouTube in advance, and an online Q & A session was held during the webinar.



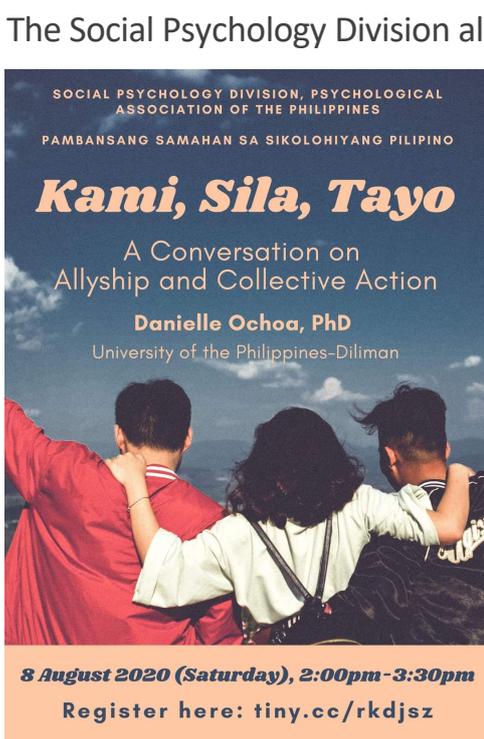
Young-Mi Kwon, Ph.D.
AASP Korea Representative-at-Large

Philippines

The Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines, in partnership with academic departments of various universities, successfully organized lectures on various topics that are relevant for lecturers, postgraduate students, and early career researchers.



The Social Psychology Division and the Teaching Psychology Special Interest Group of the Psychological Association of the Philippines collaborated on a webinar on 28 July 2020 to help lecturers adjust to online teaching. The webinar specifically focused on teaching social psychology. Diwa Malaya Quiñones of the University of the Philippines Diliman and Darren Dumaop of De La Salle University-Manila were the speakers for this webinar on teaching social psychology virtually.



The Social Psychology Division also collaborated with the Pambansang Samahan sa Sikolohiyang Pilipino (PSSP; National Association for Filipino Psychology) for two webinars. The first one was conducted on 8 August 2020. Dr. Danielle Ochoa of the University of Philippines Diliman shared her research on collective action and moral psychology in a webinar titled “Kami, Sila, Tayo: A conversation of allyship and collective action”. The second webinar was on 28 November 2020 and focused on social inequalities. The webinar featured the work of three early career researchers. Dr. Mary Daganzo (De La Salle University-Manila) shared her research on the development and application of an SES-constraints scale (How free are we? The development and potential applications of the SES-based Constraints Scale). Leonel Relis (St. Scholastica’s College, Tacloban) discussed his work on how lay beliefs of the upper class shape their prosocial behaviors in post-disaster contexts (Are all types of help helpful? The upper class during post-disaster contexts). Athena Charanne Presto (University of the Philippines Diliman) talked about her work on intersectionality of sexual identity and socioeconomic status in rural areas (Do we listen when they speak? Voices of Poor Bakla Youth in Rural Philippines).



The Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines aims to continue providing opportunities for researchers to share their work and to network with peers in psychology and associated fields. The Division also aims to provide a venue for sharing and discussing recent developments and issues in the field of social psychology.

Maria Guadalupe Salanga, Ph.D.
Chairperson, Social Psychology Division of the Psychological Association of the Philippines

Social psychology in the time of COVID-19

COVID-19 has created significant challenges and uncertainties that have substantial psychological and social effects on human beings. Research has highlighted the role social psychology plays in this unprecedented time. Associate Professor Wendy Li of James Cook University, Australia, and her team employed the meaning maintenance model (MMM) and a longitudinal design to explore the relationship between novelty seeking and mental health in Chinese university students before, during, and after the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Participants were surveyed at three points: November, 2019 (prior to the COVID-19 pandemic); between February and March, 2020 (during the peak of the pandemic and intense lockdown in China); and between May and June, 2020 (after lockdown had been lifted in China). Cross-sectionally, correlation analysis indicated that greater novelty seeking was associated with lower levels of stress, anxiety, and depression at all three time points. Univariate latent curve modelling (LCM) indicated a growth trajectory in which novelty seeking increased over time and then remained high during the post-lockdown period. Stress, anxiety, and depression all showed V-shaped growth trajectories in which these variables decreased during lockdown, before increasing in the post-lockdown period. Multivariate LCM indicated the growth trajectory for novelty seeking was associated with the growth trajectories for stress, anxiety, and depression. This suggests that the observed decreases in stress, anxiety, and depression during the lockdown period may be attributable to the sample's observed increase in novelty seeking. These findings are valuable in that they challenge the notion that lockdown measures are inherently detrimental to mental health. The findings indicate the important role of novelty seeking in responding to crises. It may be possible for future public health measures to incorporate the promotion of novelty seeking to help individuals' respond to stressful situations and maintain good mental health in the face of crises. To access the article, please visit: <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.600739>

Wendy Li, Ph.D.

Treasurer

Asian Association of Social Psychology

PANDEMIC RESPONSE:

Vigilance, civic responsibility critical to East Asia's success*

The COVID-19 outbreak that started in Hubei province in central China has devastated the global economy. Yet some of China's major trading partners—Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea and Taiwan—have escaped the high levels of infection and death that plague China's two largest trading partners [1], the United States and the European Union. China itself has been more successful in containing the spread of COVID-19 than the United States and many EU member states. Singapore has also done well, despite early exposure to the virus. The reasons why these diverse East Asian societies have slowed or stopped the spread of the coronavirus provide lessons for other countries. Observers suggest that their relative success is due to a

cultural emphasis on collective interest and deference to authorities on matters of national interest.

In China, the spread of COVID-19 from a wet market with wild animals for sale demonstrates the continued challenges to China's regulation of such food markets. China's initial response to COVID-19 was delayed, as it was for SARS [2]. Some local government officials suppressed, and disciplined those responsible for, early notification reports, as in the case of whistle-blower Li Wenliang [3]. The novel coronavirus was not officially announced until 31 December 2019. This delay contributed to a major outbreak requiring the central government to take heavy-handed measures. China locked down Wuhan on 23 January 2020 and tried to prevent travel during Chinese New Year. Social distancing (including through privacy-compromising phone APPs) was imposed and the country's resources were mobilised to fight the outbreak [4]. These efforts successfully flattened the infection growth curve by February, and reduced new cases to a trickle by March.

Taiwan's response to COVID-19 was exceptionally fast [5]. Its experience of being shut out of the World Health Organization (WHO) during SARS led to the creation of a National Health Command Center for coordinating responses to epidemics. Border controls were the centrepiece of the government's prevention strategy. These were enforced from 31 December 2019, when airline passengers from Wuhan were tested for pneumonia. Taiwan escalated to an even higher alert level in January, while the WHO was still equivocating about the extent of human-to-human transmissions. Direct flights from Wuhan were banned on 23 January. As late as one month later (29 February), the WHO still continued to 'advise against the application of travel or trade restrictions to countries experiencing COVID-19 outbreaks'. The WHO claimed that 'in general, evidence shows that restricting the movement of people and goods during public health emergencies is ineffective in most situations and may divert resources from other interventions'.

The Taiwanese response was threefold. First, it involved early and increasing border stringency, with targeted passenger-testing and tracking. Second, authorities ensured adequate reserves of and widespread use of masks and protective gear. Third, the government communicated extensively to the public (sometimes using humour [6], even when imposing strict policies). Despite having 850,000 of its 24 million citizens living in China, and also hosting around 2.7 million mainland Chinese tourists annually, Taiwan has had only 716 infections and 7 deaths due to COVID-19 as of 4 Dec. This was achieved without locking down the economy or closing schools.

South Korea has been at the forefront of developing technology for rapid testing, tracking and treatment, after an early and massive outbreak of COVID-1. The development of medical technology was fast-tracked by emergency use authorisation, a process legalised after South Korea's experience of the 2016 MERS epidemic. South Korea instituted roadside testing alongside health treatment at public health centres organised at city, county and district levels [7]. Mass testing has provided South Korea with the most comprehensive and representative

database on the epidemiology of COVID-19. This is supported by the provision of sophisticated testing, tracking and healthcare [8]. The South Korean government has also been recognised for its overall transparency in dealing with the crisis [9][10].

Hong Kong and Japan were both constrained in possible prevention measures at the outset of the pandemic. Hong Kong was not allowed initially to close its border with China, and the Japanese government was focused on maintaining its prospects for hosting the 2020 Olympics. Despite these constraints, Hong Kong has an exceptionally low number of cases and deaths, while Japan has a relatively low number of cases. As civil society pushed the Hong Kong government to exert stronger border controls, it implemented rigorous airport testing (including high-tech tracking bracelets for travellers disembarking [11]), surveillance for risky cases, and school closures. In Japan, there is concern that low levels of COVID-19 are due to lack of reporting and testing [12]. There has been little communication from the government about its strategy for combatting the pandemic; it has encouraged voluntary social distancing and working from home [19], and rolled out economic stimuli, without any lockdown. Citizens in both societies have voluntarily adopted the use of masks [13]. Perhaps because of previous experiences with SARS, in HK published studies put mask use at above 95 per cent [14].

Finally, the legalistic and top-down system of democracy in Singapore [18] afforded its government a free hand and immediate access to all the resources needed to deal with the pandemic. Its quick response had initial success in containing COVID-19. This was achieved through border controls, testing and tracing incoming passengers for potential risks, and by mandating wearing masks. Singapore also developed a mobile application for contact tracing, but less than 50 per cent of people surveyed were willing to share their data with the government [15]. A second wave of infections recently hit poor migrant workers living in cramped dormitories [16]. This has stimulated considerable debate about fairness and equity issues, and underscores the need for the state to work more in partnership with civil society [17].

Most East Asian societies imposed a more nuanced and technical solution than lockdown to fight COVID-19. The exception is China, which was forced into a regional lockdown, and Singapore, after it experienced a second wave. But the best results were obtained by Taiwan, Hong Kong and South Korea after they implemented the three T's: testing, tracing and treatment. Early testing involves tight border controls at international airports and ports, and includes targeted testing of high-risk passengers. Incoming travellers, especially from places that have been infected, need to have their movements traced, and if coming from infected areas, quarantined for 2 weeks. If large public gatherings are allowed, contact tracing of guests at events is important. But contact tracing must be weighed against privacy concerns, so debate about surveillance and public safety is needed [15]. The treatment of infected people depends on the availability of quarantine facilities and protocols, in addition to healthcare infrastructure.

Disparate policies across Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, South Korea and China suggest that authoritarianism was *not* a common ingredient for success. Some governments faced strong opposition parties, while others did not. Some governments communicated a clear strategy, while others failed to do so. Rather, the common element was a strong sense of vigilance in civil society. Collectivist norms contributed to the widespread practice of *wearing masks and compliance with social distancing regulations to ensure the safety of others*. These may have been East Asia's secret weapon in preventing the spread of COVID-19. We hope and pray these measures remain effective as the region and the world face a third wave of infections.

* This document is a revised version of a published article below.

Liu, J.H., Leong, C.H., Huang, S.Y., Chen, S.X., Choi, H.S., Yamaguchi, S., Lee, I.C., & Inoue, Y. (2020). Pandemic: Vigilance, civic responsibility critical to East Asia's success. *East Asia Forum Quarterly*, 12(2), 29-30.

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