

FAOPMA Member News

The latest in happenings and events from the Associations in our region

Please send your report to **Stephen L. Doggett** or **David Lilly**

INDONESIA

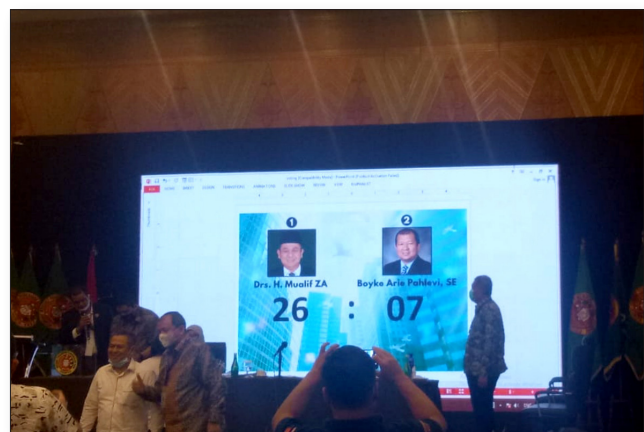
On Thursday, 10 September 2020, the **Indonesia Pest Control Association (Aspphami) National Assembly** was held at Horison Ultima Hotel Bekasi West Java and opened by Mr. Syahrul Yasin Limpo, Minister of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia (Picture 1 and Picture 2). On the Agenda was the 2020-2025 President election. Mr. Boyke Arie Pahlevi as the incumbent, alongside Mr. Muallif Zainal Asikin as candidate.



Result: Mr. Muallif Zainal Asikin has been elected as the new IPCA President with 26 votes over 7, from total 33 entitled votes (Picture 3 and Picture 4). The elected president Mr. Muallif Zainal Asikin takes a photo with his supporters (Picture 5).



Then two months later, on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, the 2020-2025 IPCA Executive Committee Members was successfully inaugurated by the Chairman of Indonesian Chamber of Commerce, which was represented by Mr. Suharyo Husen,



Head of Food Security Department (Picture 6 and Picture 7). Also in attendance, Dr A.M. Adnan MP, Director of Biosecurity and Plant Quarantine Center, Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Indonesia; representative from Indonesian Cleaning Service association and representative from Indonesian Construction Service Association. The inauguration ceremony was continued with the submission of the association flag by the

advisory board to the new President (Picture 8).

There were 24 inducted executive committee members, including Mr. Muallif Zainal Asikin as the President. In the welcoming speech, Mr. Muallif Zainal Asikin expressed his support for FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2020 and encouraged all Aspphmi members to join by becoming participants (Picture 9). The President has also stated that Indonesia is all set to host FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2026. The inauguration was held at Persada Executive Club, in Halim Perdanakusumah, Jakarta. ■

Report provided by Mr Drajat Nugraha.

PAKISTAN

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 UPON THE PEST MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY IN PAKISTAN

Ashraf Sattar Adamjee

INTRODUCTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has shocked the whole world. The disruption of routine life with the rise in death toll created a very unfriendly environment with everyday bringing in unprecedented challenges. The COVID-19 surfaced in mid of February, somewhat late in Pakistan.



The government immediately issued SOP's and implemented the lock-down that brought the



life to a standstill all over the country. Pakistan being a developing country with a population of 220 million, where the majority of the people rely on daily wages, the COVID-19 pandemic came as nothing less than a curse.

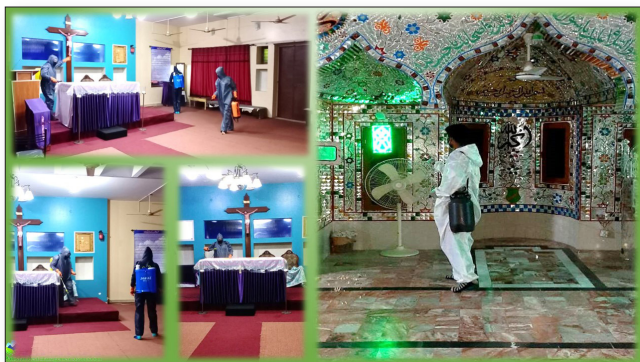
With the closure of offices, factories, and all the domestic and commercial activities, the blow was equally felt by the Pest Control Industry of Pakistan.



PPMA EFFORTS

In these desperate times, the PPMA management joined their heads together to look for possible solutions to fight the menace of the pandemic and serve the nation. The only viable option was to come forward and carryout disinfection services of public areas. This was not an easy task as it was a life threatening situation that demanded exceptional courage from the Pest Control Operators.

The PPMA Members agreed in principal to undertake the said task, without fearing for their lives. The operation commenced as planned by conducting the COVID-19 campaign day and night all over Pakistan covering places of worship belonging to different religions, hospitals, clinics,



police stations, law enforcing units and their transports, etc.

This operation resulted in creating a very special place for PPMA in the hearts of general public and the local government. A time came when the PPMA staff and their vehicles on move were hailed by the local population. Local media praised the efforts of PPMA as they praised the para medical staff. Later, the Prime Minister of Pakistan introduced Smart Lock Down, which was appreciated and implemented elsewhere.



This resulted in opening of a window of opportunity for business activities. During the peak of the pandemic, looking at the quantum of disinfection viz-a-viz the resources available with the Government of Pakistan, the PPMA exercised their good initiative and attended the inquiries of the business community, providing relief and comfort to the masses. Just to mention here that only two PPMA member companies alone treated 40,000 + Hospitals and Clinics etc. as one project all over Pakistan.

With the blessing of God Almighty, Pakistan has been amongst the few countries where the Corona virus has been eliminated almost 90%. We



are relatively at peace now. As the situation has improved, life is thus returning to normal [Editors: as of mid-November 2020, a second virus wave has occurred in Pakistan, albeit not as intense as the initial activity, although it has been more prolonged than the initial wave].



The COVID-19 services are either discontinued or their services frequencies are reduced. Though there is reduction in Corona virus related business for the pest control industry, the regular business has also geared up and business has moved towards its normal standard.

CONCLUSION

While the COVID-19 pandemic was a curse



for the whole world, it has taught us many lessons as a community in general and for the pest management industry in particular. The lockdowns demanded patience and restraint from the communities, the death toll demanded courage and initiative from the pest controllers as the front line soldiers. Altogether, an outstanding example has been the sacrifices made by individuals for the human mankind, without prejudice, without cast and colour. The COVID-19 has asserted that the chances of success are greater when there is good team work. ■

This article is a summary of Mr Adamjee's presentation at the FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2020 Virtual 2020.

Mr. Ashraf Sattar Adamjee is President of the Pakistan Pest Management Association (PPMA).

PHILIPPINES

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PEST MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Daniilo L. Magpantay

In a study published on 14 September, 2020, **The Lancet**, a leading international medical journal, ranked the Philippines 66th out of 91 countries in suppressing COVID-19. At present, COVID-19 infection is still one of the highest across Southeast Asia.

With over eight months of lockdown, among the most affected are tourism and service industries



covering the pest management sector, and more establishments are susceptible of closure.

Sustainability of funds for public finances and services is affected with the drop in taxes and budgetary income.

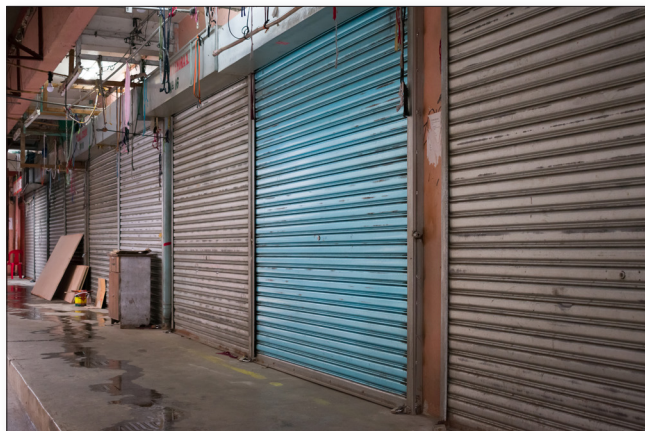


Impact on the Industry

The impact on the pest management sector will have long lasting effects, which should be taken seriously:

- Priority spending due to economic slowdown leads to lower demands on pest control services.
- A profit loss is expected because of short term contracts.
- Perimeter treatment is highly favored by clients.
- Lack of public transport results to low productivity.
- Low sales transactions and maintaining existing clients are primary issues that need addressing.

- Required swab testing is an added financial burden to business owners. Furthermore, treatment for COVID-19 is expensive.



Challenges Facing the Industry

Having limited operation and less income, then we have to find ways to increase our revenues by:

- Embracing new trends on hygiene management technologies aside from the usual pest control work, and focusing on other disease vectors amidst the pandemic.
- Reducing unnecessary cost and unproductive business undertakings, among many others business modifications.
- Focusing demands on health care and food manufacturing facilities to protect stored products against pests due to shortage of supplies affecting global market.

Business Initiatives under the New Normal

Investing in digital technology by transforming the business environment is highly conducive to the current demands.

Industry associations are now hosting virtual trainings against COVID-19 being sponsored by our chemical suppliers.

Around 75% of our members are now conducting COVID-19 disinfection services and more are joining as front liners against the virus.

Finally, the need to reopen the economy and prevent the spread of virus by having a good understanding of COVID-19 through virtual conferences like this is highly essential, and

everyone must act with more responsibility in simply keeping social distancing, wearing masks and observing basic hygiene combined with all efforts of the government and the global community to stop COVID-19. ■

This article is a summary of Mr Magpantay's presentation at the FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2020 Virtual Conference.

Danilo L. Magpantay is President of the The United Pest Management Association of the Philippines (TUPMAPHILS).

TAIWAN

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PEST MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY IN TAIWAN

Hsiu-Hua Pai

Taiwan currently has (as of 28/Oct/2020) **550 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 7 deaths, which is 458 from abroad and 55** from local transmission. There have been no local cases for 180 consecutive days in Taiwan, which shows that our government had controlled this virus well.

One of the key factors for the success of this epidemic prevention was thanks to the experience of SARS in 2003. SARS coronavirus (SARS-CoV) – virus was identified in 2003. SARS-CoV is thought to be an animal virus from an as-yet-uncertain animal reservoir, perhaps bats, that spread to other animals (civet cats) and first infected humans in the Guangdong province of southern China in 2002. Transmission of SARS-CoV is primarily from person to person. It appears to have occurred mainly during the second week of illness, which corresponds to the peak of virus excretion in respiratory secretions and stools, and when cases with severe disease start to deteriorate clinically. Most cases of human-to-human transmission occurred in the health care setting, in the absence of adequate infection control precautions. Implementation of appropriate infection control practices brought the global outbreak to an end. Transmission in

Taiwan stopped by quarantine and international cooperation, including formulating hospital standard operating procedures, using medical techniques to quickly detect, isolate and treat patients, environmental disinfection and people's epidemic prevention education, due to the cooperation of the people, and adjusting the prevention strategies with the epidemic. Therefore, the COVID-19 outbreak in Taiwan has been well controlled in the beginning.

At the beginning of the epidemic, the Environmental Protection Administration, Executive Yuan, compiled guidelines for the disinfection of the COVID-19 community epidemic prevention public environment disinfection guidelines, and recommended the internal public environment disinfection and epidemic prevention measures, public space in community places should be kept clean at all times. Disinfection focus includes: community doors, ladder halls, elevators, stairs, gyms, reading rooms and multi-functional activity space and other public areas door handles, handrails, washrooms, megaphone knobs, and all kinds of air-conditioning. Other public units (e.g. campuses, parks, public toilets, etc.) include the park's activities and public toilets, and staff will often come into contact with the surface (such as the ground, tables and chairs, telephones and other surfaces of frequent contact, as well as toilet surfaces such as faucets, toilet doorknobs, toilet covers and flush grips), and they need disinfection' the frequency is to be at least once a day.

Many pest control services were curtailed during the COVID-19 crisis due to lockdown restrictions and business closures. It is believed that this along with the lower numbers of people on the streets in recent months as well as a reduction in food waste from restaurants has encouraged more rats to come into the open in search of food. As a result, more homes and businesses will require pest control services to deal with infestations. On the other side, at the beginning of the epidemic, the demand for disinfection equipment and other equipment like protective clothing has increased, and the demand for disinfection has increased by 30%. As a result of the sudden surge in disinfection demand, PCO manpower demand

increased, and PCO protection materials demand also increased.

Pest control operators are worried about their health and safety when the execution of the business is exposed to a dangerous situation. Fortunately, in response to demand, with the increase training of PCOs with sufficient prevention and treatment materials, and the cooperation of the people to prevent the epidemic, all the epidemic prevention work can be carried out smoothly.

The COVID-19 outbreak in Taiwan was well controlled at the beginning. So, travel, commercial business, and daily life on the island remain normal now, and no schools closed due to COVID-19. Most people became used to wearing face masks, washing hands frequently, and keeping up a social distance in public spaces. The income of PCOs increased by 30% compared over the same period compared with the previous year. Overall, due to the COVID-19 epidemic, the increase in environmental hygiene requirements have also increased the performance of the PCO. For pest control companies, the COVID-19 pandemic has certainly had an impact on the way that business is conducted. While most municipalities have deemed pest control to be an essential service, businesses still need to modify their business practices in order to remain efficient, profitable, and productive in the wake of the pandemic and to move forward. ■

This article is a summary of Prof Pai's presentation at the FAOPMA-Pest Summit 2020 Virtual Conference.

Prof. Hsiu-Hua Pai is the Professor from the Department of Kinesiology, Health, and Leisure Studies, National University of Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and President of Taiwan Environmental Pest Management Association.

THAILAND

THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE PEST MANAGEMENT INDUSTRY IN THAILAND

Supanut Kiatyingpracha

COVID-19 hit Thailand in early 2020.
Government action stemmed infections,
but the impact on the economy and society in
2020, and beyond, will be large.

Timeline: Covid-19 in Thailand

January 2020

- 3 Jan, Activation of The Department of Disease Control's Emergency Operations Centre and Incident Command System.
- 31 Jan, first local transmission.

March 2020

- 13 Mar, two clusters of cases are detected in Bangkok.
- 17 Mar, Thailand closes high risk places & business.
- 24 Mar, Thailand declares state of emergency.

April 2020

- 2 Apr, a curfew is implemented in Thailand and people are banned from leaving their home 10pm to 4am nationwide.
- 2 Apr, Thailand suspends incoming flights.

May 2020

- 3 May, first phase of easing lockdown restrictions.
- 17 May, second phase of easing lockdown restrictions.

Impact of COVID-19 on the Thai economy

Thailand's economy is expected to be impacted severely by the COVID-19 pandemic, shrinking by at least five percent in 2020 and taking more than two years to return to pre-COVID-19 GDP output levels, according to the World Bank's latest Thailand Economic Monitor, released today (17/ Nov/2020). The COVID-19 pandemic shocked the economy especially in the second quarter of 2020 and has led already to widespread job losses, affecting middle-class households and the poor alike.

While Thailand has been successful in stemming the tide of COVID-19 infections over the last three months, the economic impact has been severe.

The tourism sector, which makes up close to 15 percent of Thailand's GDP, has been hit hard, with a near cessation of international tourist arrivals since March 2020.

Exports are expected to decline by 6.3 percent in 2020, the sharpest quarterly contraction in five years, as demand for Thai goods abroad remains weakened by the global slowdown. Household consumption is projected to decline by 3.2 percent as movement restrictions and dwindling incomes limit consumer spending, especially in the second quarter of 2020.

An estimated 8.3 million workers will lose employment or income by the COVID-19 crisis, which has put many jobs, in particularly those related to tourism and services, at risk. The report finds that the number of economically insecure, or those living below USD\$5.50 per day (in purchasing power terms), is projected to double from 4.7 million people in the first quarter to 9.7 million people in the second quarter of 2020. In particular, the share of economically insecure middle-class households with workers in the manufacturing and services sector will rise by three-fold, from 6 percent to 20 percent (Source: World Bank).

Thailand Government and Institution Measures in Response to COVID-19

Liquidity boosting for labor in affected industries:

- Cash support of THB 5,000 for 3 months starting Apr to Jun 2020 for labor, temporary workers, and freelance not registered under Social Security System (SSS). Individuals under SSS will received 50% of previous salary (but not exceeding the maximum salary of THB 15,000 per month) if the employer temporary halt employment.
- Cash support of THB 5,000 for 3 months starting May to July 2020 for farmers.
- Special loan of 10,000 per person, 0.1% interest rate, no collaterals needed.
- Special loan of 50,000 per person, 0.35% interest rate, collaterals required.
- Loans to government pawn shops to further boost liquidity for lower income citizens.
- Grace period provided for principal payments

and consideration for reduction in interest per customer for personal loans, hire purchase and leasing loans, house loans, Small and Medium Enterprise loans, microfinance, and nano-finance. The details of relief measures and conditions vary depending on each bank/non-bank (Source: KPMG).

Impact of COVID 19 on Thailand's Pest Control Businesses

Six months after WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, a survey of the pest management industry indicated the following findings:

Finances and business:

- Slightly affected,
- We are experiencing slow payment collection from customers,
- We are implementing an operational cost-reduction strategy to our business.

PCO business been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic in the last 6 months:

- Customers in corporate market: 16-30%,
- Customers in domestic household market: below 15%.

Changes in workforce and employees:

- Heightening health-and-safety practices of employees,
- Labor shortages in PCO business.

Thailand Pest Management Association (TPMA) Support Members & Social Responsibilities:

Support: In response to the pandemic and isolation measures put in place in most countries, TPMA are offering free online training for all member for two times:

- Dengue: virus, fever and mosquitoes
- How to keep insects away from house.

Social Responsibility: TPMA donated money to hospital and public health agencies for fighting COVID-19 pandemic an amount of 1,000,000 baht (USD\$33,000).

Summary

Pest control is necessary during COVID-19 pandemic in both residential and commercial settings, especially when it comes to food, as cockroaches, rodents and insects transmit diseases to you and your pets. Pest control still important to keep the community safe and healthy. ■

This article is a summary of Mr Kiatyingpracha's presentation at the FAOPMA-Pest Summit Virtual 2020 Conference.

Supanut Kiatyingpracha is President of the Thailand Pest Management Association (TPMA).



Coming in May 2021!

Biology and Management of the

German Cockroach



Editors: Changlu Wang, Chow-Yang Lee, Michael K. Rust

MORE DETAILS IN THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE FAOPMA MAGAZINE