

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre Webinar Series

INNOVATIVE RESPONSES TO COVID-19: CONCRETE EXAMPLES FROM KOREA



Webinar #2

CRITICAL ROLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN TACKLING COVID-19: EXAMPLE OF THE SEOUL METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

Monday, 4 May 2020

17:00-17:45 PM Seoul

15:00-15:45 PM Bangkok

JOIN US!

<https://undp.zoom.us/j/98170955817>

MAIN PRESENTER

Dr. Baeg-ju Na

Director-General of Civil Health Bureau,
Seoul Metropolitan Government



Introduction

Dr. Stephan Klingebiel

Director

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

CRITICAL ROLE OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT

- Closest to people
- Delivering necessary information and basic services & opportunities to citizens
- Implementing national policies & piloting innovative policies for scale up

➔ All the more important in times of crisis like COVID-19





Key Aspects of Seoul Metropolitan Government's Fight Against COVID-19

Dr. Baeg-ju Na

**Director General of Civil Health Bureau,
Seoul Metropolitan Government**

HOW SEOUL MANAGED TO CONTAIN THE CRISIS

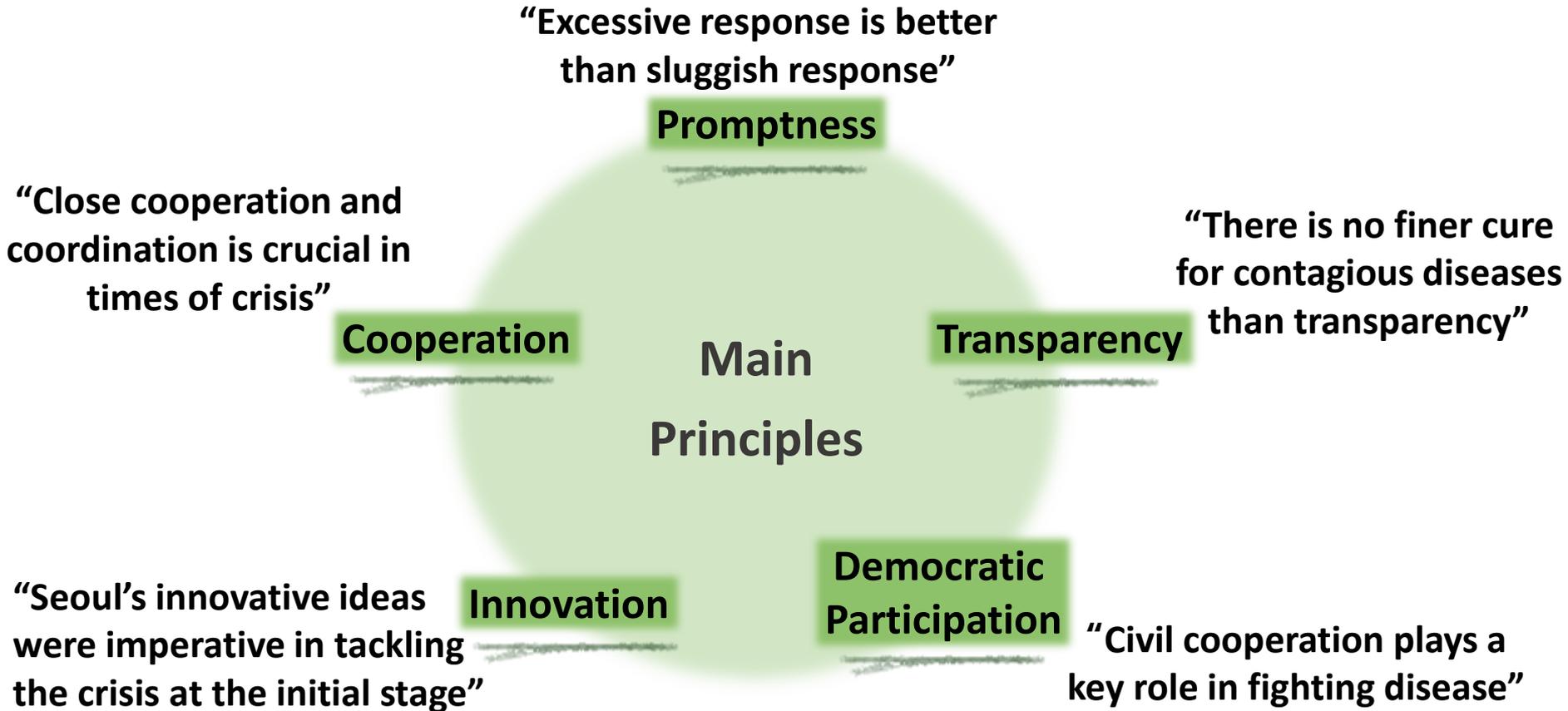
COVID-19 cases reported in Seoul (19 Jan - 21 Apr)



Photo Accumulative statistics of confirmed cases in Seoul

“
The Seoul Metropolitan Government will actively share the lessons learned from the response to COVID-19 with the global community to jointly address the current crisis
 ”
 Mr. Won-soon Park, Mayor of Seoul

SEOUL'S UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES



PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

Latest updates and transparent information on its website

Number of Confirmed Cases by District of Seoul



Photo A map of Seoul with the number of confirmed cases by district (as of 20 April)

COVID-19 Dashboard



Photo (right) COVID-19 dashboard providing statistical information

PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF COVID-19 RELATED INFORMATION

Patient Number	Infection Point	Diagnosis date	Area of Residence	Quarantined Facility
#10681	Under investigation	19.04	Gangseo-gu	Seoul National University Hospital
19 April	15:00 Home → Screening Center in Seoul National University Hospital → 16:00 Home			
20 April	09:00 Tested Positive → 11:30 Home → Seoul National University Hospital			
Source: Gangseo District Office's Website				

Photo Whereabouts of patient #10681

CREATIVE MEANS OF COVID-19 SCREENING AND TESTING

Multiple Screening and Testing technology channels:

Clinic



Drive-Through



Walk-Through
Testing Station



Total Testing in Seoul: **111,888** (April 28)

How did Seoul achieve high daily testing capacity?

- **Mix and matched** available testing technologies
- **Promptly adopted innovative ideas** into accessible services for local residents

CREATIVE MEANS OF COVID-19 SCREENING AND TESTING

DRIVE-THROUGH SCREENING SITES

Reception

Distribution of medical questionnaire



Medical Interview

Review of medical questionnaire



Specimen Collection

Temperature check & examination by doctor



Results Notification

Notification via phone call or message within 2-3 days



From an idea to implementation

- Early adoption of Drive-Through innovation since March 3

Using existing local infrastructure

- 4 Drive-Through sites built in public parking lot, hospital, sports complex, and a safety center in Seoul.

➔ **6,666** Seoul citizens tested at Drive-Through screening stations (April 27th)

➔ **6** confirmed cases

ACCOMMODATING LESS SEVERE PATIENTS

Shortage of negative pressure hospital rooms

- Patients waitlisted to be hospitalised in Gyeongbuk region where confirmed cases grew exponentially

Living and Treatment Center

- Target patients:
 - COVID-19 patients with mild symptoms or no symptoms
 - People in need of isolation period after being discharged from negative pressure rooms

Securement of additional treatment space

- Accommodation of patients of all level of severity, while reserving negative pressure rooms for the most serious cases

ACCOMMODATING LESS SEVERE PATIENTS

LIVING & TREATMENT CENTER

Example: Taerung National Training Center



Training center for
national sports teams
and athletes



COVID-19 Treatment Center
with
200 rooms (210 patients)

52 public officials
18 infectious disease
specialists
and nurses
Daily Check-Up with doctor

CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

SEOUL'S SOCIAL DISTANCING CAMPAIGN

- Campaign posters in Korean, plus 5 different languages were distributed through multiple platforms



[Poster in French]

[Poster in Chinese]





Quick Commentary

Ms. Ahjung Lee

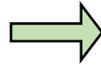
Policy Specialist, Head of Governance Team

UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

LESSON 1:

Successful crisis response is neither free nor by chance!

MERS Outbreak in 2015
(Middle East Respiratory Syndrome)



163 confirmed cases with 38 deaths

KEY LESSONS learned from MERS:

Swift & rigorous response in the initial stage

Transparency and cooperation

Public hospital capacity

Innovation & capacity in epidemiological study & testing

INSTITUTIONALIZATION
of lessons learnt

Legal framework for
the Korea's disease-
prevention policy

Basis for Seoul's
underlying principles

Our lesson → Need to analyze the lessons from COVID-19 crisis and make necessary investments to institutionalize them for future preparedness

LESSON 2:

Disclosure of public information & citizen engagement is key

Public Information Disclosure



Citizen Engagement & Solidarity

1. Information as key tool for **public empowerment**
 2. Prevention of social panic and enhanced **public trust**
- Help prevent spread of COVID-19 **without complete social lockdown**

Our lesson → institutionalize the culture of transparency in “peace time” and invest in the information disclosure infrastructure in local governance





Q & A