**Reflections on the Covid-19 Pandemic and Some Aviation Recommended Responses**

I was in Aviation for 38 years in Malaysia.

I recall the time when SARS made its appearance in 2002 and 2003, it had its origins in Southern China and spread to about 25 countries. This is when Public Health Officials came into the picture and various measures to combat the spread of SARS were instituted. There was an international response and the World Health Organisation issued a Global Alert on 12 March 2003 and issued an Emergency Travel Advisory on 15 March 2003. Epidemiological Teams studied the risks, microbiologists, public health officials, virologists put in their best efforts to sort out this global public health emergency. Numerous Institutions worldwide offered assistance and helped the scientists and the research and medical teams to halt the spread of SARS.

Now, we have the Covid-19 Pandemic and its effects on the economy and lifestyle are just like the destruction left behind after a " hurricane". The world is on full alert but the brunt of it causing "economic damage", is tumultuous. The rush for an effective vaccine is ongoing and everyone is waiting with hope. While most of the world's borders are sealed off from travel in all modes (air, sea, road and rail) and populations have come to live with the "New Norm" of wearing face masks, social distancing and using sanitisers, as well as the recording of body temperatures at various establishments, working from home, online instruction taking over classroom teaching and various other measures, depending on the respective countries policies.

The Aviation Industry has been affected severely due in part to International Travel being squeezed to a trickle. Many aviation jobs have been lost and Airlines are struggling after the furloughs and retrenchments. During this period, it will be a good idea to keep a data bank of the employees so that when the aviation industry picks up, these employees should be the first to be given re-employment opportunities.

I opine that when the Aviation Industry teeters to normality, the essential skills of the employees who have been furloughed or re-employed, need to be given very intensive training so that their skill sets are re-ignited in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the organisation. Such programmes must further solidify the formal training they have had before whilst “on the job experience" will help them to regain their skills. The Aviation Industry can, on a continuous basis, provide the training through various online means, webinars and company broadcasts through the Company intranet, or selected social media, if applicable.

Staff who have been retrenched should be given the opportunity to enroll for courses and skills that will encompass the 4th Industrial Revolution. Aviation Companies can pay for the training or their studies or contribute a major part of the funding. In this manner, these unfortunate employees will have a chance to benefit from the changing landscape of employment and continue to be productive individuals, in their new found roles, that will benefit society as well as the country, and restore dignity and pride in the individual. Some financial or re-skilling assistance for budding entrepreneurs amongst these staff can also be offered.

It will be advisable for all Aviation Companies to form a World Aviation Health Alliance, to cooperate and share knowledge on prevention, risks, safe hygienic measures and to take pro-active measures working with Public Health Officials Worldwide to ensure safe travels, and at the same time looking forward to healthy air travel competition.

These are some of my reflections and thoughts

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