Coronavirus: The Great Disruption

Can humanity make U-turns?

The coronavirus pandemic has underlined the importance of supporting multilateral organisations like the World Health Organisation, rather than progressively weakening them.

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For The Straits Times

Humility is supposed to be the most intelligent species on planet Earth. This species has just experienced, through Covid-19, one of the biggest shocks since World War II.

Thousands are dying daily, not though war or famine (the usual causes) but through a new disease caused by a novel coronavirus that has effectively left humanity defenceless. No cure or vaccine is immediately available.

The rapid spread of Covid-19 reveals that all humanity now live in the same boat, a boat akin to the B-rafted Diamond Princess cruise off Japan.

The big question is how humanity now faces in a simple one: is it intelligent enough to learn the big lessons from Covid-19 and, if necessary, make meaningful and urgent changes for the future?

So how can we make U-turns?

First, we can make U-turns by means of multilateralism. Multilateralism is now in the news. People are now talking about it. It is time for us to think about it, to make it more meaningful and effective.

Second, we can make U-turns by means of global governance. Global governance is needed more than ever before. We need a new way of thinking about global governance.

Finally, we can make U-turns by means of global health governance. Global health governance is needed more than ever before. We need a new way of thinking about global health governance.

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The coronavirus pandemic rages across the world, taking a huge toll on lives and economies. Already touted as the biggest global crisis since World War II, it has forced countries to take unprecedented measures – slamming borders shut, quarantining millions, shutting down workplaces and schools, and giving out massive stimulus and job rescue packages.

As the crisis unfolds, experts are watching with awe the way countries and organizations have handled the crisis. Some have responded quickly and effectively, while others have been slow to act.

In the United States, for example, the government has been criticized for its slow response to the pandemic, which has led to a surge in cases and deaths. The government has also been criticized for its handling of the PPE supply chain, which has led to shortages of essential medical supplies.

In contrast, countries like South Korea and China have been praised for their rapid response to the pandemic and their effective use of contact tracing and isolation measures. These countries have been able to control the spread of the virus and prevent a second wave of infections.

In the end, the coronavirus pandemic has shown the importance of global cooperation and multilateralism. The world is facing a crisis that requires a global response, and it is up to all of us to work together to overcome it.