



**Dear Asia Scotland Institute Members & Followers,**

**The Asia Scotland Institute wishes its sponsors, members and followers a good week.**

**Last week Lord Jim O'Neill, Baron O'Neill of Gatley, Chair of Chatham House, kindly conducted an exclusive video interview with Roddy Gow, Chairman Asia Scotland Institute on a broad range of topics covering his deep understanding of pandemics, economics and geopolitics in the context of COVID 19. The video now has been published on our Youtube Channel and other social media platforms. Please check the following link to view the full interview: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRbqOZ1WSLg>.**

**Lord O'Neill also wrote an article this week exploring a theme he raised in his vidcast with the Institute about whether equity markets are correct in defying the popular narrative about a coming Great Depression-scale downturn. This interesting article was published by Project Syndicate and is here :<http://www.asiascot.com/blog-post/reading-the-covid-19-market/>**

Doug Cook  
Institute Director

Health



**Taiwan:** We explore Taiwan's approach to COVID 19 in an interview given by Vice President Chen, a veteran epidemiologist before entering politics, to the BBC on 8 April in which he shares Taiwan's experience of the virus and highlights the need for international cooperation. <http://www.asiascot.com/news/2020/04/12/taiwans-response-covid-19-vice-president-chen-talks-bbc-4-apr-20/> . The Institute expects to bring you more on this in a video interview with Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare next week.



**Singapore:** With thanks to our colleagues in the Asia Society Policy Institute we bring to you this video where the Honourable Kevin Rudd speaks with Professor Yok-Ying Teo, dean of the Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health at the National University of Singapore, about the country's handling of Coronavirus: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRhrzyQcELQ&mc\\_cid=861ba83b8b&mc\\_eid=e4cc7c5470](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRhrzyQcELQ&mc_cid=861ba83b8b&mc_eid=e4cc7c5470)



**India:** Clearly the challenges of COVID 19 are even greater in some countries and this is particularly true of India. This article on India's fight against COVID 19 by Shailaja Chandra and published by the Quint provides reasons for optimism: <https://www.thequint.com/voices/opinion/shailaja-chandra-on-covid-19-response-indian-govt-public-administration-crisis-management>



**New Zealand:** Anna Fifield in this article in the Washington Post on 7 April explains how New Zealand isn't just flattening the curve,, but it's squashing it: <http://www.asiascot.com/?p=5295&preview=true>

## Business & the Economy



With thanks to our colleagues at the Asia Society, we reproduce here Asia Society Policy Institute Senior Fellow Richard Maude talking with Daniel Russel, its Vice President of International Security and Diplomacy in a video interview about the **effect of the virus on Southeast Asia**, where many countries struggle with weak public health systems, deep pockets of poverty, crowded cities, and significant migrant worker

flow: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNdsedifBEk&mc\\_cid=861ba83b8b&mc\\_eid=e4cc7c5470](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNdsedifBEk&mc_cid=861ba83b8b&mc_eid=e4cc7c5470)

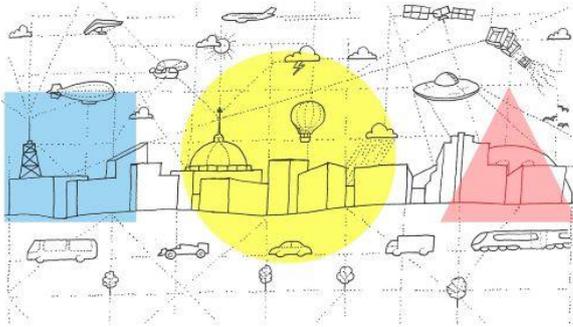
This article, by Patrick Wintour, the Guardian's Diplomatic Diplomatic, featured in the Guardian on 11 April explores the **extent to which state responses to the virus are shifting the balance of power between China and the**

**West.** <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/apr/11/coronavirus-who-will-be-winners-and-losers-in-new-world-order>

A Brookings article featured on our website persuasively argues that **fears of a China global takeover are greatly exaggerated.** <http://www.asiascot.com/?p=5299&preview=true>

COVID 19 has not only been devastating for public health, it has also caused economic downturns across the globe, with fears of recession abounding. Many countries are still grappling with the virus but China has begun its trek toward economic recovery. **The economic impact of Coronavirus on China, Asia, and the World** will be explored in an Asia Society webinar on 14 April 1300 hrs UK Local. More details here: <https://asiasociety.org/policy-institute/events/webcast-economic-impact-coronavirus-china-asia-and-world>

## Supply Chains & Transportation



The **transportation-and-logistics sector** is especially susceptible to economic shocks. Mckinsey & Company offer an interesting article from their Insight team on how organisations can prepare for a smoother ride: <http://www.asiascot.com/news/2020/04/12/resilience-transport-logistics/>

## Science & Technology



With thanks to our supporter, Brookings we explore **Automation and Artificial Intelligence** and how machines are affecting people and places. The COVID-19 outbreak has spurred considerable news coverage about the ways artificial intelligence (AI) can combat the pandemic's spread. But Alex Engler argues in this article that much of this coverage has failed to be appropriately skeptical about the claims of AI's value. - AI has a role to play, but its effect on the outbreak is probably small: <http://www.asiascot.com/news/2020/04/12/5310/>



## Scotland & Asia

**Exploring the remote realities of China's Belt and Road** - The Asia Scotland Institute is delighted to announce it will shortly publish an article about Ankur Shah, a Chinese and Russian studies graduate from the University of Edinburgh who is currently a Yenching Scholar at Peking University, where he researches China-Russian relations. Ankur spent August and September 2019 driving along the entire 4,300 km China-Russia border to find out the realities of China's 'Belt and Road'. Ankur has written for the Economist, UNESCO, and the Center for Strategic and International Studies, we will feature his article in the Nikkei Asia Review .

## Culture & the Arts

The Asia Scotland Institute is delighted to show this video from **Michael Goedhuis on the artist Qiu Deshu**. Over the last 20 years, Michael has established himself as a pioneer in the field of modern and contemporary Chinese art. More recently, his focus has been on Chinese Contemporary Ink Art and hence his interest in the art of Qiu Deshu, one of the few Chinese artists to have inspired international recognition since the 1980s. Michael explains Qiu Deshu's signature style of work called "fissuring" (liebian) is a pictorial metaphor for the artist's life and his artistic career, both of which have experienced dramatic disruptions and setbacks. In these works, he applies vivid colors to xuan paper, which he tears up and then mounts the fragments to a base layer, often leaving space between to create a pictorial field with the "cracks" that he feels are symbolic of life's journey. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7PsqiaFLvNO>

**Coming  
Soon**

## **Upcoming Events & Online Activities**

Looking ahead, we will shortly bring to you a fascinating video interview with Mr Stephen King, Senior Economist, HSBC talking about his views on the significance and outcomes of COVID 19. We also expect to interview a senior Health Department official in Taiwan to discover in more detail about their successful management of the virus. We have Sir Clive Johnstone KBE, CB, the Head of Strategy, Capability and Innovation for BMT Limited, lined up for a talk later in the year, but we hope to have him produce a vidcast shortly on how COVID 19, post Brexit trade, the environment and global insecurity will affect maritime business (in all its forms). Additionally, we anticipate similar vidcasts from: Kevin Rudd , former Prime Minister for Australia speaking on US /China relations post the US election and on 'leadership in turbulent times'; Jaqueline Novogratz (ACUMEN Fund) on impact investing and tackling poverty whilst assisting today's leaders to navigate the economic environment; Suneel Bakhshi on risk and contemporary economics; and Sir Martin Sorrell (ex WPP and now Executive Chairman of S4 Capita) on how successful businesses are created and the opportunities of the Asian markets in the current climate.