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Most Immediate

Email Message

From: Pahic Singapore  
To: Foreign Islamabad  
Rptd (i) Parep Jakarta (ii) EAD Islamabad  
No: Pol-19/2020  
Dated: 06 February 2020

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Director General (EAP) from Deputy High Commissioner

Repeated to: (1) Defence Attaché, Parep Jakarta  
(2) Section Officer (SEA), EAD

Subject: Singapore's Response to Novel Coronavirus Outbreak.

Singaporean Ministry of Health organized a briefing for the foreign missions to update them about the latest situation of Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) outbreak and precautionary measures being taken by the local authorities. The World Health Organization (WHO) declared the Coronavirus outbreak as a public health emergency on 30 January 2020. There were 23,718 infected cases and 492 reported deaths in Mainland China and 214 infected cases and 02 deaths reported outside Mainland China (as on 5 February 2020).

2. Main points of the briefing are summed up below:

Situation in Singapore

- i. The first case of Novel Coronavirus was reported on 23 January 2020. As of February 4, there were 24 confirmed cases and 289 tested negative. Media reported another 4 confirmed cases on 5 February 2020, including a six-month baby. All confirmed cases were either travellers from Wuhan, China or they had close contacts with recent travellers from China.
- ii. Singapore has constituted a Multi-Ministry Taskforce on Novel Coronavirus, co-chaired by Health Minister, Gan Kim Yong and Minister of National Development, Lawrence Wong. It comprises representation from all Ministries and departments, including manpower, education, transport, communications and environment.

Precautionary Measures in Singapore

- i. Singapore has ceased flights from and to Wuhan with effect from 23 January 2020 and has issued a travel advisory for citizens to avoid unnecessary travel to Mainland China.
- ii. All visitors (irrespective of nationality) who have been to China in past 14 days are not allowed entry into Singapore with effect from 1 February 2020.
- iii. Temperature screening of all passengers at all entry points of Singapore, including airports, land routes and seaports, is mandatory.

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- iv. There is compulsory leave from work for 14 days and confinement at home in place for Singapore citizens, Permanent Residents and long-term Pass Holders who have travelled to China in past 14 days.
- v. All visas issued to Chinese nationals from Wuhan or who have passports issued in Wuhan, have been cancelled.
- vi. Additional precautionary measures such as restriction on congregations in schools and elder care facilities are placed to protect children and old people from the infection due to high risk.

#### Information for Visiting Delegations

- i. The visiting delegations are requested to exercise social responsibility while visiting Singapore. Any person who feels sick or have travelled to China in past 14 days should avoid travel to Singapore.
- ii. Once in Singapore, any person who feels sick is advised to stay at hotel/accommodation and seek appointment with a doctor/ hospital.
- iii. If a person is quarantined for the coronavirus, Singapore government will carry his/her treatment at the nearest government hospital. He/she can leave the hospital only if the treatment is complete and virus test results are negative.
- iv. Responding to queries on cancellation of seminars/meetings etc, the representative briefed that it was continuously evolving situation and if the virus spreads fast, the government may take further precautionary measures, including cancellation of seminars, exhibitions, meetings, etc.

#### Coordination with Foreign Missions

- i. Singaporean authorities will inform the concerned Missions if any of their citizens is tested positive for the virus.
  - ii. They will also share details of contact person for the foreign missions, for smooth sharing of information and coordination.
  - iii. Singapore government will not provide medical masks to foreign nationals. However, they can buy the masks themselves or their missions may provide them.
3. The Ministry is requested to share the information with all concerned authorities, if deemed appropriate.

*Respectful regards!*



(Saeed ur Rahman)

Deputy High Commissioner