

From The Editor

Received 23 December 2021 ; accepted 23 December 2021
doi:10.46475/aseanjr.v22i3.160

Thailand has passed the COVID-19 crisis, and is facing a new challenge

It is October that the average of COVID-19 infection rate is lower to less than 10, 000 cases a day in Thailand after rocket-shooting to more than 20,000 cases a day in August, killing hundreds of people and 4 doctors, 2 of whom are radiologists. The decreasing rate persists to less than 5,000 cases a day in December and lives seem to return to normal in all parts of Thailand. The Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand (RCRT), in corporation with the Foundation for Orphan and Rare Lung Disease (FORLD), welcomed onsite participants in a hybrid-conference on high resolution computed tomography (HRCT) for the first time in this year, during 4-5 December 2021 in Bangkok, after cancellation of the hybrid 2021 annual meeting in March and monthly online activities were promoted instead. From the mentioned conference, the results from the discussions in the multidisciplinary working group for interstitial lung disease focusing on estimation of disease and fibrosis on HRCT are summarized in this issue.





A hybrid conference on HRCT in Bangkok during 4-5 December 2021, held by RCRT and FORLD.



And then the second hybrid radiological conference was the annual meeting of the Thai Society of Radiological Technologists (TSRT), during 19-21 December 2021, in Bangkok. To prepare for the International Society of Radiographers and Radiological Technologists (ISRRT) Word Congress which will be held in Bangkok in 2022, TSRT selected its best society ambassadors, namely, Miss Radiology Queens, in its onsite gala dinner, apart from 3 full days of academic activities.



Miss Radiology Queen and the editor at the Gala of the TSRT annual meeting.

RadioVolunteer, the teleradiology project run by radiologist volunteers, RCRT and J.F Advance Med Co, Ltd. [2], ended on 25 December 2021 after the interpretation of more than 280,000 chest radiographs for infected patients in 143 prisons across Thailand, several communities and field hospitals in Bangkok, and provinces in other parts of Thailand since 2 June 2021, a few weeks before the peak infection rate in August. It is believed that RadioVolunteer was a significant factor that saved the infected prisoners, reducing the case fatality ratio to approximately 0.12%, comparing to 0.98% in communities [1].



Mrs. Nipha Ngamtrairai, the director of prisons in Songkla, a province in the deep south of Thailand (left), the editor (middle), and Mr. Adisorn Taprig (right) at one of the participating prisons, representing government, non-profit and private sectors, in the RadioVolunteer project.



*RadioVolunteer in a prison (left)
and a community (above).*

Sixty-three tourists infected with the highly concerned Omicron variant of COVID-19 has been found in Thailand since 1 December. To balance between the economic contribution from tourism which accounted for around 20% of the gross domestic product (GDP) in 2019 [3], significantly higher than most other countries, and the prevention of another crisis from this fatal virus, the government is trying its best to find the epitome for the country.

Wiwatana Tanomkiat, M.D.
Editor,
The ASEAN Journal of Radiology
Email: aseanjournalradiology@gmail.com

References

1. Coronavirus disease 2019 Epidemic Administration Center, Ministry of the Interior (MCU) [Internet]. Bangkok: MCU; 2020 [cited 2021 Dec 23]. [COVID 19: Thailand situation]. Available from: <https://www.moicovid.com/23/12/2021/uncategorized/5947/>. Thai.
2. Tanomkiat W, Taprig A, Piyavisetpat N. RadioVolunteer, a novel combination of social, management and technological innovations by the Royal College of Radiologists of Thailand in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. ASEAN J Radiol [Internet]. 2021 [cited 2021Dec.27]; 22(2): 57-66. Available from: <https://www.asean-journal-radiology.org/index.php/ajr/article/view/146>.
3. Theparat C. Prayut: zones vital for growth. Bangkok Post [Internet]. 2019 Sep 19 [cited 2021 Dec 26]; Sect: Business. Available from: <https://www.bangkokpost.com/business/1753349/prayut-zones-vital-for-growth>.