COVID-19 has infected 8 million people so far.

It is currently believed that COVID-19 originated in a ‘wet market’ in Wuhan, China.

China is now being criticized for its handling of the disease; and is also being pursued for global reparations.

Why did the deadly virus thrive here?

• Unsanitary conditions in the market – handling, preparation, waste disposal.
• The types of goods being sold.
• Poor conditions helped the virus cross from animals to humans, infecting 8 million people so far.

Wet markets are a tradition and a way of life in South East Asia.

Almost any South East Asian country could be the source of a new virus.

February 07, 2020

“Any shutdown of wet markets would have a big socio-economic impact and must be done gradually as it may lead to increased food insecurity. Wet markets have been a part of life for many, many centuries. In 2020, they are still an essential part of the culture. Obviously, there are many challenges in the area of food safety, but with good practices, effective regulation and good inspection schemes, modernisation is possible.”

Masami Takeuchi, UN FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization).
WET MARKETS 2.0: AN INITIATIVE TO CREATE A SUSTAINABLE AND SAFE MARKET ENVIRONMENT IN ASEAN

Wet Markets 2.0: An initiative with many benefits

- Reduce risk of disease originating in markets
- Improve sanitation and working conditions
- Regulate food supply chain and certification
- Use market waste to create renewable energy
- Demonstrate ASEAN regional leadership
- Prove real commitment to address global health issues

Example of a Wet Markets 2.0 model


- Build <2000m² AD plant adjacent to market
- 70t/d organic market waste is hygienised for biogas production
- Optional for rooftop solar panels
- 6MWh/d market heating/cooling
- 5MWh/d electricity
- 42m³/d high quality liquid fertilizer
- 24t/d hygienized dry food (European standards CE 1069/09 and RCE 142/2011)

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