



TRƯỜNG ĐẠI HỌC MỎ - ĐỊA CHẤT
HANOI UNIVERSITY OF MINING AND GEOLOGY



COVID-19 AND CHALLENGES TO MIGRANT WORKERS IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINING COUNTRIES

Nga Nguyen
nguyenthihoainga@hmg.edu.vn

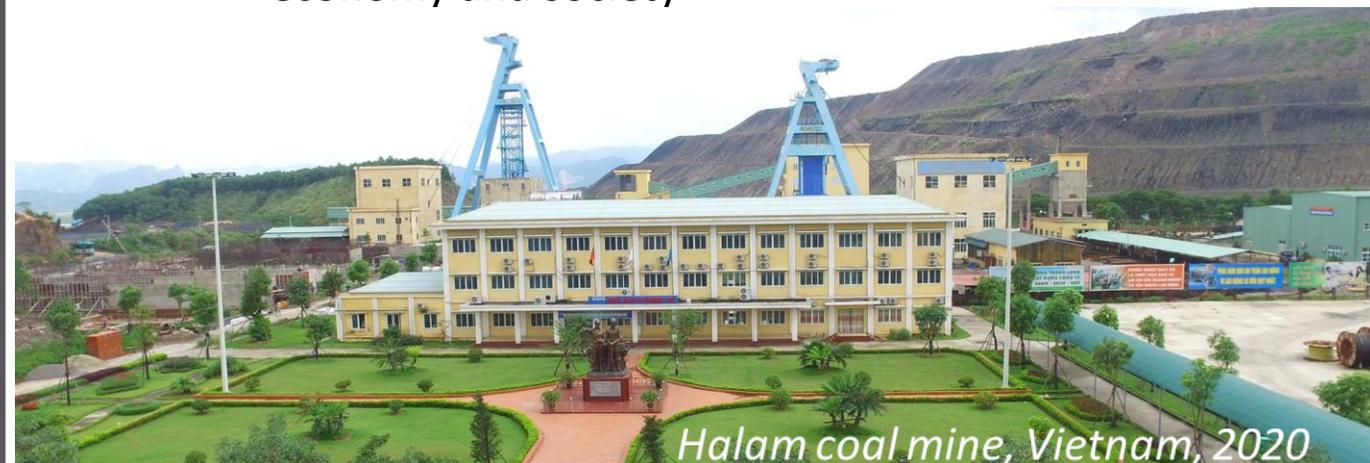
OUTLINE

- Mining in Southeast Asia
- How COVID-19 has changed the mining in Southeast Asia
- Migrant workers in the pandemic
- What can we do in the future?



MINING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- One of the primary growth drivers in Asia's economy
- A big employer of an intensive labor force
- Labor safety is a weakness
- A source of negative impacts to the environment
- A specific topic for media and social organizations given misperception about mining and its contribution to the economy and society



MINING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Indonesia: coal, nickel
- Laos: copper, nickel
- Malaysia: tin, bauxite
- Myanmar: tin, copper
- Philippines: copper, nickel, gold
- Thailand: zinc, tin
- Viet Nam: coal, bauxite, copper, tin

Humphrey, 2018



Contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (current price, %)

Country	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Indonesia	5.50	5.01	4.03	4.23	4.7
Laos	14.82	14.19	6.80	6.49	6.56
Myanmar	5.03	1.02	1.27 (Q1)	n/a	n/a
Thailand	n/a	3.47	2.94	2.58	n/a
Viet Nam (*)	11.00	10.82	9.61	8.12	7.46 (est.)

PricewaterhouseCoopers, Laos Statistic Bureau, Myanmar Statistical Information Service, National Statistical Office Thailand, Viet Nam Statistic Bureau, Author's calculation ()*

Masan Resources maintains indigenous culture and relief in the host community



MINING IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Development in the mining areas:
 - Infrastructure
 - Economic structure shift
 - Social contribution: education, childcare, healthcare, maintaining indigenous culture, etc
- Disadvantages:
 - Artisanal and small-scale mines
 - Less invest in safety and health management, using out-of-date technology



*A quarry mine
Central of Viet Nam, June 2020*

*Jade mining in Myanmar cost lives
(frontiermyanmar.net)*



HOW THE PANDEMIC HAS CHANGED US?

- Lockdown or social distances at national level
- Mining as a mass production must follow strict conditions
- Shift of workers from other sector to mining
- Lack of migrant workers on-site due to banned flights/closed immigration
- Prices and production of commodities decrease, except for coal and gold
- End of 2020, mines had to cut down the output due to decrease of demand

Workers in underground face higher risks, given mining requires large group of workers, who are transported down in narrow spaces of elevators

Temporary and less skillful workers face risks at work

Other risks can come from fly-in-fly-out workers, workers travel with public transport, limited health facilities on-site or the nature of jobs that need tool sharing

Mining companies scope financial issues, given the lost revenues and higher expenditures on salary, environment, health and safety management



*Halam coal company in Viet Nam invested a mobile chamber to sanitize all employees
March 2020*

SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINING COUNTRIES IN THE PANDEMIC

- Relevant figures

Country	Total cases	Active cases	Deaths/1M Pop	Tests/1M Pop	Population
Indonesia	1,781,127	93,393	179	58,478	276,106,612
Philippines	1,184,706	48,917	180	117,636	110,882,462
Malaysia	518,600	60,018	71	345,239	32,736,072
Myanmar	143,262	7,828	59	47,713	54,735,922
Thailand	135,439	8,052	38	186,961	51,308,699
Vietnam	5,561	2,723	0.4	31,507	98,121,100
Laos	1,822	687	0.3	31,852	7,369,726

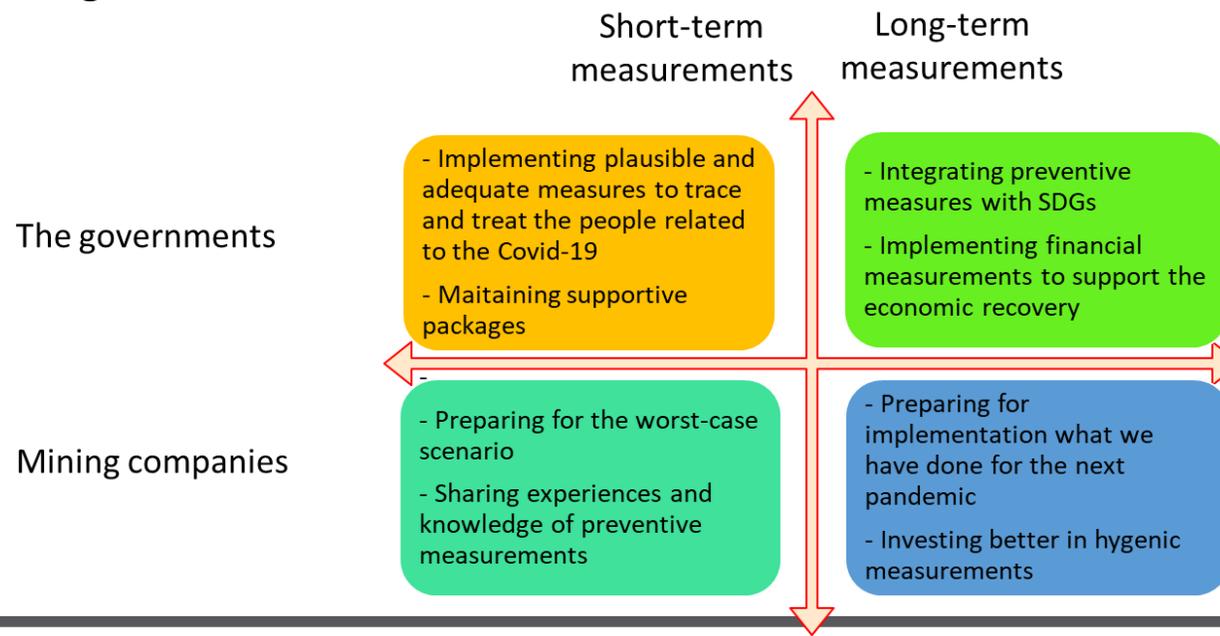
*Worldometers.info,
25 May 2021*

WHAT WE SHOULD DO

- Restructure of the labor force (temporary/migrant workers/expats/contractors)
- Maintenance stable income and social benefits of employees
 - Caring of financial conditions and mental health



Discipline and consensus of the coal miners, Pham Thanh Tung, 2020



WHAT WE SHOULD DO

“This is no longer only a global health crisis, it is also a major labor market and economic crisis that is having a huge impact on people. Everything needs to be done to minimize the damage to people at this difficult time.”

Guy Ryder, ILO’s Director-General





THANK YOU FOR LISTENING