

Covid-19 and the impacts on Southeast Asian mining countries

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ABSTRACT

Mining is one of the economic growth drivers in Southeast Asia. However, mining in Asia also has weaknesses in safety and health management, misperception from media and social organizations about the contribution of mining. On the one hand, mining supports the host community in developing infrastructure, transforming the economic structure, and maintaining indigenous culture. On the other hand, the large numbers of artisanal and small-scale mines in the area, investment in safety and health management, and the usage of out – of – date mining technology are significant disadvantages. Since January 2020, when the World Health Organization announced Covid-19 as the public health emergency of international concern, the whole has changed in a way that nobody could imagine. Mining companies' protocols have also changed to adapt to the situation of the pandemic to secure the safety and health of the labor force. In Southeast Asia, Thailand and Vietnam seem to be best practices in the prevention of Covid-19. Meanwhile, other mining countries such as the Philippines and Indonesia have suffered from high active cases shortages of workers due to the spread of the epidemic. The paper reviews impacts of mining in Southeast Asia, focusing on risks that the workers face at work, and the companies have to prevent. Other activities that the mining companies in Southeast Asia have implemented to deal with impacts of Covid-19, not only on physical but also on the mental health of the workers, are also mentioned.