Unlocking the Lockdowns of COVID-19 Pandemic in Malaysia: Impact Analysis of Moving to "New Normal" in Movement of People using I-O Framework

Shandre Mugan Thangavelu and Wing Thye Woo, Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia, Sunway University, Malaysia

The paper examines the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on the Malaysian economy. The paper provides an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic on the ASEAN countries and particularly on the Malaysian economy. The pandemic policies are discussed with respect to the Malaysian economy. The economic effects of COVID-19 Pandemic on output, trade and employment are highlighted in the paper. The paper discusses the phases of unlocking the lockdown in ASEAN and Malaysia. The paper undertakes the economic impact of the 'unlocking' of the lockdown in Malaysia with reference to the reciprocal travel 'bubble' between Singapore and Malaysia on the sectoral effects using the Input-Output framework. The paper examines the impact on GDP growth, investment and also employment recovery in the Malaysian economy.



Professor **Shandre M. Thangavelu** is currently the Vice-President of Jeffrey Cheah Institute for Southeast Asia and Senior Fellow at Jeffrey Sachs Centre for Sustainable Development at Sunway University, Malaysia. He also holds a joint appointment as Regional Director (Southeast Asia) at Centre for International Economic Studies, Institute of International Trade, University of Adelaide, Australia. Professor Shandre Thangavelu was also appointed into the Governing Board for the Work, Safety, Health Institute (WSHI) of Singapore. He is also the member of the Competition Commission Appeal Board in Singapore. Shandre Thangavelu was the Managing

Editor for Asian Economic Journal (AEJ) in 2009 and currently appointed as the Editor in 2018. He was also appointed as the Fellow of Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA) in 2017. Professor Shandre Thangavelu is an active researcher on human capital development, technology transfer, foreign direct investment, trade, government infrastructure investment, productivity and economic growth. He has written extensively in ASEAN integration, FDI, human capital development, technology transfer and economic growth and has published his research in major international journals. He has written several books on trade, investment, integration and outsourcing in Asia. He has also worked on several international projects commissioned by UNDP, World Bank, ASEAN Secretariat, APEC, and Asian Productivity Organization (APO). Currently, he is working on human capital dynamics and FDI activities at Cambodia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and Indonesia. Professor Shandre Thangavelu obtained his graduate degrees from Queen's University, Canada.