

## Stay Safe And Healthy Is A Must Do

While we take travel and international trade for granted, it is not so in reality.

The Covid-19 pandemic crystalized the situation, and, for an extended period, that travel and trade involving physical movement can be greatly impacted when borders are closed or being operated in reduced capacity.

Finding a balance between offering its people a “healthy life” with freedom to move around during the pandemic has been a hard task for every level of government in different countries. And, without the cooperation of its people to take measures to keep themselves and others safe, that balance cannot be achieved.

Let’s put our heads and actions together to fight the pandemic and to welcome a new normal in the not-so-distant future.

*Anita Tang, Managing Director*



## Pritzker Forum On Global Cities Reports On Adapting Governance In Pandemic

The fifth annual Pritzker Forum on Global Cities – co-hosted by the *Financial Times* and Chicago Council on Global Affairs – presented 15 journalists, mayors, and concerned observers in a live-streamed conference October 15, kicking off a year-long exploration of the problems facing cities today.

“Cities are in upheaval,” stated the Forum agenda. “The Covid-19 pandemic has transformed how people live and work in cities and deepened social and economic inequities. As communities around the world adopt and rebuild, how can the post-Covid city contribute to a more sustainable, equitable and resilient future?”

Over the next 12 months, through live-streamed programs, high-level workshops and digital content, “the Forum will explore the broader themes of Adapting Governance, Pursuing Equity (2/11/2021), Reimagining Resilience, (April 2021), and Changing Cities,

New Realities, (6/9-10/2021).”

Until this year, the Forum had been held for two days in June as a live conference in Chicago, with mayors addressing challenges that transcend national boundaries and climate change. The global health emergency joins their concerns.

### Adapting Governance

“As the world deals with the pandemic and eventually transitions into a post-Covid reality, can the city remain a key instrument and platform addressing global challenge?”

“Very much so,” was the answer from October’s program.

See page 2 for comments of the Mayors of Dublin, Palermo, Miami, Pittsburgh, Seattle, the President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, and the former Premier of New Zealand.

Forum videos can be accessed via Chicago Council on Global Affairs website, <https://www.thechicagocouncil.org/past-event-videos>.

*Photo credit: Chicago Council on Global Affairs.*



## Mayors Innovate, Cooperate, Plea For Aid In International Effort To Control Pandemic

The five mayors in the virtual, fifth annual Pritzker Forum on Global Cities revealed that cities could be crucial in helping control spread of Covid-19.

Most mayors had prepared early for the pandemic, found ways of adapting governance to serve citizens, relied on health-science experts, and were hampered by lack of federal leadership and funding.

**Pittsburgh** Mayor Bill Peduto struck a shared note. “We have to be proactive and get the job done.” He had to expand safety measures, “since our local government doesn’t oversee health. We expanded public health so our hospital system doesn’t fail. We made our convention center a makeshift hospital.”

There are three parties, Mayor Peduto said. “Democrat, Republican, and Mayors. We keep people safe and lessen the impact of the pandemic, and we have to pick up the garbage on Monday.”

**Miami** Mayor Francis X. Suarez, who had self-quarantined after testing positive for the virus, echoed that sentiment. “We are the Solutions Party. We have been forced to find solutions to deal with the pandemic. Solutions have been pushed down from the federal to state to city level. I’m now having conversations directly with Dr. Anthony Fauci (Federal infectious disease expert). We have hospital beds for quarantine or entire families get sick. We wear masks. It doesn’t harm the economy, and we got 3,500 infections a day down to 400.”

**Seattle** Mayor Jenny Durkan said, “There was no national leadership but people stepped up and we are taking best lessons from mayors all over the country. We were helped by a mayor in South Korea who provided test supplies. We are testing. We are staying at home.”

As had Pittsburgh and Miami, Seattle found its revenues “decimated.” Funds from the federal government did not flow to these cities as supposed, “an error” Mayor Suarez said that

needed correcting. They agreed that lack of federal leadership had caused a “scramble” between cities to get personal protective equipment.

**Dublin** Mayor Hazel Chu, among her stepped-up communications to citizens, turned traditional, monthly Lord Mayor awards to a year-long honoring of frontline workers, beginning with nursing home staff and volunteers in October.

**Palermo** Mayor Leoluca Orlando observed “The mayor is like an educational agency.” He led establishing a digital system for virus information and for training city employees, as well as furthering social distancing by improving pedestrian and cycle paths. Furthering mayoral interaction against the pandemic, in April, 2021, Palermo will host the Global Parliament of Mayors.

Former **New Zealand** Prime Minister Helen Clark, a committee member investigating the World Health Organization’s response to the pandemic, asked cities for help. “What went wrong? What works? Please step forward and tell us.”

As did Suzanne Clark, President, **U.S.** Chamber of Commerce. “Clear national guidelines are important. Mask wearing, social distancing, are important. If America is to get back to some semblance of normalcy, it can’t be done without your help. You know what your cities need. We invite you to work with us.”

Forum participants also included Ivo Daalder, President, Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Gillian Tett, Chair, Editorial Board Editor-at-Large *U.S.*, *Financial Times*; Jamil Anderlini, Peter Spiegel, *Financial Times*; Lori Lightfoot, Mayor, Chicago; Eric D. Hagan, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## Be Prepared For Mandatory Quarantine When You Are Traveling To China Today

Mainland China’s low Covid-19 infection is the result of careful planning and execution, as you begin to learn at Beijing’s international airports, where all officials are dressed in personal protective gear.

I went through the process myself at the Beijing Capital International Airport on September 21.

The check-in staff verified my Health Declaration ID and travel document, then an immigration officer escorted me and other passengers to a second checkpoint for a Covid-19 nucleic acid test of nasal and throat swab and to fill forms with personal health information.

We were handed a card, “Notice for Inbound Passengers to Beijing,” disclosing quarantine information and that we would be shuttled to a hotel for 14 days for medical observation.

After all the passengers on our flight had been tested, we picked up luggage from the carousel and rode one hour to our hotel in four coach buses, escorted by two police cars in front and two in back.

**Hotel staffers** dressed in personal protective gear unloaded our luggage as we remained seated, scanning the hotel QR code and registering. We exited buses in order of arrival and at the hotel desk were assigned rooms and paid for 14 days with three meals daily and an exit Covid-19 test. We signed a “Medical Observation Letter of Commitment,” agreeing to work with a medical team.

I was helped with my luggage to my room, and as the PPE-clad staffer closed the door without giving me a key card, I really understood I would not be leaving that room for two weeks.

The room was spacious, with two double beds. There would be no cleaning service, but there were cleaning supplies, toiletries, bottled water and I could call for whatever

else I might need. A thermometer with instructions lay on the bureau for me to record my temperature twice a day for the medical team sent via a QR code.

Meals were left on a small table by the door. The hotel accepted delivery of supplies (no food or cigarettes) and got them to us after inspection and disinfection. I was told I could not courier anything to a friend until after quarantine.

A card held contact information – including to the medical team – that could be used to make our stay more comfortable, and to that end I learned I could contact the desk manager via WeChat.

**I was impressed** that a representative from the community committee of my Beijing residence complex called within two hours of my hotel arrival informing me I should receive a quarantine release certificate and a Covid-19 nucleic acid test report upon completion of quarantine, and that I should send this paperwork via WeChat so that I would receive clearance to my residence from the complex’s door guards.

The medical team called every few days, took my temperature in person three times. On day 8, I was told of date and time I could leave the hotel. On that day, I took a taxi to my complex, was readily admitted, and was ready to work.

I’d got through the 14 days without much difficulty, as I was well informed by the authorities and well prepared by myself. Though there was a minimum human contact, the people – dressed in full gear – were kind, helpful and friendly. I checked emails, did some work, watched Chinese soap opera, bought things online, exercised, and gained weight.



*Suarez pointed to Miami’s dramatic example of social distancing. The stadium where its Dolphins play football holds 65,000 spectators. It’s limited to 13,000 sitting far apart. “They have taken a prudent route.”*



Anita Tang

## China Takes Census

China, on November 1, starts its seventh national census, with about seven million census takers going door to door to document demographic changes in the world's most populous country.

Carrying out the census is critical to understanding the population size, structure and distribution, said Ning Jizhe, deputy head of the National Development and Reform Commission, according to *Xinhuanet*.

The census collects data including the name, ID number,

gender, marital status, education, and profession of Chinese citizens. China has conducted a national population census every 10 years since the 1990s. The previous census found the population had increased to 1.37 billion.

“This time, digital devices and technologies such as smartphones, big data, and QR codes are playing an important role in gathering and processing the mammoth amount of population data in China.”



## Going Green Inspires

Erik Solheim, former undersecretary-general of the United Nations and executive director of the UN Environmental Program, said the concept of “lucid waters and lush mountains are invaluable assets” is now inspiring China and should inspire the entire world.

Solheim discussed the great opportunities in going green, “such as creating jobs and prosperity and creating a better future for mankind,” at the latest Vision China event, which was held as a part of the 10<sup>th</sup> Lanzhou Yellow River Cultural

Tourism Festival.

He had visited Zhejiang province a few years back and saw pollutants driving the river milky white. Children were not allowed to swim, and there were only factories, no people.

“Now all of this has changed and thousands upon thousand of tourists are coming to enjoy the beauty of nature and great cultural heritage.”

Solheim, reported *China Daily*, believes the river chief system can inspire the rest of the world as to how to get the cleanup of rivers right.

*Solheim: “China is the biggest solar and wind nation around the globe with much environmental experience to share with the world, such as the greening of deserts in Gansu province.”*



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*Your Cross-Border Strategist*

Address:  
980 North Michigan Avenue,  
Suite 1400  
Chicago, IL 60611, U.S.A.  
Telephone: 1-312-202-0389  
Fax: 1-312-896-5841  
Email: [info@rroots.net](mailto:info@rroots.net)  
Website: [www.rroots.net](http://www.rroots.net)

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