



## *Aviation industry impacted by COVID-19*

When the COVID-19 virus epidemic reached its peak, many industries were harmfully influenced. This pandemic has hit airlines hard, and many have said they will have to lay off thousands of workers, or place employees on leave without pay.

During lockdowns worldwide, thousands of flights were canceled. This impacted airlines, and some companies went bankrupt, and employees felt frustrated and dissatisfied. In response, many airlines have changed their traditional business models. Many domestic airlines are receiving compensation given by the government to make up for the lack of funds. In addition to such subsidies, some airlines are launching package tours, in order to attract tourists. This is a unique way to offer travel services during the COVID-19 epidemic. With these packages, airline companies are giving people chances to fly to nearby locations, which takes the pressure off of having to offer international flight services. These companies are also forming cross-industry alliances, such as with hotels, in order to help each other get through the crisis.

Although the pandemic situation has improved a great deal, it remains an international crisis. Before emerging from the crisis, governments will have to take appropriate measures to prevent the pandemic from spreading. Airlines must develop alternative action plans to maintain their operational integrity. In light of this, many airline companies are focusing on transporting freight instead of people, though transporting people will remain their principal consideration.

When it comes to the future prospects of the aviation industry, what is the first thing that comes to mind? Some people feel that when we can curb the transmission of the virus, the aviation industry undoubtedly will revive. Perhaps we can view the future prospects of this industry in two ways. First, preferential activities to attract customers must be developed. Second, airlines must transform in order to get through this difficulty.



Taiwan has had to deal with all of these problems. The Ministry of Economic Affairs unveiled details about subsidy programs on April 10th. The program was issued to ameliorate payroll and overhead costs for businesses whose income has dropped by at least 50 percent. The government will provide a monthly living subsidy of NT\$1,500 to elderly people, children, disabled workers and socially disadvantaged families for three months, which is expected to benefit one million people, according to Minister without Portfolio Kung Ming-hsin (龔明鑫). Premier Su Tseng-chang (蘇貞昌) added that 58,000 out of

100,000 taxi drivers and tour bus drivers will receive the first of three-monthly wage subsidies of NT\$10,000.

Businesses that posted a 15 percent drop in monthly revenue from the same period of last year for two consecutive months will be eligible for a five percent discount on their water bills, with the monthly reduction capped at NT\$5,000 .

In addition, Minister of Transportation and Communications Lin Chia-lung (林佳龍) said that the ministry is planning to issue NT\$500 vouchers to people who have canceled their overseas travel plans, and plan to take domestic trips instead. That plan will require about NT\$1 billion, and the details of the plan are still being worked out, Lin noted.

The government is also subsidizing infrastructure improvements in shopping districts around Taiwan to boost the economy.

Some say that the subsidy program is simply a draft proposal. It does help the sufferers but will require a number of amendments to get the money rolling out. In any case, the government is working to help citizens in Taiwan in many innovative ways.

Art: <https://blog.aci.aero/covid-19>

Readers, if you have any comments please write [dpendery@ntub.edu.tw](mailto:dpendery@ntub.edu.tw).



# Impact of COVID-19 yields new face masks

By Staff Writer By Teresa Yu

**COVID-19** has raged across the world for almost ten months, leaving hundreds of thousands of dead in its wake. Prevention experts have made it clear that face masks are essential in order to decrease the probability of infecting others and the virus's impact. Thus, the need for masks in every country has increased dramatically. Taiwan has itself provided thousands of masks to many different countries around the world, and its mask production is recognized as the highest quality. Due to shortages, however, many creative people from different countries have invented different kinds of interesting face masks. Let's look at these fascinating masks.

## **Translation mask from Japan**

This August, a Japanese company called Donut Robotics invented a super mask called "C-Face Smart mask", which can translate eight kinds of languages. This super mask has one disadvantage, howev-



The Japanese translation mask

er. That is that it cannot effectively prevent the spread of droplets, which are known to carry the virus. Therefore, users need to wear a medical mask as well, in order to limit droplet while talking to others.

## **Mask for the hearing-impaired from France**

This mask was created by Anissa Mekrabech, a French leather worker, during a strict lockdown across France. Mekrabech created the mask in order to

allow hearing-impaired people to read the wearer's lips so that they can better understand what the wearer is talking about. It is a transparent "inclusive" mask that



Mask for the hearing-impaired

allows lip reading for deaf and hearing-impaired people. "Your lips are my ears" is the mask's slogan. The mask was developed after a crowdfunding campaign. The idea of creating the mask, in other words, was not just to look cool.

## **Trash mask from Brazil**

Looking to do more than just protect himself, fashion photographer Marcio Rodrigues created the "trash mask." Rodrigues used recyclable bottles, cans and boxes, after these items were not collected by trash collectors because of a nationwide quarantine imposed to control the



Water jug mask  
The Trash Mask

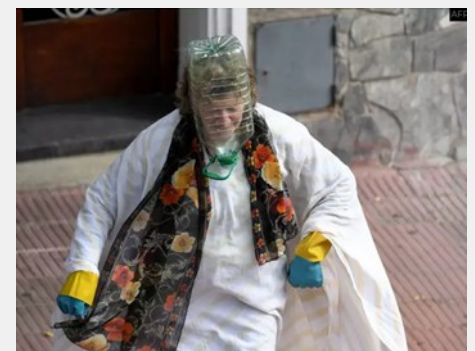
spread of the virus. The reason he wanted to make this mask is that he wanted to make a statement about human waste and garbage.

In Indonesia, a traffic control volunteer wore a water jug as a mask when he

was working. In Colombia, a Venezuelan migrant wore a plastic water bottle as he waited to be checked by health workers examining the novel coronavirus. In Uruguay, a woman wore a plastic water bottle to cover her face to prevent to COVID-19.

## **A plastic water bottle mask**

In these examples, we can see that, especially in developing countries, the amount of medical-grade face masks is far from enough. Unfortunately, governments in these countries are not producing enough masks, and in third world countries most mask products must be imported. Needless to say, since the COVID-19 breakout, masks are in high demand around the whole world. Countries that normally export masks also have to make sure that there will not be any shortages. This makes it extremely difficult for coun-



A plastic water bottle mask

tries that normally import these products. In the end, the poor do not have enough money to buy the face masks.

Though there are many different kinds of creative masks, there are still not enough to meet demand. As we create interesting new face masks, we must remember to treasure the medical-grade face masks we have now.

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