

## NO PERSON IS SAFE FROM COVID-19, UNTIL EVERY PERSON IS - WHEN IT MAY END TO RECOVER LOST LEARNING

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### ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to make others aware and warn about Covid-19 disease which has still been infecting a large number of people around the world and causing fatalities. In the meantime, the development of effective vaccines and vaccination of people have ensured safety to a large extent giving a hope that the disease will turn from pandemic to endemic within this year. However, it is necessary to reach the number of vaccinated people a certain percentage for the safety of all. Regarding this, World Health Organization (WHO) and others have warned that unequal distribution of vaccines and not getting more people vaccinated quickly may prolong the pandemic and threaten any long-awaited return to normality. Return to normality quickly will help recover the lost learning.

**Keywords:** Covid-19, pandemic, endemic, recover.

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## INTRODUCTION

We are at a turning point. COVID-19 has been a truly global crisis in which we all have shouldered a burden. In many cases this has caused us to reflect on those longer injustices that have perpetuated in parts of the world where the pandemic is yet another layer of misery, instability and unrest. These inequalities have been exposed and exacerbated by the impact of the pandemic, both between and within countries. The effects will be felt on a global scale for years to come. The impact of a catastrophe like the COVID-19 pandemic is measured in the tragedy of individual loss and death, as well as the national and global disruption to almost every part of life. No country in the world has been untouched. (Mekki, Online, 2021)

After two years of contagion and death, Covid is shifting again. Omicron is spreading faster than any previous variant, but it's also proving less malevolent. There's growing talk that the worst pandemic of the past century may soon be known in another way - as endemic. Health experts, however, are preaching caution, saying there's too much uncertainty about how the virus will evolve, how much immunity society has built up and potential damage if people stop being careful. It's inevitable that governments will eventually need to regard Covid as one of many public health challenges that can be managed - rather than one requiring the urgency and focus devoted since early 2020. The appetite for economically damaging lockdowns is long gone. Vaccines are protecting swathes of the population, and there's even hope that omicron, with its frenetic spread and less powerful punch, may be hastening the path to the pandemic's exit. (Uniyal, Online, 2022)

Two years have passed since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. During those two years, we saw the largest education crisis ever, with most countries closing their schools as a strategy to mitigate the spread of the pandemic: at its peak, 90 per cent of learners worldwide were concerned by school closures, with devastating consequences in terms of learning and earnings losses. (UNICEF, Online, 2022). Indeed, the majority of universities represented microcosms of what local and national governments themselves ought to have been undertaking from the outset, i.e. pulling together a wide-spread but workable group including experts in medicine and public health, public safety, pedagogy and pastoral care, as well as community responders, and experts managing domestic and international students to identify precisely how schools and colleges would function not just safely but effectively both online and traditionally during the various episodes of the pandemic. Covid outbreaks caused havoc throughout 2021, forcing a juggernaut of series of closures, re-openings, and closures. (Hadfield, Online, 2022).

The importance of education is not only to get degrees or certificates to be qualified for getting jobs and earning money, but also to help individuals grow both physically and mentally to make them able to tackle different problems in life by solving them. It is a common and universal fact that education starts by attending schools for years where the learners study variety of subjects. The goal of education is to empower individuals with necessary knowledge and skills for making them capable of doing new things and contributing to the society and nation as a whole. Along with other important sectors education sector also got largely devastated because of Covid-19 pandemic during the last two years depriving large numbers of students from going to classes for learning. Although many education institutes shifted to online learning however, it didn't cut the problems much as many students specially in poor countries lacked learning tools and internet connection was also poor in many parts of the world.

The pandemic has subsided to a large extent as a result of getting a sizable number of people, but there are still challenges ahead. Recently, many schools and universities have started providing learning in classrooms however, safety has become is one of the most concerning problems as Covid-19 is still not fully under control. It may be a lengthy process to fill the large gap in learning created by the pandemic. Moreover, during pandemic, a large number students had to go through a lot of physical and mental stress. It may not be that easy to heal these stresses. Further, these days, several countries have started opening their borders for international visitors which is a concern to be tackled. It is an utmost importance that all the stakeholders such as governments, education institutes, societies, parents and students come together to solve this grave problem to create a safe environment for learning.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of this paper are mainly to make people cautious not to take Covid-19 pandemic lightly which has still been causing fatalities in big numbers globally, and getting majority population vaccinated in all countries equally to prevent more deaths as the recovery of one of the most important sectors, the education sector, depends upon on the stopping the pandemic as quickly as possible.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

A common refrain in recent months around Covid-19 has been that “nobody is safe until everybody is safe,” referring to the importance of developing an effective vaccine for the coronavirus and ensuring its equitable distribution. Pfizer, Moderna, and AstraZeneca have each recently announced (at the time of publication) that their vaccines have proven highly effective in late-stage trials. These are major breakthroughs in the first act in what will surely be the world’s greatest inoculation campaign in history. (Sova, Online, 2021)

We need to build a world where each community, regardless of where they live, or who they are, has urgent access to vaccinations: not just for COVID-19, but also for the many other diseases that continue to harm and kill. As the pandemic has shown us, in our interdependent world no one is safe until everyone is safe. (Mekki, Online, 2021)

The U.N. secretary-general recently noted that ending the global pandemic will require sustained investment in health systems and a renewed commitment to universal health coverage, calling on countries to guarantee that health care technologies are accessible and affordable to all who need them. There is both a human and an economic imperative: A recent study projected that unequal global distribution of COVID-19 vaccines could cost the world economy up to \$1.2 trillion. Countries must come together and avoid the temptation of “vaccine nationalism,” because the health of people and the economy will not be safe until everyone, everywhere has access to the tools necessary to end this pandemic. (Takemi & Steiner, Online, 2020)

Failing to get more vaccines to people in all countries more quickly - is the principal reason why the virus is still winning. Until now governments have focused on tackling the pandemic at the national level, striving to achieve high vaccination coverage within their own borders, rather than building it up globally. This has only prolonged the pandemic. But with infectious disease you cannot extinguish a global inferno one country at a time. It needs to be simultaneously stamped out all across the world, or it will just continue to spread, increasing the risk of new and potentially more dangerous variants emerging. (Berkley, Online, 2021)

Variants of the virus, potentially more infectious and resistant to vaccines, will continue to threaten us if they are not controlled now. Those of us who have signed this declaration represent organizations with roots in communities across the world. We work closely with those affected by conflict, disaster and famine, and know the immense challenges they face – but also of their resilience even in the worst of situations. (Mekki, Online, 2021)

It's a question many have been asking for almost two years: when will the coronavirus pandemic end? Sara Sawyer, a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at the University of Colorado Boulder, agrees the end might finally be in sight, in part thanks to Omicron, a COVID-19 variant that emerged in November 2021.

"It is essentially vaccinating many people who were resistant to getting vaccinated because a lot of those people got infected in this wave," Sawyer says. "And so, that's just going to make it really hard for viruses to spread through in these giant waves like Omicron anymore because we have so many people with resistance that they've acquired through previous infection or a vaccine." A pandemic is generally considered "over" when a virus becomes endemic. (Mekouar, Online, 2022)

As schools gradually reopen, education authorities in the region are beginning to document the adverse effects that the pandemic has had on school systems and students, from an increase in dropout rates to considerable learning losses and a considerable impact on students' social-emotional development and wellbeing. Now, more than ever, it is essential to support plans for the safe reopening of schools with an emphasis on learning recovery. (The Inter-American Dialogue, Online, 2022).

Many universities have - and continue to operate – a robust mix of both virtual and face-to-face work, which if genuinely combined represents a novel form of hybrid education. This shift has benefits, but also drawbacks; teachers and students alike retain both a desire for normalcy, demanding a more full-bodied educational experience than even fully remote learning can offer, while many remain content with an online forum, and digital delivery. On-campus testing will remain, as well vaccination centres, and Covid hotlines, supporting staff and students alike. Rotational teaching and use of shared spaces is likely to stick as well. (Hadfield, 2022).

## **VACCINATION OF PEOPLE AND GLIMPSE OF HOPE FOR RECOVERY OF EDUCATION**

Covid-19 has shocked the world and forced the people to change their life styles. It has already infected and taken lives of millions of people, and yet to stop hunting. The virus passes from people to people easily. No one could escape from it - children to adult, poor to rich and low to high ranking people. In this globalized world, people are always moving from one place to another. Meantime, development of effective vaccines and taking vaccine doses have given people hope to escape from death to a large extent. So, to prevent the disease and make the world a safe place for everyone, it is extremely important that all the people get the certain number of

Covid-19 vaccine doses equally. Otherwise, there is a possibility of it coming back and causing havoc again. All the people will be safe only if everyone is safe from Covid-19.

The disease has paralyzed or nearly paralyzed the most important sectors in the world, and the education sector is one of them. It has deprived millions of children from learning during the last more than two years. If it is too late, the loss will be enormous. Therefore, it is a serious concern for every country to come together to bring back normality as rapidly as possible to turn the pandemic to endemic level so as to make the education institutes as safe learning places. It will encourage the learners who have already lost greatly and endured a lot of suffering both mentally and physically. That's why recovery of lost learning is depending on bringing the Covid-19 situation back to normal.

On 11 January, just seven weeks after the Omicron variant was first reported, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a “tidal wave” of infection washing from west to east across the world. And although the WHO and others have suggested that huge numbers of Omicron infections could signal the end of the pandemic, because of the short-term surge in immunity that will follow, researchers warn that the situation remains volatile and difficult to model. (Adam, Online, 2022)

The world is experiencing a huge wave of infection with the omicron variant of SARS-CoV-2. Estimates based on Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME) models suggest that on around Jan 17, 2022 there were 125 million omicron infections a day in the world, which is more than ten times the peak of the delta wave in April, 2021.

The unprecedented level of infection suggests that more than 50% of the world will have been infected with omicron between the end of November, 2021 and the end of March, 2022. Although IHME models suggest that global daily SARS-CoV-2 infections have increased by more than 30 times from the end of November, 2021 to Jan 17, 2022, reported COVID-19 cases in this period have only increased by six times. (Murray, Online, 2022)

Almost two years into the pandemic, some countries have declared their intention to start treating COVID-19 like other endemic diseases, such as seasonal flu. However, officials from the World Health Organization have warned that it is too early to treat COVID-19 as an endemic disease, stressing that the evolution of the virus is uncertain and noting that on a global scale the pandemic continues to rage.

As quoted in the article ‘Pandemic or endemic: Where is COVID heading next?’ By Elizabeth Melimopoulos dated 29 January 2022, WHO’s senior emergency officer for Europe, Catherine

Smallwood, told a press briefing that they still have a huge amount of uncertainty and a virus that is evolving quite quickly, imposing new challenges. They are certainly not at the point where we are able to call it endemic.

Meanwhile, much of the global population has not been fully vaccinated against COVID, increasing the chances of more severe disease among them. Low vaccination rates in many countries also make the emergence of a new variant more likely, which could derail attempts to treat COVID as endemic. (Melimopoulos, Online, 2022)

Widespread cooperation around COVAX - a multilateral effort bringing together more than 180 countries to drive equitable access to successful COVID-19 vaccine candidates - and The Access to COVID-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator - a global collaboration to accelerate development, production, and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments and vaccines - illustrates that many acknowledge the need for solidarity in building a coordinated, global response. (Takemi & Steiner, Online, 2020)

What the developed world fails to realize is that the very inequity it perpetuates is what will prolong the pandemic. The recent discovery of the omicron variant - described as the “most worrying we’ve seen” - is evidence of this. While its emergence is concerning, it certainly is not surprising. It couldn’t possibly be when vaccination rates in Africa remain so low that the unchecked spread of COVID-19 among unvaccinated populations leaves room for mutation. (Ntonjira, Online, 2021)

As G20 leaders start to look towards future pandemic preparedness, and the kinds of institutions or funding bodies needed to prevent the next one, it is imperative that any solution be based on common global strategies that support a truly global response, including equitable access to vaccines. It will need to be smart, be cost-effective and, like COVAX, make use of existing networks of collaboration that build on pre-existing expertise, infrastructure and resources, while avoiding duplication and additional layers of process that could further delay a future response effort. And it will need to leverage innovative financing and use contingency funding to support surge capacity, so agencies can respond quickly during crises. (Berkley, Online, 2021)

In the weeks leading up to the two-year anniversary of the World Health Organization declaring a pandemic in March 2020, countries such as Britain and Denmark lifted all legal Covid restrictions. Many US states also relaxed mask and other rules. Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said the change marked the beginning of learning “to live with Covid”, as the global death count falls after the more transmissible though less severe Omicron variant swept the world. The

WHO has said that the "acute phase" of the pandemic could end by the middle of this year - if around 70 percent of the world is vaccinated. (Agence France-Presse, Online, 2022)

It's not just governments hoping 2022 is the year Covid can finally move to the back burner of public discourse. A weary public is also desperate to escape, and Internet searches for the term "endemic" have jumped in recent weeks. Endemic would mean the disease is still circulating, but at a lower, more predictable rate - and with fewer people landing in hospitals.

At the least, there are reasons to hope that the pandemic's grip is loosening. The world has more tools than before, from rapid tests to the ability to update and mass produce vaccines, plus rising levels of immunity through inoculation and earlier bouts of Covid. While antibodies may dwindle, or even fail to stop infections from new variants, the other major weapon of the immune system - T cells - appears to be robust enough to prevent serious disease.

The World Health Organization, for one, is urging caution. Despite the global vaccine push -- now approaching 10 billion doses administered - there are massive gaps. More than 85% of the population of Africa hasn't received any dose, while 36 WHO member states haven't even reached 10% coverage. As quoted, Catherine Smallwood, senior emergency officer at WHO Europe mentioned that they still have a virus that's evolving quite quickly. It may become endemic in due course, but pinning that down to 2022 is a little bit difficult at this stage. (Uniyal, Online, 2022)

"I think it's really important to state that when people look at community transmission levels as being low, that does not mean that it's zero," said epidemiologist Syra Madad, senior director of the system-wide special pathogens program at NYC Health + Hospital, quoted in the article 'The end is near: The new pandemic data looks promising -- for some, anyway' By Jen Christensen on March 5, 2022.

In areas considered to have high Covid-19 community levels, people need to take the usual pandemic precautions, she said. In areas at low or medium levels, masks and physical distance practices may be safely dropped. But only for some, not all people.

Masks and caution may still be necessary if a person is in a high-risk category for severe disease, or if they live with a young child who is still not eligible to be vaccinated or if they live with someone who is immunocompromised, and a vaccine doesn't protect them as well as a healthy individual. (Christensen, Online, 2022)

The world could be approaching the end of the Covid-19 pandemic later this year, as evidenced by the rapid-spreading but less-severe Omicron variant, according to Prof Dr Prasit Watanapa, the dean of the Faculty of Medicine Siriraj Hospital. He said that the spread of Omicron



would result in the majority of people surviving an infection with the virus and developing immunity. As quoted in the article ‘Hospital dean predicts end to pandemic’ by online reporters dated January 25, 2022 Prof Prasit said that if the majority of the world's population has Covid-19 and they survive and develop immunity, this will lead to an end of the Covid-19 pandemic, because the global population will have enough immunity, both through vaccination and an infection that is not severe.

Most countries expected the pandemic would last until the middle or the late part of this year, he said. However, it was still too early for people to lower their guard against the disease. (Bangkok Post, Online, 2022). After the short, sharp shock of Omicron, the pandemic phase of COVID-19 looks to be ending for most locations, unless a significant and severe new variant emerges. This update discusses what we’ve learned from Omicron, the prospects for the rest of 2022, and presents three potential criteria for defining COVID-19 as endemic. (Charumilind, et al., Online, 2022)

Schools and universities represent both examples of seemingly unlimited virus transmission, and the most profoundly innovative responders to Covid-19. After wholesale closures, and iterative restarts, the majority of schools and especially universities were capable of diagnosing their domestic population and controlling outbreaks. In doing so, they represented early examples of the hybrid approach to dealing with a pandemic, and conduits by which to manage the transition to endemic. For some, a recent return to normality has been a source of profound relief; for others, deep anxiety. Despite this, the widespread opening of schools, colleges and universities represents an example of crisis management at its best. Using high quality, multi-team, multi-level planning to overhaul virtually every aspect of the student journey, from halls of residence to online learning, from new 24/7 virtual learning environments to a host of digital communities. (Hadfield, Online, 2022).

## CONCLUSION

Vaccination has, of course, made it possible to bring down the number of Covid-19 cases and deaths from it all over the world however, the virus has not stopped spreading completely. The World Health Organization is yet to declare the pandemic an endemic as uncertainty of spread of virus and possibility of emergence of new variants are not over yet. Large number of people are still being infected and quite a lot of people are still dying from the disease. It is a matter of serious concern that quite often new Covid variants emerge and infect people. To recover the economy, several countries have started opening their borders resulting in the movement of more

people from one country to another. The influx of visitors may carry the virus from one place to another. There are still many unvaccinated people in many countries mainly in poor and low income countries. So, all the stakeholders should cooperate with one another to get majority people vaccinated quickly to stop the rapid transmission of the virus and prevent more deaths. There is no alternative to taking precautions and remaining careful.

In the case of the recovery of lost education, with the help of all stake holders teachers and students may have to be prepared to go extra miles. Apart from other related trainings, the education institutes should arrange special training programs for the teachers as to how to support the students to fill the gap of lost learning, and how to address the issues of students' physical, mental and physiological matters. Teachers should also incorporate and adjust suitable lessons in their teachings to make it able for students to adopt them with ease. On the other hand, students will also need to cooperate with the teachers and be prepared for study hard. They should also follow the rules and take precautions to defeat Covid-19 for the sake of recovering lost learning, and living and learning safely.

The authors of this paper would like to give the following suggestions: 1) Detail information should be included about the newly emerging variants such as BA.4 and BA.5 sub-variants of Covid-19 to make people aware about these. 2) Information should be added as to how long the immunity may last after Covid-19 vaccination. 3) Specific information should be included about what precautionary measures different stakeholders of education sector are taking to provide safe learning and how effective they are for the sake of recovering lost learning.

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## THE IMPACT OF THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT ON THAILAND'S ECONOMY IN 2022

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### ABSTRACT

The global economy is unpleasantly affected by numerous determinants at present. Besides the COVID-19 pandemic, one of the main factors is the Russia-Ukraine war including international sanctions of several countries against the Russian Federation. Definitely, the Kingdom of Thailand is also directly and indirectly affected. This paper examines the impact of the Russian-Ukraine conflict on the economy in Thailand in 2022 by using comparison of information, data, statistic and forecast from the number of domestic and international researches conducted before the conflict of Russia and Ukraine with those during the conflict. Russia's war in Ukraine is likely to be continuing; it causes higher prices of energy, commodities and food. It affects the Thai economy with decreasing economy growth, higher inflation, sensitive Thailand's imports and exports, supply chain disruption, quiet tourism industry, and weak Thai currency. The terrible effects reach the poor consequence to the Kingdom of Thailand and worldwide. On the other hand, there are several positive effects for some groups of people and businesses who have effective adaptation as a coin has two sides.

**Keywords:** Thailand, economy, conflict, Russia, Ukraine, war, negative effect, positive effect.

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## INTRODUCTION

On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 Russian President Vladimir Putin commanded to start invasion of Ukraine. He ordered to attack by air and land with missiles, troops and tanks in the capital of Ukraine and other areas. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy promptly reacted by signing a decree on the general mobilization of the population in the invasion of Russia (Reuters, Online, 2022 b). The situation seems to be worse. The properties have been destroyed. A large number of soldiers and civilians have died. It becomes a global crisis which decreases economy around the world including the Kingdom of Thailand. It causes serious economic problems for South East Asia, Europe and the world.

According to the ASEAN statistic number in 2020 (Ministry of Tourism & Sports, Online, 2021), Russia was the 11<sup>th</sup> largest ASEAN trade partner with two-way trade at US 13.6 billion. The top goods which imported from Russia Federation to ASEAN during 2020 were mineral fuels, mineral oils and products of their distillation; bituminous substance; mineral waxes with the value of million US\$ 3,987.9. The other top goods were iron and steel, fertilizers, cereals, fish and crustaceans, and aluminum respectively. On the other hand, the top commodity which ASEAN exported to Russia Federation in 2020 were electrical machinery, equipment and parts of sound recorders and television image with the value of million US\$ 2,142.3. The other top goods were animal or vegetable fats and oils, nuclear reactors, boilers, machinery, mechanical appliances, and rubber.

The leading global macroeconomic model called NiGEM presents that the conflict of Russia and Ukraine can lead up to 3 percent to global inflation in 2022 and more in year 2023. In addition, it will lessen the global Gross Domestic Product or GDP about 1 percent which is approximate USD 1 trillion off global GDP (Liadze, Macchiarelli, Mortimer-Lee, & Juanino, 2022). Similarly, Thai inflation is higher. European countries have been affected more than Asian countries as these two countries are key suppliers who produce a large number of commodities; for example, oil, gas, iron, metals, wheat, corn and fertilizers. Thailand is reliance on oil as the nation is limited on production of domestic oil. However, Ukraine is not the main commodity supplier to Thailand, therefore, it does not play a significant role to the nation.

## OBJECTIVES

The purposes of this study were to analytically examine the impact of the conflict of Russia and Ukraine on the Thai economy with comparison data, statistic, forecasts and concise information. This paper additionally provides the causes and the negative and positive effects on

the declining economy in Thailand. As a result, effective adaptation and well-planned preparation for business administration and management and unstable future lives for the Thai entrepreneurs and Thai people should be arranged respectively.

## **THAI-RUSSIAN RELATIONS: HISTORICAL, DIPLOMATIC AND CULTURAL ASPECTS FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT**

The first Russian visit to Siam dated back to February 19<sup>th</sup>, 1863 by the two Russian ships. On the special occasion of the Chakri Dynasty's the Centennial Celebration in 1882, the Russian naval squadron visited Siam. In 1888 P.Schurovskiy, the Russian musician composed the Siam national anthem which was used until 1932. (Embassy of The Russian Federation, Online, n.d. a).

There were important historical records in Russian and in Thai language on the Russian-Thai relations (1863-1917) in the collection of Archival Documents and the Diary of Prince Esper Ukhtomsky. On the special occasion of the one-hundred anniversary of the establishment of the Russian-Thai diplomatic relations, this collection was published in both languages. It was organized by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and State Archives of Russia Federation and the Kingdom of Thailand (Ostrovenko, 2004).

In addition, the close relationship became great royal friendship when His Royal Highness Siamese Prince Damrong went to Livadia or Crimea nowadays. His Majestic Russian Emperor Alexander III gave an audience to him in 1891. In the same year Russian Crown Prince Nikholas came to Bangkok. In 1896 His Royal Highness Siamese Prince Chira was invited to attend the Coronation Ceremony of His Majestic Emperor Nikholas II. Since then, the Thai royal family members and state officials have visited Russia for education, cultural exchange, bilateral relations and diplomatic mission (Embassy of The Russian Federation, Online, n.d. a).

In the reign of King Chulalongkorn on July 2-10, 1897, King Rama the fifth paid a visit in Russia and established more diplomatic relations. Later, in 1899 in St. Petersburg King Rama V and Tsar Nicholas II signed the Treaty of Friendship and Maritime Navigation. The King sent his second son, Prince Chakrabongse to study the military training in Russia. The Prince led the way for royal and noble families to have education in Russia universities. The development of diplomatic, political and cultural relations of the two nations have extended until now (Ostrovenko, 2004). The first Russian Consulate-General was open in Siam on April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1898. Nowadays the Russian Embassy in Thailand is located in Surawong, Bangkok. (Embassy of The Russian Federation, Online, n.d. a).

In the past there were several Thai Prime Ministers visiting in Russia; for example, General Prem Tinsulanonda and Mr. Thaksin Shinavatra. Conversely, Russian President Vladimir Putin paid an official state visit to Thailand and met His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej in October 2003. The current Thai Prime Minister General Prayuth Chan-o-cha officially went to Russia to have the meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in May 2016.

During the war, a few countries in South East Asia responded to Russia, but not Thailand. It shows that Thailand has warm relations with Russia and would not like to break the long-standing relations. Obviously, Thai Prime Minister Prayut mentioned that the Thai government would remain neutrality in the war (Bangkok Post, Online, 2022).

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

In January 2022 the recovery of the Thai economy growth was led by exports, business activities, no-more lockdowns from the COVID-19 pandemic and consumption spending. The economic growth was expected to be 3.0-3.5% (Bhaopichitr, Online, 2022). Unfortunately, the conflict of Russia and Ukraine happened in February 2022, as a result the figures are lower than the expectation of the research.

There are numerous reliable sources which show the forecasts of the Thai economic growth in 2022. Firstly, the study of the University of the Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC) showed that rate of the economic growth in Thailand was likely to be 2-3% (Phusadee, Online, 2022). Secondly, Reuters said that at the beginning the Thai economic growth forecast would be 2.5%–4.5%, however, the Russian-Ukraine war causes higher energy prices nowadays. Undoubtedly, Reuters updated on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the forecast of the economic growth in Thailand would decline to 2.5%-4.0% (not 4.5%) this year (Reuters, Online, 2022 a).

The negative effects are higher inflation and lower Gross Domestic Product of Thailand or GDP; as a result, Thai consumers pay more for the same food, products and service than in the past. These directly affect to businesses. The customers would like to purchase less and cheaper; therefore, the entrepreneurs need to produce less and sell less to be related to demand. Finally, it can lead to shut down their businesses. It is an economic cycle that after the closed businesses, workers are unemployed. In a worse case, it implies rising robbery and crimes.

The positive effects are that the consumers have more carefulness and awareness for purchasing the food, products and service. These lead them to save money for their risky and unpredictable future. For example, instead of spending money for luxurious lives and eating expensive



food, some consumers have great adjustment for sufficient lives. The Thai government has launched numerous policies for stimulation of the economic growth such as a state welfare card and economy-related projects.

## INFLATION

Because of the impact of the Russian-Ukraine conflict, the rate of inflation is expected to soar. Due to the research of UTCC, it figured about 5% (Phusadee, Online, 2022). Furthermore, Reuters forecasted that the inflation of Thailand would be higher to 3.5-5.5% in 2022. Hitting the highest inflation rate within 13 years was in March 2022 (Reuters, Online, 2022 a).

The negative effect is the value of money is less; for example, in the past a dish of stir-fried chicken with basil leaves and rice in a restaurant costed Baht 100, but at present, it costs Baht 130 at the same place. The consumers need to pay more called the purchasing power decreases. People start to avoid eating in fancy restaurants. In addition, expenses for a cost of living are also high such as rental, transportation, water and electricity fees.

There are several positive effects. The samples of changing consumption behaviors are to eat more at local shops than at international brand restaurants. People cannot afford hanging out with friends and coworkers often for shopping or a movie, so they would rather go home and have an inexpensive home-made meal with a family. It creates a family relationship. In a term of business, the business owners use the figures of the inflation rates for a well-organized plan of their future investment. People tend to buy substitute cheaper goods. That means startups or companies will bring up various fine-quality products or service with cheaper prices as an alternative way for purchasers. According to a full-time employee, a salary seems to be higher which is relevant to the high inflation; otherwise, the workers do not want to do a job. It is not worth paying for high transportation fare to go to an office, lunch and social expenses. For a financial aspect, some banks reduce loan interests or extend a period of paying debts in order to help the customers.

## ENERGY

According to the Oil Market Report on March 16, 2022, Russia is the largest oil exporter in the world where shipped crude and refined oil products to many countries in the globe. Starting from April 2022, the amount of Russia oil supply would be decreasing; as a result, the world economic growth would drop (International Energy Agency, Online, 2022).

Nowadays one of the principal causes of higher energy prices not only in the world but also in Thailand is the war of Russia in Ukraine. Oil is the primary commodity which is a part of production process. It is used as a raw material in the industrial production (Bloch, Dockery, & Sapsford, 2006). In addition, it is important to operate production machinery, generate electricity and transport the output to trading areas.

The negative effect is to pay more for a gas price for a daily life such as driving a car. Moreover, the oil-oriented companies and industrial factories start to lose money because of rising oil price. The companies need to lay workers off leading to being unemployed or shutting down their businesses. Obviously, an amount of production is reduced which is not balanced for the demand in a market. Due to other occupations, farmers, fishermen and drivers are not worth growing plantation, fishing and driving to earn less for a living respectively. These situations probably cause protests against the government.

Positively, people avoid using gas by using public transportation such as bus, sky train or subway instead. They are likely to order delivery food more than drive a car to eat out. Online shopping and online banking for payment are more popular when the gas price is very peak. This situation can enhance Thai people to use clean energy such as solar, water, wind and biogas which are much cheaper in a long term. They are natural, renewable and friendly for environment and sustainable for a next generation.

## THAILAND'S IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

According to database on international trade updated in April 2022, Thailand imports in 2020 (not 2021) from Russia were oils, mineral fuels and distillation products accounting for USD 1.17 billion. Other imports from Russia were iron and steel (USD 173.5 million), fertilizers (USD 167.6 million, cereals (USD 69.95 million) and aluminum (USD 58.06 million) (Trading Economics, Online, 2022, b). In 2020 Thailand exports to Russia were vehicles other than railway and tramway accounting for USD 200.57 million. The other exports from Thailand to Russia were rubbers (USD 98.12 million), machinery, nuclear reactors, boilers (USD 92.27 million), vegetable, fruit, nut food preparations (USD 48.36 million) and electronic equipment (USD 45.12 million) respectively (Trading Economics, Online, 2022, a).

The negative effect is that the nation loses a large number of US. millions in exports to Russia. It is clear that it will disrupt specific industries and provide the shortage linked to Thailand. It heavily causes supply chain disruption. In fact, this drives the provision of national and international

instability. The entrepreneurs have lower business's profit margin. In the worst case scenario, they totally lose profits and shut down their businesses and become unemployed suffering people. It affects to manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers and consumers. However, the country can possibly look for another stable importer to do a long-term business. Fortunately, weak Thai currency attracts other foreign countries to interest in Thai imports. Also, Thai people can support the Thais together by purchasing and consuming domestic products.

## TOURISM INDUSTRY

Due to the severe COVID-19 pandemic, the number of international visitors to Thailand have been obviously decreasing. One of the most visitors traveling in Thailand is Russian tourists. The conflict between Russian and Ukraine additionally declines the number of Russian tourists to the Kingdom of Thailand. There were 1,466,457 and 1,483,334 Russian visitors to Thailand in 2018 and 2019 respectively (Ministry of Tourism & Sports, Online, 2021). In 2021 only 30,759 Russian tourists making a journey to Thailand (Ministry of Tourism & Sports, Online, 2022). The statistic illustrates that the number of Russian travelers were decreasing sharply. Because of the President Vladimir Putin's invasion of Ukraine and the low value of ruble, they affect to the whole tourism sector in Thailand including domestic flights, accommodation, transportation, restaurants, local food, exotic fruits and other services. For instance, they needed to pay 30 percent more expensive for staying overnight (Duangdee, Online, 2022). They also have difficulty for paying their journeys to Thai companies or Thai travel agencies because banks in Russia cannot operate transaction related to the SWIFT international payment system being cut off.

The negative effect is to lose income from Russian and Ukrainian tourists. Additionally, the hotels, transportation, restaurants, entertainment places and massage parlors in Pattaya and Phuket are dependent on Russian and Ukrainian travelers. They are losing their jobs. The entrepreneurs are out of business. Russian-speaking Thai tour guides become unoccupied. These people go back to their hometowns, so the major cities for Russian tourism are quiet.

The positive effects are that many hotels are adapted to be state quarantine accommodations. Some hotels focus on food delivery and food for events and seminars. Furthermore, some tour guides change to be a tutor teaching Russian language and work as domestic guides. Fortunately, the government launches many projects to stimulate Thai people to travel within the nation and welcome foreign tourists to come to the Land of smiles.

## THAI CURRENCY (BAHT)

According to Kasikorn Research Center, Russia's war in Ukraine and the sanctions of several countries affect the Thai exchange rate. It is expected that by the end of this year the rate of Thai Baht to US. Dollar is weaker and rising about Baht 34 per US. Dollar (Banchongduang, Online, 2022). It decreases the value of Thai Baht.

Even though it is the lower value of the Thai currency, positively, it is a good chance for the farmers or export industries which export to other countries with a better exchange rate. It means the buyers pay less. Foreigners would like to do business and have investment with the Thais during this time.

## THAI STUDENTS AND THAI WORKERS IN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE

There are prestigious universities in Thailand which teach Russian language such as Chulalongkorn and Thammasat and Ramkhamhaeng University. Thai students have a great opportunity to study in Russian higher education schools. The Ministry of Education and Science of the Russian Federation provide scholarships to Thai students. In 2018 the Embassy of the Russian Federation in the Kingdom of Thailand chose 34 Thai candidates to study in Russia with various majors such as Russian Literature and Language, Medical and Political Science and Foreign Affairs. On the other hand, there are numerous leading universities in Russia where have taught Thai language, Thai history and culture and Thai economic systems; for instance, the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (University) of the MFA of Russia (MGIMO), St Petersburg University and Far Eastern Federal University (Embassy of The Russian Federation, Online, n.d. b). Besides the Thai students studying in Russia, there are a number of Thai workers who are employed in Russia and Ukraine. Because of this violent war, they are too frightened and miserable to stay there. The Labor Minister Mr. Suchart Chomklin assisted the Thai legal workers to fly back Thailand. Since March 2, 2022 there were 197 Thai citizens who reached the country in total. The Labor Ministry can monitor the number of the Thai laborers as they registered with the ministry. 154 Thai workers were members of the Ministry of Labor who received financial aid about Baht 2.3 million Baht in total (Rujopakarn, Online, 2022). On the other hand, it is hard to keep track how many Thai students have been back to Thailand urgently as they are individual. Unfortunately, they have to find other universities to finish their degrees

## CONCLUSION

When Russian President Vladimir Putin's invasion is still continuously attacking in Ukraine, the global economy including the Kingdom of Thailand have been awfully affected. It is likely a global crisis. Thai government and Thai entrepreneurs can support the Thai people by fixing their product and service prices for a moment. If the violent conflict is still prolonged, Thailand's economy will remain declining steadily.

Thailand is an agricultural and developing country which is not powerful comparing to the US. and European countries. The nation does not play an important role to cease the Russian and Ukraine war. Because of this war, the nation additionally has economic recession and rising inflation. The Thai people have expensive commodities and costly food, lack of income, high rates of daily expenses, increasing cost of living, low life quality, a lot of debts and high unemployment ratio. The nation's Gross Domestic Product or GDP is falling showing the shrink of national economy growth. It implies that Thai businesses are turning bad and employees are losing their works. These may cause higher crimes. Therefore, the change of consumer behaviors is introduced and the launch of effective strategies by the entrepreneurs should be operated promptly. From this crisis, those who are able to have the great adjustment, these groups of people can be survivors and gain the positive effects.

Furthermore, the recovery of the Thai economy would be obstructed by the determinants of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Many people are in trouble and have a lot of pain. It is harder to be employed, earn money and have normal lives during the war. It is affecting not only Russian and Ukraine but in Thailand and in the globe. The war is always tragedy for humanity. This crisis leads to worsen Thai economy in numerous ways. If the war is continuously proceeding, Thai entrepreneurs and Thai people should have deep awareness, adaptation and find some solution for businesses and lives.

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## ขั้นตอนการนำส่งบทความวิชาการหรือบทความวิจัยเพื่อตีพิมพ์

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- สมมติฐานการวิจัย (ถ้ามี)
- ขอบเขตของการวิจัย (ถ้ามี)
- วิธีดำเนินการวิจัย
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### 3. วิธีการส่งต้นฉบับ

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