

GPS COVID-19 Tracker - Applied Informatics Technology for Prevention of Disease Spreading

Dear Editor

Applied Health Informatics to support for outbreak management is very interesting. Reeves *et al.* concluded that using electronic computational tool is “an essential tool in supporting the clinical needs of a health system managing the COVID-19 pandemic.”^[1] It is no doubt that the informatics tool is very important for crisis management. Here, the authors would like to introduce new freely app for tracking of disease that was firstly developed in Thailand. The online version is accessible at <https://covidtracker.5lab.co/>. This bioinformatics app present updates GPS data on infected case, suspicious case, death case and confirmed negative case in Thailand [Figure 1]. Also, the dirty contaminated place as well as disinfected place is also presented. The data are displayed in three languages: Mandarin, Thai and English. This tool is a good example of applied informatics technology to fight disease outbreak. It can be a model for further development in any settings. It can support the primary prevention concept and take oneself away from the risk area.

Nevertheless, it should note that the internet signal is not available in every area. In our country, Thailand, the second country that the disease has been occurred since early January 2020,^[2] the computer and informatics system is limited in many rural areas. Many poor people still have no chance and affordability to use internet mobile app. The barrier due to cost might be a common problem in many developing countries worldwide. In addition, in remote areas, there are usually limited people who have knowledge on informatics that can help solve the problem of system

disruption due to high volume of using during outbreak crisis. Finally, a simple consideration is the general people might have no time to assess internet when he/she falls in the crisis of heavy outbreak that the data is abruptly changed.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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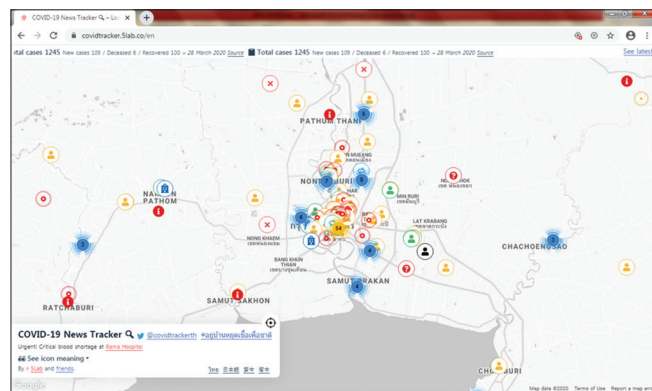


Figure 1: Example of cropped display screen of COVID-19 GPS tracking tool (accessible on 28th March 2020, 11.56 + 7.00 GMT)

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