

ROK's Approach to Travel Bubble

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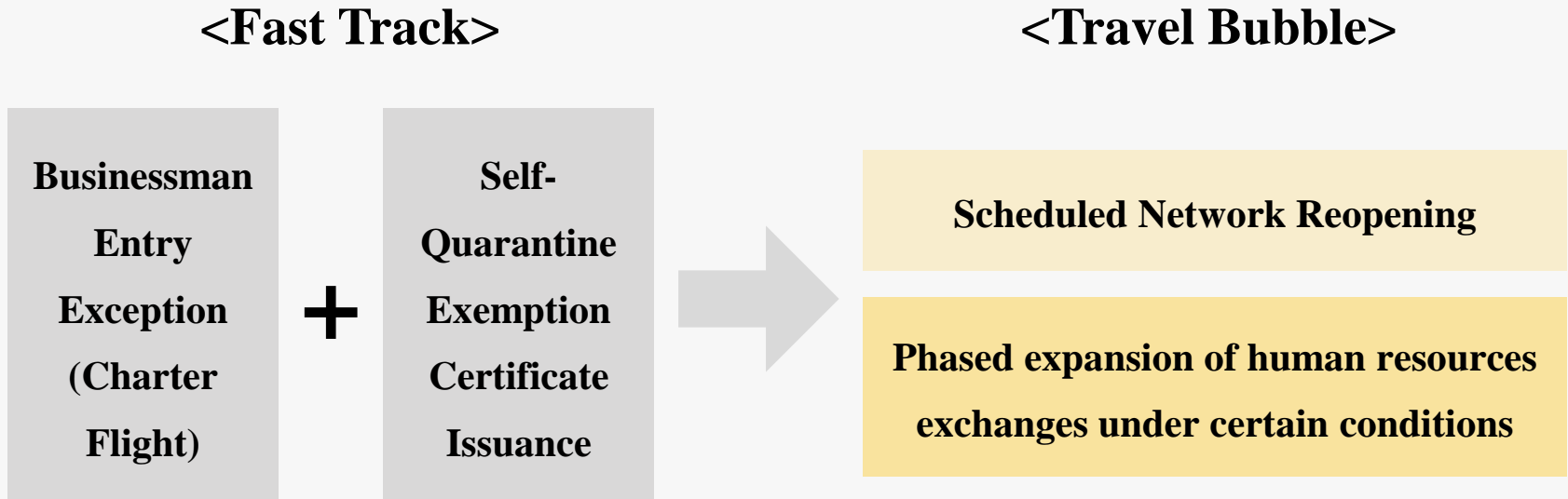
Travel Bubble: International Trend

The trend "Travel Bubble" is on the rise to allow free travel between those keeping the infectious disease relatively well under control to ensure sound and sustainable air recovery

- ❖ Some tourism-driven economies are considering lifting border lockdown
 - Tourists with entry clearance are allowed to enter the border without 14-day quarantine
- ❖ Travel bubble has been promoted between neighboring countries in Oceania and Northern European regions.
e.g.) Australia-New Zealand, Estonia-Latvia-Lithuania, Norway-Denmark, etc.
- ❖ ROK has been making efforts to prevent air network from being cut off by strengthening quarantine
 - Travel Bubble from those countries with lowered infection risk and plan gradual expansion

Travel Bubble: Main Objective

Some countries are establishing wide-ranging travel bubble rather than a "fast track" for diplomatic or urgent business activities



- ❖ In the case of Korea, businessmen of 16 countries have been benefited from the fast track deal, but discussions on the establishment of Travel Bubble are in the beginning stage.

Travel Bubble: Risk and Expected Effect

Travel Bubble can be established based on mutual confidence in quarantine between countries with similar Covid-19 response systems and requires continuous information sharing and monitoring

- ❖ *(Expected Effect)* An early recovery of air travel demand and of exchanges of goods and people by increased confidence in each other's quarantine system
- ❖ *(Risk)* Due to the nature of air travel, the possibility of losing control over transferring passengers cannot be ruled out. Plus, reliability of the Travel Bubble country that the other country has with a third party should be factored in.

In this case, it is necessary to consider risk mitigation by designating a specific airport between the two countries and allowing only third and fourth freedom in the beginning.

A Way Forward: Bilateral Agreement

| Bilateral Consultation | Effectiveness |
|---|---|
| Subsiding (stabilization) trend of COVID-19, Control capacity of the Authorities, Mutual confidence and trust in quarantine for inbound and outbound travelers → Discussed bilaterally | It is necessary to secure effectiveness by easing or lifting 14-day quarantine for overseas inbound travelers between Travel Bubble countries. |
| Select countries that keep the COVID-19 well under control and that are in urgent need of expanding exchanges through pan-governmental cooperation (aviation, quarantine, tourism, industry, etc.) → prioritize the expansion of commercial and tourism exchanges | |

Need to introduce and strengthen quarantine of outbound passengers

e.g.) Fever test before boarding, mandatory in-flight mask-wearing, a clearance certificate tested negative to the corona virus, etc.



Bilateral Travel Bubble Agreement Conclusion

Bilateral Agreement: Tentative Provisions

| Function | Details |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Aviation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Define routes, no. of airlines, and size of operation (frequency/w) etc.✓ Define action requirements for crews and passengers |
| Immigration | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Define mutually acceptable visa types and immigration measures in consideration of the characteristics of the country concerned✓ (e.g.) Step 1: Diplomats, official duties, businessmen, international students, etc. Step 2: Tourism, medical care, family visits, etc. |
| Quarantine | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Measures to prevent the COVID-19 and curb its spread<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mutual recognition and issuance of medical certificate• Fever test before boarding, in-flight wearing of mask and gloves, and installation of self-isolation app.• A exemption plan for 14-day quarantine (e.g.) Taking out medical insurance policy upon confirmed cases |
| Tourism | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ (e.g) Certification system for hotels and other tourist facilities when tourism resumes |
| Im/Export Industry Support | <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Facilitate freight transport (belly cargo) and present major ex- and import routes |

The plan is to work with the relevant authorities of Korea (aviation, immigration, quarantine, and foreign affairs) and to establish bilateral Travel Bubble.

Thank you