Taiwan hacked

https://www.wired.com/story/how-taiwans-unlikely-digital-minister-hacked-the-pandemic/

 A hacker named Howard Wu was able to use the app LINE to create a map showing where masks were available and where they weren't. He created a site called Mask Map to help people find out what was available. This is an example of how someone used technology to solve a real world problem.The WHO declared coronavirus a pandemic on March 11th 2020. Taiwan was already preparing for the outbreak. They had been working on a mask map since January. The map was an instant success, but the price tag was too much. The second day after the website went live, Wu received 2,000 dollar bills. The next day, it was 26,000 dollars. He decided to stop charging the money.

The day after the mask map went viral, Tang met with Taiwan's premier to discuss ways to improve the country's mask-rationing system. She suggested that the government distribute masks through pharmacies affiliated with Taiwan's National Health Insurance system, Taiwan's government-run single-payer health insurer. As Tang explained it, the key advantage of doling out masks via the pharmacies was that NHI maintains a database of all the products that pharmacies keep in stock, updated in real time. Tang proposed that NHI make the mask data open to the general public. Instead of relying on ad hoc crowdfunded reports, Taiwan's citizens would gain easy access to more accurate and comprehensive data.

Among those who were attacked and infiltrated by two Chinese hacking groups were at least four Taiwan tech companies that had been providing information services to the government, the office said.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office did not respond to a request for comment. The Chinese government routinely denies involvement in hacking and says it punishes those who do it.

News of the hacking comes during a period of heightened tension between the island and China.

Source: (reuters.com)