

Hello everyone,

I am Takeshi SETO (Mr.), the newly appointed Director of UNAFEI as of 25th June 2018. For those of you who don't know me, I served as the Deputy Director from 2007 to 2009, so this is my second time working here. It is my great pleasure to once again be among UNAFEI family members and to rejoin an institute with a distinguished 55-year history of enhancing criminal justice practices in Asia and throughout the world.

As for my professional background, I was appointed as a public prosecutor in 1989. Since then, I served as a public prosecutor in several public prosecutors' offices around Japan, and also worked as a legal advisor to the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Securities and Exchange Surveillance Commission of Japan. My major experiences in the international field include attending various human rights conferences, negotiation and drafting international conventions and bilateral treaties, engaging in mutual legal assistance in criminal cases, and exchanging information on financial markets with foreign counterparts. I look forward to bringing these experiences to bear as we pursue UNAFEI's ambitious work programme over the coming years.

The main activities of UNAFEI are its international training courses and senior seminars, in which we invite criminal justice practitioners from around the world to formulate practice-oriented responses to criminal justice issues raised by the UN and the international community. Each training programme pays particular attention to the implementation of UN conventions, standards and norms and the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

UNAFEI is also the oldest member of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, which is a group consisting of UN related institutions dedicated to, research, information sharing, training, and raising public awareness in the field of criminal justice. We are actively participating in UN and other international conferences, where we introduce UNAFEI's activities and the criminal justice situation in Japan. We often go abroad in order to conduct research in countries which are targets for our capacity-building activities.

While the basic activities of UNAFEI have not changed significantly from the days when I was the Deputy Director, emphasis on bilateral training courses is increasing in which we provide training or technical assistance to one country on a focused issue. In addition, Japan will host the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto in 2020 when, coincidentally, Japan will also hold the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. UNAFEI will play a key role in Japan's preparation for the Congress, and we also will host one of the Congress's workshops on the theme of

reducing recidivism.

With an alumni network of over 5,700 participants from 138 countries, UNAFEI is very well known among criminal justice practitioners who are internationally active. Based on our long-standing and steady performance, many countries and governmental organizations are eager for our help. More detailed information on our activities can be found on our website.

One of the biggest changes at UNAFEI has been our move to Akishima City. UNAFEI had been in Fuchu City (western Tokyo) since it was founded in 1962. On 2nd October 2017, UNAFEI moved a bit further west to its new facility at the International Justice Center in Akishima City. I'd like to thank Akishima City for welcoming us, and I look forward to deepening ties with local residents so that new UNAFEI participants will remember "Akishima" as UNAFEI's new hometown.

During my term as Director, I will work to ensure that UNAFEI continually enhances its training programmes and technical assistance projects, looking back at UNAFEI's long history of fruitful activities, as well as considering how we can contribute to crime prevention throughout the world. I would like to express my sincere gratitude, in advance, for your valuable and continuous assistance and support for our activities.

Warm regards,

瀬戸 毅

Takeshi Seto

Director, UNAFEI