

**The 159th International Senior Seminar**  
**“Public Participation in Community Corrections”**

**1. Duration and Participants**

- From 14 January to 13 February 2015
- 18 overseas participants from 13 countries (including one Observer)
- Seven domestic participants

**2. Programme Overview**

The aim of community corrections is to succeed in rehabilitating and reintegrating offenders in the communities where they live. Given that most detained offenders will sooner or later return to the community, effective community corrections is crucial for offender rehabilitation and preventing recidivism, as well as avoiding overcrowding in penal institutions and the financial burden that arises from incarceration. To facilitate offenders' rehabilitation and re-integration into the community, the understanding and support of the citizens in each community are crucial. Moreover, the way the community receives the offenders after release is a key issue for offenders' desistance from re-offending.

In this seminar, while focusing on Japan's Volunteer Probation Officer (VPO) system as an example of public participation system in community corrections, we aim to share experiences, gain knowledge and examine measures related to Volunteer Probation Officer systems or other similar systems, and to explore more effective ways to enhance and strengthen the community-based treatment of offenders by public participation. In the event that certain participating countries do not have probation systems or have not implemented community corrections, we will consider the prospect of implementing community corrections and utilizing the community in a systematic manner.

**3. Lectures**

The following visiting experts from overseas and ad hoc lecturers from Japan, as well as professors of UNAFEI, will give lectures:

○ Visiting Experts

- Dr. Bonita M. Veysey  
Professor  
School of Criminal Justice,  
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
- Ms. Bernadette Alexander  
Deputy Director/Chief Probation Officer  
Rehabilitation and Protection Group  
Ministry of Social and Family Development  
Singapore

○ Ad hoc Lecturers

- Mr. Shoji Imafuku  
Counsellor, Rehabilitation Bureau, Ministry of Justice
- Professor Tatsuya Ota  
Faculty of Law, Keio University
- Professor Kayo Konagai  
College of Community and Human Services, Department of Community  
Development  
RIKKYO UNIVERSITY
- Ms. Tae Sugiyama  
Coordinator, Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice
- Mr. Kenji Yamada  
Secretary General  
National Organization for Employment of Offenders