



The 1st UNODC-UNAFEI Pacific Island Countries and Territories Training Programme

“Effective Investigative Techniques for Combating Transnational Organized Crime”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 29 July to 6 August 2025
- 8 overseas participants from 4 countries (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu)

2. Overview of the Course

This training programme was conducted in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific (UNODC ROSEAP). The objectives of the programme were as follows:

- (1) Share the current status and challenges of transnational organized crime in each country, along with best practices in investigative techniques;
- (2) Deepen discussions on effective countermeasures against transnational organized crime; and
- (3) Foster mutual understanding and trust among participants, building a network for information exchange and cooperation.

Through expert lectures, participants gained practical insights into effective investigative techniques to combat transnational organized crime. Country presentations by the participants highlighted the specific challenges faced by each country and facilitated the exchange of good practices in investigations. As a key outcome of the training, participants presented action plans tailored to their national contexts, which helped to advance discussions on effective countermeasures. Furthermore, the ten-day stay at the UNAFEI facility fostered mutual trust among participants which laid the foundation for a network of criminal justice practitioners that will contribute to future international cooperation.

3. Contents of the Course

(1) Country Presentations

The participants presented on the current situation and challenges of transnational organized crime investigations and prosecutions in their respective countries, and best practices in investigative techniques.

(2) Lectures

The following speakers each delivered lectures and answered questions from the participants:

- “Use of Digital Forensics in the Investigations of Transnational Organized Crime”
MCILROY Nanae, Public Prosecutor, Japan Prosecutors Unit on Emerging Crimes (JPEC) , Supreme Public Prosecutors Office
- “Investigation of Drug Trafficking”
SUDA Hiroshi, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC

Regional Office for the Southeast Asia and the Pacific

- “International Cooperation in Criminal Matters, Mutual Legal Assistance”
SUGANO Naoki, Deputy Director, UNAFEI
- “Criminal Justice System in Japan”
TANAKA Kunihiko, Professor, UNAFEI
- “Japanese Correction System - Focusing on Assessment and Treatment for Organized Crime”
HANDO Mayumi, Professor, UNAFEI
OKA Hideaki, Professor, UNAFEI

(3) Study Visits

The participants visited the following facilities to observe the current countermeasures against transnational organized crime in Japan:

- Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office
- Japan Coast Guard, Third Regional Coast Guard Headquarters
- Yokohama Customs

(4) Presentation of Action Plans

Based on the knowledge and insights gained through this programme, the participants developed and presented specific action plans proposing measures against transnational organized crime, tailored to their respective national contexts for future implementation.

4. Feedback from the participants

Most participants provided positive feedback, stating that all lectures and study visits were highly informative and inspiring. They further stated that they were motivated to apply what they learned in their future practice. Some participants also suggested improvements including enhancing gender balance and arranging opportunities to observe Japanese criminal trial proceedings. UNAFEI appreciates these constructive suggestions and will take them into consideration in planning our future programmes.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer

In addition to conducting multilateral international training programmes, UNAFEI has also organized bilateral training programmes in cooperation with UNODC and other partners, mainly targeting countries in Southeast Asia. This programme marked the first time that UNAFEI conducted such training for multiple Pacific Island countries. Through country presentations and the development of action plans, the programme highlighted the unique challenges in this region. Specifically, it was noted that numerous islands and vast maritime areas that comprise their national territories make it extremely difficult for the law enforcement authorities, with limited resources, to effectively cover and patrol these areas. Furthermore, international organized crime groups have targeted the region as a key transit point for illicit drug trafficking such as methamphetamine with ship-to-ship cargo transfers.

In order to effectively detect, investigate and prosecute transnational organized crime, international cooperation between nations, including mutual legal assistance, is essential. As digital technologies such as information and communications technology, Artificial Intelligence (AI), crypto assets, and the dark web advance, criminals

perpetrating organized crime will most certainly exploit these cutting-edge technologies to operate covertly and evade detection by law enforcement worldwide. To confront such transnational organized crime, it is essential for law enforcement authorities to combine their efforts and expertise, strengthen international cooperation, and work to eradicate criminal organizations.

This training programme was organized with the primary objectives of enabling participants to observe and learn about the current countermeasures against organized crime in Japan, applying such expertise to their respective national practices, and building a foundation for a network that can be utilized for future international cooperation by fostering trust among participants. As the programming officer of this programme, I sincerely hope that the insights gained by the participants through this training programme will contribute to enhancing countermeasures against transnational organized crime in their respective countries. UNAFEI will continue to provide support to Pacific Island countries in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.