

UNAFEI

147th International Senior Seminar

“Community Involvement in Offender Treatment”

Closing Ceremony – 9 February 2011

Farewell Speech by

Mr. Márcio Schiefler Fontes (Brazil)

Honourable Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Mr. Masaki Sasaki, Director of UNAFEI,

Mr. Haruhiko Ukawa, Deputy Director of UNAFEI,

Mr. Osamu Shimizu, President of the Research and
Training Institute,

Mr. Hisanao Noda, Deputy Director of TIC, JICA,

UNAFEI Faculty and Staff Members,

JICA Staff Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Fellow Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The time has come to say farewell.

On behalf of all the senior officers from judicial, police and correctional backgrounds that have come from all continents to gather at UNAFEI and attend this 147th International Senior Seminar, I would like to, first of all, express our profound and sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Government of Japan, its people, JICA and UNAFEI for granting us this opportunity.

Our course aimed to share international experience on the issue of Community Involvement in Offender Treatment, and I am pleased to say that we have achieved our goal. Greater community involvement can help make the criminal justice system more transparent and more accountable, and also much more effective in preventing recidivism and promoting public safety.

Many people were responsible for the success of our course. I could start by mentioning the kindness of the true *brigade de cuisine* who have attended us so kindly, or the gentle members of UNAFEI staff that have escorted us throughout Tokyo, Hiroshima

Yamaguchi and Kyoto, showing themselves, inside or outside UNAFEI, to be cheerful, helpful and cooperative.

I could continue by mentioning our Japanese colleagues, who have spent most of their time with us, even during the weekends, in detriment to their own families, in order to make our stay more comfortable, enjoyable and memorable.

Or perhaps I could make a long remark about the excellent lectures presented by the visiting experts from Canada, New Zealand, Singapore, the UK, Uganda and Thailand.

I could end, probably, mentioning the inspiring leadership and efficient supervision provided by Director Masaki Sasaki and Deputy Director Haruhiko Ukawa.

Notwithstanding, I want to highlight, above all, the competent guidance of our Programming Officer, Junichi Watanabe, on one hand, and of the JICE Coordinator, Miki Yamamoto, on the other, both of whom having proved themselves beyond all parameters.

The ultimate goal of all us participants is to prove ourselves capable of maintaining an international network of

counterparts in order to improve the administration of justice in our respective countries.

To achieve this, we are willing to keep in contact, sharing knowledge of the functioning of our criminal justice systems as our Japanese hosts have shared theirs.

Actually, we have experienced exciting interaction with Japanese authorities and had the pleasure of many visits, including to the Supreme Court, Tokyo District Court, Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, Fuchu Prison, Mine Rehabilitation Programme Centre, Kyoto Probation Office and Halfway Houses in Hiroshima and Kyoto, which have allowed us a first-hand glimpse of Japan's criminal justice system.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Every time I have to speak to an audience, I like to remember that judges, as you know, earn their living not from speaking, but from listening.

Tonight, however, I cannot end my farewell speech before saying this:

A month ago, when I landed in Japan for the first time in my life, I was eager to confirm or not the Japanese people's worldwide reputation for being absolutely honest and extremely hard-working.

After only 30 days, I am not exaggerating when I say that my expectations have been surpassed by far. Your hospitality, kindness, and generosity exceed your best-known qualities tenfold.

Dear Hosts, your Excellencies, esteemed Guests,

We must now leave UNAFEI, yet we leave a piece of us here, and we also take a piece of UNAFEI with us, for now we are part of the UNAFEI family.

May God Almighty bless this wonderful country, where the sun rises, and its virtuous people, with 10,000 years of peace and prosperity.

Thank you.

Thank you.

Thank you very much.