

UNAFEI
174TH INTERNATIONAL SENIOR SEMINAR

Farewell Speech

13 February 2020

(delivered by Ana Cristina Bandeira Lins from Brazil)

Honourable Members of the diplomatic corps,
Director, Mr. SETO Takeshi (virtually, from Vienna),
Deputy Director, Mrs. ISHIHARA Kayo,
Mr. MORIYA Takahiro, Deputy Director-General of the
Tokyo International Centre of the Japan International
Cooperation Agency (JICA),
UNAFEI professors and staff members,
JICA and ACPF staff members,
Distinguished guests,
Fellow participants,
Ladies and gentlemen,



I could begin this speech by saying how much we all have acquired during this last five weeks, great knowledge about the best practices to avoid recidivism. In addition, how rich was the opportunity to exchange such relevant information on the criminal systems among the participants, the professors and visitors from other countries

I could explore how we have learned deeply about the rehabilitation of ex-offenders, and how ready we are now to give intense contribution in our countries, in order to reach many of the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations agenda.

As an alternative, I could speak about our very instructive and special visits to the Ministry of Justice, the Supreme Court, Hiroshima Prison, a probation office and a halfway house in Kyoto.

I could even express how enormously grateful we all are for UNAFEI, JICA, ACPF and the tax payers of Japan, for allowing each of us this unforgettable experience, not only in learning about criminal matters, but also about the richness of Japanese culture. The visits to museums, temples and shrines, the classes about Japanese culture, economy and politics, the Japanese lessons, the impressive testimony of the survivors of the bombing of Hiroshima, Keiko Ogura-san—all were very rich in this aspect.

Besides all that, abusing this honoured and privileged position as a speaker, what I truly want to talk about at this quite difficult moment, is how gratified I feel for being adopted as a member of this privileged circle, called UNAFEI.

The former UNAFEI member, Ogawa-san, told us during that most pleasant dinner in Hiroshima about how nice it is to be a part of this beautiful UNAFEI family. In his words, I am sure that all of us, students, could recognize ourselves.

At UNAFEI, we could enjoy many happy moments, like at the ping-pong training and competition, at the meals and break times and at the practically daily parties.



Being member of the UNAFEI family, we were also able to enjoy the most welcoming atmosphere in the memorable visit to the homes of volunteer probation officers. All of us have nice stories to tell about this remarkable moment from our seminar.



I must also mention the hard work done by of our patient and very nice chefs and be thankful for the delicious meals served. And we cannot forget the always alert guards and the brave cleaners.

I will never forget how much I learned about countries that I barely knew how to find on the globe!

I will always have a very special place in my heart for all of you, dear professors, staff and participants. Especially for my beloved Japanese fellows, who constantly did all they could to turn this period in Japan to one of the absolute highlights of my life.

I will never forget the adventures and shared secrets with some female participants, nor will I forget the amazing time spent beside my adorable Big Brothers. Please, everyone, don't leave me alone!!!

I could, instead, give more details over how my two private missions were almost completed. I was not able to develop much of my karaoke talents. You are all

witnesses that I tried hard, but I still sing poorly. On the other hand, regarding my knowledge of *sake*, I'm proud to say that I've really learned a lot.

Back to this cheerful home, I will always be dreaming to return...

I am waiting for each one of you in Brazil, and of course, also next April at the Kyoto Congress!!!

Just two last things I'd like to add:

Seto-san, I hope someone is video-recording now, what I've intensely trained to say at this hard moment to you: ♪ *Sayonara, anata, watashi wa kaerimasu.* ♪

And for the UNAFEI family: *kokoro kara aishiteru!*

Domo arigato gozaimashita.

