

The 178th International Training Course on Criminal Justice (Online)
“Cybercrime and Digital Evidence”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 14 June to 7 July 2022
- 29 overseas participants from 14 jurisdictions

2. Programme Overview

Criminals abuse newest cyber technologies and leave digital footprints at all stages of their activities. Digital evidence crosses borders so easily that investigation and prosecution have become even more challenging. This programme provided criminal justice authorities with knowledge and expertise to tackle all crimes that involve digital evidence. Particular focus was placed on (1) finding, preserving, collecting, analysing and utilizing digital evidence and (2) international cooperation regarding investigation of cybercrime and all other crimes that involve digital evidence.

This programme was exclusively conducted online due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

3. The Content of the Programme

(1) Lectures

Since the participants needed to continue their professional and family duties during the programme, the lectures were recorded in advance and broadcast on-demand for their convenience, followed by live Q & A sessions with the lecturers. UNAFEI faculty members gave on-demand lectures on the “Criminal Justice System in Japan”, “The overview of Rules of Evidence in Japan” and “Legal Developments Related to Digital Evidence in Japan”. The visiting experts from overseas and Japanese experts also gave informative lectures:

- Visiting Experts
 - Ms. Lina Aksu
Judicial Cooperation Officer
Eurojust, SIRIUS Project Team
“Challenges investigating cybercrime and gathering cross-border digital evidence”

- Dr. Thomas Dougherty
International Computer Hacking and Intellectual Property
Attorney for Central, Southern and Eastern Europe
U.S. Department of Justice
“Effective Use of Digital Evidence in Anti-Corruption Investigations and Prosecutions”
- Ad hoc lecturer
 - Mr. YAMAZAKI Takayuki
Deputy Director, Traffic Planning Division, Traffic Bureau
National Police Agency
“Tackling Cybercrime at INTERPOL”
 - Mr. WATANABE Kazuhiko
Assistant Director, Cyber Policy Planning Division
Cybercrime Affairs Bureau, National Police Agency
“Cybercrime Realities and Countermeasures”
 - Mr. HARASHIMA Ichiro
Public Prosecutor
Criminal Affairs Department, Osaka District Public Prosecutors’ Office
“Practical Operations on Electronic Evidence, etc.”

(2) Group Work

Participants were divided into four groups based on time zones and the themes of their choice for the Individual Presentations sessions and discussions.

➤ Individual Presentations

Participants shared the practices and the challenges in their respective jurisdictions regarding the theme of the Programme through their individual presentations. All the presentations were recorded and uploaded online for reference by participants in other groups or those who could not attend the sessions.

➤ Discussions

Participants had fruitful discussions on the themes of the Programme: (i) finding, preserving, collecting, analysing and utilizing digital evidence and (ii)

international cooperation regarding investigation of cybercrime and all other crimes that involve digital evidence.

- Finding, preserving, collecting, analysing and utilizing digital evidence

First, common issues mainly discussed were “capacity building of criminal justice practitioners dealing with digital evidence”, considering that there were differences in the legal systems and procedures for the handing of digital evidence in each country. The participants, based on the actual situation in their respective countries, exchanged opinions on the “necessity of acquiring specialized knowledge” and “enhancement of digital forensic technology and equipment”. Proposals were made regarding the need for public relations and awareness-raising activities as part of measures against cybercrime, and many pointed out the importance of public-private partnerships for that purpose.

- International cooperation regarding investigation of cybercrime and all other crimes that involve digital evidence

Regarding international cooperation, the general issues are the delay in responding to requests for mutual legal assistance in investigations, the complexity of procedures, and the small number of member countries of the Budapest Convention. As measures to promote international cooperation, the participants were in favour of promoting informal information exchanges, recognizing the necessity of collecting and analysing digital evidence in collaboration with law enforcement agencies in other countries.

(3) Action Plans

Each group concluded the programme by presenting their own action plans based on the challenges they identified and what they learned in the lectures, presentations by the colleagues and discussions.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Almost all participants commented that they would have preferred face-to-face training in Japan; however, various lectures and discussions were enriched and informative knowledge and practices were exchanged during the online course.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer

The theme of “Cybercrime and Digital Evidence” is an issue that all countries are interested in, and I felt the enthusiasm of each participant in the course. Information and communication technology is advancing day by day, and new

types of cybercrime are appearing one after another. In this regard, effective countermeasures against them have become an urgent issue in each country. For this reason, as each lecture contained cutting-edge knowledge and practical experiences, including contents that were difficult for participants to obtain in their own countries, the participants were highly interested, which led to active discussions. We hope that the knowledge gained from this course will be utilized in the development and enhancement of each participant's jurisdiction.