

The 179th International Training Course
on Management of Correctional Facilities and Rehabilitation of Offenders (Online)
“Juvenile Justice and Beyond – Effective Measures for
the Rehabilitation of Juveniles in Conflict with the Law and Young Adult Offenders”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 6 to 29 September 2022
- 24 overseas participants from 16 countries

2. Programme Overview

Juveniles are socially and psychologically immature, and they are susceptible to stress and trauma. On the other hand, juveniles are often more responsive to efforts at rehabilitation and reintegration with appropriate intervention and support. Hence, it is important for correctional services to promote well-being and personal development by providing appropriate measures and treatment, making use of the formative period. In addition, this approach should also be extended to young adult offenders because cognitive function changes gradually; consequently, young adults are similar to juveniles in many respects.

In light of the above, this programme provided opportunities to share each country's practices and discuss effective institutional and community-based treatment and juvenile justice systems for juveniles in conflict with the law and young adult offenders.

3. Method of Training

This programme was exclusively conducted online due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In consideration of time differences between countries, the programme was conducted in two groups. Since the participants needed to continue their professional and family duties during the programme, some lectures were recorded in advance and broadcasted on-demand for their convenience, followed by live Q & A sessions with the lecturers.

4. The Content of the Programme

(1) Lectures by Visiting Experts

- Ms. Hannah Tiefengraber
Associate Expert, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Programme to End Violence against Children
“Juvenile Justice and Violence against Children in the Context of Counter-Terrorism and National Security”
- Dr. Garner Clancey
Associate Professor, University of Sydney Law School
“The Rehabilitation of Young Adult Offenders”

(2) Lectures by Experts

- Mr. NASU Akihiro
Certified Clinical Psychologist, Research Officer, Centre for Evidence-

Based Research, Correctional Training Institute

“Use of a Risk Assessment Tool for Juveniles and Evaluation of Programme Effectiveness”

- Mr. TACHIBANA Yoshinori
Family Court Investigating Officer, Tokyo Family Court, Tachikawa Branch
“Investigation and Coordination by Family Court Investigating Officers in Criminal Cases Involving Juveniles”

(3) Lectures by UNAFEI faculty members

- Professor NAKAYAMA Noboru
“Overview of Juvenile Hearings in Japan”,
- Professor MIYAGAWA Tsubura
“International Standards and Norms for Juvenile Justice” and “Juvenile Institutional Corrections in Japan
- Professor OTSUKA Takeaki
“Juvenile Community-based Corrections in Japan”

(4) 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 the other group.

(5) Group Workshops (Case Study)

Participants were divided into four groups according to time zones. The participants discussed a fictional case of a juvenile offender and explored appropriate measures and treatment for the juvenile based on risk assessment and best practices for rehabilitation and reintegration, which are the main topics of this training programme.

A 16-year-old male juvenile in the fictional case faced multiple problems in his family and educational environment and, consequently, he assaulted his colleague. Based on the facts of the case, the following three topics were discussed: (i) assessment of the juvenile's risk of reoffending, (ii) treatment, education and vocational training necessary for the juvenile, and (iii) improvement of the relationship between the juvenile and his family and support for his family. The results of the discussion were presented by each group.

Assessment of offenders is effective in measuring the risk of reoffending as well as in improving the treatment of offenders. In this programme, there were several explanations on the importance of the risk assessment, and each group discussed the risk of the juvenile in the fictional case, referring to their knowledge gained from the lectures. The participants constructively discussed and developed best

practices for each group although the systems and practices differ from country to country.

(6) Action Plans

At the end of the programme, each participant presented Action Plans based on the abovementioned lectures, individual presentations, and group workshops. They identified the challenges in their countries and proposed possible solutions based on what they learnt from the lectures, presentations by the other participants and discussions in the group workshops. It was obvious from the Action Plans presented by the participants that everyone remarkably enhanced their understanding on juvenile justice and related issues and was eager to put their plans into practice in their countries.

5. Feedback from the Participants

We received a lot of positive feedback from the participants. They commented that all the lectures, group workshops and interactions with lecturers and participants were very useful. Relevant materials provided prior to and during the programme (UN documents, research articles, publications and videos) were also highly evaluated. Several participants commented that observation visits to facilities and agencies in Japan would have contributed to enhance their understanding further.

6. Comments from the Programming Officer (Professor MIYAGAWA Tsubura)

In light of the plasticity of juveniles and young adults, the timely and appropriate intervention to help and protect juveniles in conflict with the law and young adult offenders is a critical issue for the entire world. In addition, as a problem that has emerged through lectures and the group workshops, it is also necessary to provide their families support and to include the whole community in taking comprehensive approaches. This is because the sound development of juveniles and young people is hindered by inappropriate environments, poverty, and organized crime and violent extremism.

Throughout the training period, the participants enthusiastically and actively participated in all the sessions. The final Action Plans were creative presentations from a wide viewpoint such as approaches to the local community and the importance of capacity-building of staff. All the presentations were very meaningful and substantial. I am sure that the participants will make the most of what they have learned from the programme. Despite the inability to meet in person, it was worth providing the opportunity to learn from each other online.