

UNAFEI NEWSLETTER

UNAFEI

UNITED NATIONS ASIA AND FAR EAST
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AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

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UNAFEI IS AN AFFILIATED REGIONAL INSTITUTE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

It is my privilege to inform readers of the successful completion of the 187th International Training Course on Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight Against Money Laundering, which took place in Tokyo from 9 May to 5 June. In this Course, we welcomed 3 Japanese participants and 11 overseas participants: 4 from Africa and 7 from Asia. The participants included police officers, prosecutors, and other criminal justice officials. As this newsletter demonstrates, the Course was extremely productive. It consisted of lectures by visiting experts, expert lecturers, UNAFEI faculty members, study visits, individual presentations and interactive discussion sessions.

In response to the growth of transnational organized crime and its links with terrorist financing, criminal justice authorities have been devoting greater attention to denying criminal groups from the proceeds of their illicit activities. However, money-laundering investigations often confront challenges arising from the transnational nature of crime, including the lack of knowledge of the laws in other jurisdictions, underuse of international cooperation frameworks, delays in responding to mutual legal assistance requests, and new and emerging forms of concealment, such as the use of cryptocurrencies.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Course to offer participants an opportunity to clarify and analyse the current situation of money-laundering in each participating country and to explore more effective practices to counter it. Additionally, the participants were able to share experiences, gain knowledge and build a human network of counterparts.

During the Course, the participants diligently and comprehensively examined the main theme, primarily through a comparative analysis. The participants shared their own experiences and knowledge of the issues and identified problems and areas in which improvements could be made. With the academic and practical input from the visiting experts, expert lecturers and UNAFEI faculty – and the in-depth discussions they had with each other – the participants are now better equipped to enhance the policies and practices related to money laundering.

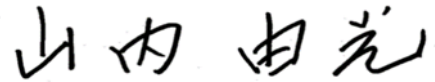
I would like to offer my sincere congratulations to all the participants upon their successful completion of the Course, made possible by their strenuous efforts. My heartfelt gratitude goes out to the visiting experts and expert lecturers who contributed a great deal to the Course's success. Furthermore, I appreciate the indispensable assistance and cooperation extended to UNAFEI by various agencies and institutions that helped diversify the Course.

I would also like to express my great appreciation to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for its immeasurable support throughout the Course. At the same time, a warm tribute must be paid to the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) and its branch organizations for their substantial contributions to our activities. Lastly, I owe my gratitude to all the individuals whose unselfish efforts behind the scenes contributed significantly to the successful realization of this Course.

With the knowledge and perspectives gained through this Course, I genuinely believe that, like their predecessors, the strong determination and dedication of the participants will enable them to work towards the improvement of their respective nations' criminal justice systems, and towards the benefit of international society as a whole.

Finally, I would like to reiterate my best regards to the participants of the 187th International Training Course. I hope that the experience they gained during the Course proves valuable in their daily work and that the bonds fostered among the participants, visiting experts and UNAFEI staff will continue to grow for many years to come.

July 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of four characters: 山内由光 (Yamauchi Yoshimitsu).

YAMAUCHI Yoshimitsu
Director, UNAFEI

THE 187TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

CURRENT CHALLENGES AND EFFECTIVE COUNTERMEASURES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING

Course Rationale

I. INTRODUCTION

Money laundering is generally defined as the process of concealing the origin of money obtained from illicit activities such as drug trafficking, corruption and fraud, and converting the funds into a seemingly legitimate source. It is widely acknowledged that the proceeds from criminal activities will be used to perpetuate and strengthen future criminal organizations, thereby fostering organized crime and terrorism. In order to safeguard the well-being and security of the public, as well as to contribute to the stable development of economic activities, governments must implement effective measures to prevent money laundering.

The need to take effective measures against money laundering in order to undermine the economic base of international organized crime, in particular international drug trafficking organizations, has been widely recognized by the international community. In 1988, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, which requires States Parties to criminalize the concealment of the proceeds of drug trafficking and to deprive drug trafficking organizations of such proceeds.¹ In 1989, the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) was established among the major developed countries to strengthen international cooperation in the fight against money laundering.² In addition, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2000, requiring States Parties to criminalize money laundering of proceeds of organized crimes.³

Following the terrorist attacks in the United States in 2001, there has been a growing demand to prevent terrorism, leading not only to proactive investigation and prosecution of terrorists themselves, but also for effective regulation of the provision of funds to terrorists. In response to such demand, the international community has taken various measures to combat the financing of terrorism, which also utilizes money-laundering schemes.

Despite these efforts, the international community has not been able to curb money laundering and terrorist financing sufficiently. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) estimates that the annual total amount of money laundered each year is around 2-5% of global GDP.⁴ The United Nations Crime Congress (the Kyoto Congress) held in Kyoto

¹ UNODC Website

https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/Mandate_Functions/conventions.html

² FATF Website

<https://www.fatf-gafi.org/en/the-fatf/history-of-the-fatf.html>

³ UNODC Website

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

⁴ UNODC Website

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/money-laundering/overview.html>

in March 2021, adopted a political declaration (Kyoto Declaration) stating that Member States should develop and implement effective measures to prevent and combat money laundering and illicit financial flows.⁵

In addition, with the recent increase in transnational organized crime such as illegal drug trafficking, human trafficking, and cybercrime, money laundering to conceal and launder the proceeds obtained through these crimes and illegal transactions is also on the rise, and the abuse of tax havens to conceal criminal proceeds and the anonymity of crypto assets as a means of money laundering through casinos is a growing trend, especially in Southeast Asia.⁶

In light of this, it is necessary to analyse the current situation and challenges related to the detection, investigation and prosecution of money laundering and terrorist financing in each country, and to discuss effective countermeasures that can be implemented in each jurisdiction. This will contribute to the suppression of transnational organized crime and terrorism, and ultimately to the realization of Goal 16 of the SDGs: peace, justice and strong institutions.

II. KEY TOPICS

This programme focused on the following topics:

- (1) Current situation regarding money laundering and terrorist financing in each country;
- (2) Issues and challenges of prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of money laundering and terrorist financing;
- (3) Best practices in each country in the prevention, detection, investigation, prosecution and adjudication of money laundering and terrorist financing, including preventive measures such as education of youth and awareness-raising of the general public;
- (4) International trends related to money laundering and terrorist financing, and a review of the methodology of international bodies such as the FATF;
- (5) International cooperation in the fight against money laundering and terrorist financing, including asset recovery;
- (6) Effective future countermeasures to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

⁵ Kyoto Declaration (paragraph 24,75)

https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/Congress/21-02815_Kyoto_Declaration_ebook_rev_cover.pdf

⁶ UNODC Report “Casinos, Money Laundering, Underground Banking, and Transnational Organized Crime in East and Southeast Asia: A Hidden and Accelerating Threat”

https://www.unodc.org/roseap/uploads/documents/Publications/2024/Casino_Underground_Banking_Report_2024.pdf

Course Summary

Lectures

During the Course, the participants attended a variety of lectures, presentations and discussion sessions, including 5 presented by the visiting experts, 11 by expert lecturers and lectures by faculty members of UNAFEI. The distinguished lecturers addressed issues relating to the main theme of the Course and contributed significantly beyond their lectures by answering the participants' questions during the question-and-answer sessions. The visiting experts were from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering and the U.S. Department of Justice. The expert lectures from Japan included lecturers from the Financial Services Agency, the Japan Financial Intelligence Center, the Ministry of Justice of Japan, the National Police Agency, the Supreme Public Prosecutors Office, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office, the Tokyo Metropolitan Police and Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group. The lecturers and lecture topics are listed on pages 6 to 8.

Individual Presentations

Toward the beginning of the Course, all participants delivered individual presentations which introduced the situation, problems and future prospects of the participants' countries. These papers were distributed to all the participants. Each presentation was followed by a Q&A session, in which additional information was shared. See "Individual Presentations" for more information. The Individual Presentation topics are listed on pages 9 and 10.

Group Workshop Sessions

Group workshop sessions provided the participants with the opportunity to further examine the sub-topics of the main theme through in-depth discussions. In order to conduct each session effectively, the UNAFEI faculty selected individuals to serve as group members for the sub-topics. Selected participants served as chairpersons, or rapporteurs, and faculty members served as advisers. Each group's primary responsibility was to explore and develop their chosen topics in the group workshop sessions. The participants and UNAFEI faculty studied the topics and exchanged their views based on information obtained through personal experience, the individual presentations, lectures and so forth. The group members are provided on pages 11 to 13.

Lecture Topics

Visiting Experts' Lectures

- 1) Joshua James
Regional Counter-Cybercrime Coordinator
UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
 - Digital Fundamentals
 - Introduction to Darknet and Cryptocurrencies

- 2) Aibek Turdukulov
Programme Officer (Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism)
UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
 - UNODC Global Programme on Money Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Countering the Financing of Terrorism
 - AML/CFT International Standards and UN Instruments
 - The Evolving Threat
 - Southeast Asia & Global Money Laundering Trends & Typologies
 - Effective Domestic Coordination in AML/CFT
 - Building a Collaborative National Defense Coordination

- 3) Gavin Raper
Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

Stephen Munro
Deputy Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team, Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG)

 - Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight Against Money Laundering

- 4) Jumpon Phansumrit
Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Thailand
 - International Cooperation in the Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime and Associated Money Laundering: Thailand's Perspectives

- 5) Jennifer Wallis
Senior Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice, Criminal Division, International Unit of Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS)
 - Countermeasures against Money Laundering

UNAFEI Professors' Lectures

- 1) Director YAMAUCHI Yoshimitsu
 - Money Laundering and FATF ~ My experience
- 2) Deputy Director SUGANO Naoki
 - International Cooperation in Criminal Matters and Mutual Legal Assistance
- 3) Prof. TANAKA Kunihiro
 - Overview of the Japanese Criminal Justice System

Experts' Lectures

- 1) HAMADA Koki
Financial Crimes Office, Risk Analysis Division, Strategy Development and Management Bureau, Financial Services Agency
 - Current Status and Challenges of AML/CFT Measures in Japan
- 2) FUKUTANI Masahiro
Government Attorney, Public Security Division, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice
 - Measures Against Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Japan
- 3) HIRAMOTO Masaki
Second Organized Crime Division, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau, National Police Agency
 - Current Situation of Money Laundering in Japan
- 4) TACHI Shinichi
First Organized Crime Division, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau, National Police Agency
 - Outline of Countermeasures Against Proceeds of Crime in Japan
- 5) WATANABE Shintaro
Managing Director, Head of AML Department, Financial Crimes Office for Japan, MUFG Bank, Ltd.
 - Anti-Money Laundering Measures
- 6) McIlroy Nanae
Public Prosecutor, Japan Prosecutors Unit on Emerging Crimes (JPEC) , Supreme Public Prosecutors Office

- Use of Digital Forensics in the Investigations of Crime including Money Laundering

7) TATE Junya
Criminal Proceeds Division, Organized Crime Department, Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department, Superintendent Designated by the National Police Agency

- Investigation of Cross-Border Money Laundering Cases

8) TOKUTAKE Keiichi
Public Prosecutor, Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office

- Investigation and Prosecution of Money Laundering Cases Using Crypto Assets

Individual Presentation Topics

Overseas Participants

- 1) Tshewang DORJI (Bhutan)
 - Current Situation of Anti-Money-Laundering in Bhutan
- 2) Dejene Asefa BOGALE (Ethiopia)
 - Criminal Justice Focus on Investigation and Prosecution: International Cooperation
- 3) Chanthaboun CHANTHAVONG (Laos)
 - Factors Affecting the Consideration of Money Laundering Cases in the People's Court of the Lao PDR
- 4) Abdulla SHAHUNEEZ (Maldives)
 - Combating Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing in the Maldives
- 5) Mariyam LOVEZA (Maldives)
 - Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight against Money Laundering in the Maldives
- 6) Iftikhar AHMAD (Pakistan)
 - The Current Situation of Pakistan Related to Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing
- 7) Michael Jared Korppomeh LAGGA (Sierra Leone)
 - An Overview of Sierra Leone's Anti-Money-Laundering, Counter-Financing of Terrorism, and Financing of the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction Regime – Progress, Challenges and Recommendations on the Way Forward
- 8) Lou John Sebit ANTHONY (South Sudan)
 - Criminal Justice (Focus on Investigation, Prosecution, Adjudication and International Cooperation)
- 9) AHMADOV Alimardon Akhmadovich (Uzbekistan)
 - Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight against Money Laundering in Uzbekistan

10) NGUYEN Thi Quynh Chau (Viet Nam)

- The Current Situation and Challenges in Investigation, Prosecution and Adjudication of Money Laundering in Vietnam

11) MARUZHANG Changu (Zambia)

- The Current Situation, Good Practices, Challenges and Possible Countermeasures in the Fight against Money Laundering

Japanese Participants

1) NIWANO Eiki

- Criminal Investigation that Led to the Deprivation of Criminal Proceeds from a Non-Designated Yakuza-group

2) SAITO Takuya

- My Experience of Investigation of a Fraud Case of Opening Bank Accounts Misused for Money Laundering

3) TANIOKA Chiyoko

- Recent Issues in Money Laundering

Group Workshop Sessions

Group A***ACTION PLAN ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM***

Chairperson	Dejene Asefa BOGALE (Ethiopia)
Rapporteur	Mariyam LOVEZA (Maldives)
Members	SAITO Takuya (Japan)
	NGUYEN Thi Quynh Chau (Viet Nam)
Adviser	Prof. TANAKA Kunihiro (UNAFEI)

Group B***TO STRENGTHEN THE DEFENCE AGAINST MONEY LAUNDERING AND
TERRORISM FINANCING, ADAPT TO NEW THREATS AND ENSURING EFFECTIVE
LEGAL ACTION***

Chairperson	Iftikhar AHMAD (Pakistan)
Rapporteur	MARUZHANGU (Zambia)
Members	Abdulla SHAHUNEEZ (Maldives)
	Michael Jared Korppomeh LAGGA (Sierra Leone)
	NIWANO Eiki (Japan)
Adviser	Prof. KUSHINO Yuki (UNAFEI)

Group C***1 CHALLENGES IN PREVENTING MONEY LAUNDERING AND FINANCING OF TERRORISM******2 CHALLENGES IN DETECTION, INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF ML/FT***

Chairperson	TANIOKA Chiyoko (Japan)
Rapporteur	AHMADOV Alimardon Akhmadovich (Uzbekistan)
Members	Tshewang DORJI (Bhutan)
	Chanthaboun CHANTHAVONG (Laos)
	Lou John Sebit ANTHONY (South Sudan)
Adviser	Prof. KONOUE Kyohei (UNAFEI)

Observation Visits

<u>Date</u>	<u>Agency/Institution</u>
28 May	Haneda Branch Customs, Tokyo Customs
29 May	Tachikawa Branch of the Tokyo District Court

Special Events

9 May	Welcome Reception
15, 19 May	Japanese Language Class
22 May	Japanese Cultural Event hosted by <i>hogoshi</i> (volunteer probation officers)
5 June	Farewell Party

Reference Materials

**UNAFEI's 187TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE
LIST OF REFERENCE MATERIALS**

List of Reference Materials (187th International Training Course)	
1	Financial Action Task Force (Aug. 2024), "Methodology for Assessing Technical Compliance with the FATF Recommendations and the Effectiveness of AML/CFT/CPF Systems"
2	Financial Action Task Force (Feb. 2025), "International Standards on Combating Money Laundering and the Financing of Terrorism & Proliferation: The FATF Recommendations"
3	Financial Action Task Force (Apr. 2022), "What are FATF Mutual Evaluations?"

Expert and Participant List

Visiting Experts

Joshua James	Regional Counter-Cybercrime Coordinator UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
Aibek Turdukulov	Programme Officer (Anti-Money Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism) UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
Gavin Raper	Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team
Stephen Munro	Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG), Deputy Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team
Jumpon Phansumrit	Deputy Attorney General Office of the Attorney General of Thailand
Jennifer Wallis	Senior Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice Criminal Division International Unit of Money Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS)

Overseas Participants

Tshewang DORJI	Offtg. Chief Attorney Prosecution and Litigation Division Office of the Attorney General Bhutan
Dejene Asefa BOGALE	Financial Investigation Division Head Financial Crime Analysis Department Financial Intelligence Service Ethiopia
Chanthaboun CHANTHAVONG	Judge, Acting Head of Division Department of International Cooperation People's Supreme Court Laos

Abdulla SHAHUNEEZ	Senior Sergeant (Investigation Officer) Anti-Scam Centre / Economic Crime Investigations Maldives Police Service Maldives
Mariyam LOVEZA	Investigation Officer Terrorism and Violent Extremism Investigations Maldives Police Service Maldives
Iftikhar AHMAD	Registrar Special Accountability Court Law & Justice Division Pakistan
Michael Jared Korppomeh LAGGA	Deputy Head Criminal Investigations Department Sierra Leone Police Sierra Leone
Lou John Sebit ANTHONY	Executive Director IGP office South Sudan National Police Service South Sudan
AHMADOV Alimardon Akhmadovich	Senior Prosecutor Scientific and Educational Center for Combating Corruption Law Enforcement Academy Uzbekistan
NGUYEN Thi Quynh Chau	Judge General Division The People's Court of Huong Thuy District, Hue City, Viet Nam Viet Nam
MARUZHANG Changu	Head of Community Services Directorate Community Services Directorate Zambia Police Zambia

Japanese Participants

NIWANO Eiki	Public Prosecutor Fukuoka District Public Prosecutors Office
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SAITO Takuya

Public Prosecutor
Chiba District Public Prosecutors Office

TANIOKA Chiyoko

Police Chief Inspector
Organized Crime Department, Criminal
Investigation Bureau
National Police Agency

INFORMATION ABOUT FORTHCOMING PROGRAMMES

1. The 188th International Training Course

From 27 August to 18 September 2025, UNAFEI will host the 188th International Training Course in Tokyo, Japan. The main theme of the Course is “Theories of Offender Rehabilitation and their Effective Implementation”. Approximately 20 participants from overseas and Japan will attend.

2. The 27th UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme

UNAFEI’s annual anti-corruption programme, the UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme, will take place from 23 October to 19 November 2025. The main theme of the Programme is “Detecting Corruption – Learning from Successful Methods, Practices and Techniques”. Approximately 25 participants from overseas and Japan will attend.

ADMINISTRATIVE NEWS

Faculty and Staff Changes

KUSHINO Yuki, formerly a prosecutor of the Osaka District Public Prosecutors Office, was appointed as a professor of UNAFEI in April 2025.

KONOUE Kyohei, formerly a judge of the Tokyo District Court, was appointed as a professor of UNAFEI in April 2025.

OTONARI Katsutomo, formerly an officer of the Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice, was appointed as a professor of UNAFEI in April 2025.

HANDO Mayumi, formerly a research officer of the Centre for Evidence-Based Research, Training Institute for Correctional Personnel, was appointed as a professor of UNAFEI in April 2025.

OKA Hideaki, formerly the section chief of the Recidivism Prevention Promotion Office, Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice, was appointed as a professor of UNAFEI in April 2025.

SUZUKI Yusuke, formerly an officer of the International Affairs Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice, was appointed as the chief of the Training Affairs Section of UNAFEI in April 2025.

FUJISHIMA Shiori, formerly an officer of the Tokushima Probation Office, was appointed as an officer of the Training Affairs Section of UNAFEI in April 2025.

YAMANA Rompei, formerly a professor of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Shizuoka District Public Prosecutors' Office, Numazu Branch Office in April 2025.

NAKAYAMA Noboru, formerly a professor of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Fukuoka High Court in April 2025.

MURAJI Isao, formerly a professor of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Training Institute for Correctional Personnel in April 2025.

KIDA Makiko, formerly a professor of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Cabinet Office in April 2025.

YAMAMOTO Shinichi, formerly the chief of secretariat of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office in April 2025.

MIZUMOTO Kaito, formerly an officer of UNAFEI, was transferred to the Sendai Regional Immigration Services Bureau in April 2025.

FACULTY AND STAFF OF UNAFEI

Faculty

YAMAUCHI Yoshimitsu	Director
SUGANO Naoki	Deputy Director
TANAKA Kunihiro	Professor
	187th Training Course Programming Officer
KONOUE Kyohei	Professor
YAMAZAKI Jun	Professor
KUSHINO Yuki	Professor
	187th Training Course Deputy Programming Officer
OHTONARI Katsutomo	Professor
TANAKA Naoki	Professor
ABE Yuta	Professor
	Chief of Information and Public Relations
FURUKAWA Yuho	Professor
HANDO Mayumi	Professor
	Chief of Research Division
OKA Hideaki	Professor
TOMARI Fumi	Professor
Thomas L. Schmid	Linguistic Adviser

Secretariat

UEKI Katsuhiko	Chief of Secretariat
KAJII Manabu	Chief of General Affairs Section
MAEDA Masami	Chief of Financial Affairs Section
TANIGUCHI Yohei	Chief of Planning Affairs Section
SUZUKI Yusuke	Chief of Training Affairs Section

Training and Hostel Management Affairs Section

MAKINO Mikiko	Deputy Chief International Affairs officer
	187th Training Course Assistant Programming Officer
NAGANUMA Toshiki	Senior Officer
	187th Training Course Assistant Programming Officer
SUENOBU Naoyuki	Senior Officer
SUZUKI Kaori	Officer
FUJISHIMA Shiori	Officer

Secretarial Staff

YAMADA Hisayo	Officer
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JICA Coordinator for the 187th International Training Course

SATO Miho

JICA

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