

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Twelfth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Da Nang, Viet Nam from 27–29 November 2018. The Good Governance Seminar was held in Viet Nam for the second time, and, we were once again deeply impressed and touched by the warm hospitality afforded to us by our Vietnamese hosts.

The main theme of the Seminar was *The Latest Regional Trends in Corruption and Effective Countermeasures by Criminal Justice Authorities*. The Seminar was attended by two visiting experts—one from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and one from Malaysia—and 19 criminal justice practitioners from the countries of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Seminar was co-hosted by UNAFEI and the Supreme People’s Procuracy of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam (SPP).

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. As with other regions in the world, the fight against corruption in Southeast Asian countries has taken on an international dimension. The main theme of the Twelfth Seminar focused on providing updates on the latest anti-corruption measures and corruption-related trends across Southeast Asia.

The Seminar explored existing and emerging corruption trends in the participating countries, identified challenges which frustrate Mutual Legal Assistance and shared best practices for anti-corruption enforcement in the participating countries. Through discussion of issues such as private-sector corruption and corporate criminal liability, proactive asset confiscation and recovery techniques, the utilization of special investigation measures, extensive use of international cooperation, among others, the participants exchanged knowledge, experiences, effective strategies, and best practices in the field of anti-corruption. The Chair’s Summary, published in this report, details the key conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. In addition, the Seminar enabled the participants to develop personal and professional contacts between anti-corruption authorities and investigators in Southeast Asia.

It is a pleasure to publish this Report of the Seminar as part of UNAFEI’s mission, entrusted to it by the United Nations, to widely disseminate meaningful information on criminal justice policy. Finally, on behalf of UNAFEI, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Supreme People’s Procuracy of Viet Nam for their tremendous support in co-hosting the Twelfth Regional Seminar.

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