

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Thirteenth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 17–19 December 2019. The Good Governance Seminar was held in Japan for the third time, although it was the first time that the seminar was held at UNAFEI’s new facility in Akishima City.

The main theme of the seminar was *Effective Financial Investigation and Anti-Money-Laundering Measures for Confiscation and Asset Recovery to Counter New and Emerging Corruption Threats*. The Seminar was attended by two visiting experts – one from the Hong Kong Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and one from the United States Department of Justice (USDOJ) – and 23 criminal justice practitioners from the countries of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam. It should be noted that this Seminar marks the first occasion on which Timor-Leste participated in the Good Governance Seminar.

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 Thirteenth 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, identified challenges which frustrate effective financial investigations, and shared best practices for investigating money-laundering and confiscating illicit proceeds of corruption in the participating countries. Through discussion of issues – such as professional, team-based approaches to investigate corruption and trace proceeds; the emerging criminal use of peer-to-peer mobile payment platforms, digital wallets, and cryptoassets; proactive asset confiscation and recovery techniques; and the 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.



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