

## OPENING REMARKS

*SETO Takeshi\**

Distinguished experts and participants, ladies and gentlemen,

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to announce the opening of the Thirteenth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries. We sincerely welcome all of you to this significant forum, which is taking place at UNAFEI for the second time in the history of this seminar.

Since 2007, this seminar has been an exceptional opportunity for criminal justice practitioners in Southeast Asian countries to share our experiences in pursuit of the eradication of corruption in this region. The seminar has been co-hosted by UNAFEI and participating countries: it was first held in Thailand, and then the Philippines, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia and, last year, Viet Nam.

Over these twelve years, we have seen and discussed many developments in anti-corruption-legislation and criminal justice practices in this region, including the recent acceptance of UNCAC by Japan.

In the latest two seminars in Viet Nam, we wrapped up those efforts and developments by discussing “Best practices in anti-corruption: a decade of institutional and practical development in Southeast Asia” in the eleventh seminar and “The latest regional trends in corruption and effective countermeasures by criminal justice authorities” in the twelfth seminar. This time, we will address many issues which we have dealt with in our past seminars from new perspectives.

Thus, we have decided to host the seminar at UNAFEI again to make a new start in our endeavour to fight against corruption. We are very happy and proud to show off our new UNAFEI facility, which moved to Akishima just two years ago.

This time, in our three-day discussion, we will focus on “Effective Financial Investigation and Anti-Money-Laundering Measures for Confiscation and Asset Recovery”. Our theme is based on what we discussed in our third seminar in 2009 with a broader perspective to counter new and emerging corruption threats. Due to the globalization of crimes and the development of new technologies and financial systems in the last decade as stated above, the modus operandi of corruption and the laundering of corruption proceeds has become increasingly complex and sophisticated. Therefore, we find it extremely useful to revisit this topic to share the updates of each participating country’s current situation of corruption and laundering of corruption proceeds, legal frameworks and best practices for identification, tracing, freezing, seizure, confiscation and recovery of proceeds of corruption.

---

\* Director, United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

In order to deepen our discussion, three visiting experts will give us insights on these issues. Ms. Chi Yan Kate Cheuk, the Principal Investigator at the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) in Hong Kong, will lecture on Hong Kong's anti-money-laundering efforts and the practice of financial investigation, asset recovery and international cooperation based on her comprehensive knowledge and expertise. Another Visiting Expert, Ms. Louisa Kathryn Marion, is a Federal Prosecutor in the United States Department of Justice, specialized in investigation and prosecution of cybercrime issues. She is going to give us a lecture on financial investigations into money-laundering and cases involving cryptoassets. Also, Japanese expert Mr. WATANABE Naoki, public prosecutor in the Special Investigation Department of the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office is going to lecture on "Exclusive Investigation of Corruption Cases Involving High Ranking Politicians/Officials and International Cooperation".

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our visiting experts who have joined us to share their expertise and experiences. To all of the distinguished participants gathered here, I would also like to thank you for taking valuable time away from your work to make precious contributions to this seminar. I can assure you that all of us will learn from each other, and that will put us further on the path to eliminating corruption.

In this seminar, UNAFEI has continued its practice of inviting participants from one or two criminal justice organizations from each country. And as I said before, some of these organizations co-hosted previous seminars. I believe this system establishes not only a personal network among participants but also an organizational network as well. In addition, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the two organizations from Timor-Leste which are joining this seminar for the first time.

I look forward to seeing this seminar provide a useful forum to exchange expertise and experience in our common endeavour against corruption, contributing further to the promotion of good governance in Southeast Asia.

Thank you very much for your attention.