

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Sixteenth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 14-16 December 2022. The Good Governance Seminar was held in an in-person format for the first time in three years.

The main theme of the Seminar was *New and Emerging Forms of Corruption and the Effective Countermeasures*. The Seminar was attended by two visiting experts – one from the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong, China, and one from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) – and 17 criminal justice practitioners from the countries of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam and Timor-Leste.

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 Sixteenth Seminar focused on providing updates on the latest corruption trends and effective countermeasures across Southeast Asia.

The Seminar addressed the importance of the widest measure of cooperation and assistance in order to effectively counter the new and emerging forms of corruption such as Covid-19 corruption, corruption in sport, and the use of digital assets and electronic transfers in corruption. The participants exchanged knowledge, experiences, effective strategies and best practices, and 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.



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