

## OPENING REMARKS

*MORINAGA Taro\**

Distinguished participants,

It is truly my great pleasure to welcome you all to Tokyo, to UNAFEI and to this 16th Good Governance Seminar for Southeast Asian Countries. What makes this seminar so special is that we somehow managed to do it in an in-person form for the first time in almost three years, during which period we had to resort to the online system because of Covid-19. Our hearts are filled with joy, I can tell you.

All of the UNAFEI training courses and seminars such as this one are designed so that the participants are able, and are indeed encouraged, to not only listen to the Japanese and foreign experts, but to share information with each other, teach each other and learn from each other, and thereby build up a stable network among each other. This forms the core part of our seminars from which not only you but UNAFEI members also learn a lot. So, I expect that each of you will actively attend the sessions and enjoy lively conversations in and outside the programme, carry a lot of takeaways home and make good friends. Since we are all in the same or similar category of professions, such acquaintances and friendships will last for a long time and will surely benefit your private and professional lives.

It is indeed a short stay for you, and, unfortunately, Covid is still lingering, so I must regrettably remind you about the restrictions and ask you to take utmost care of yourselves; but still, please enjoy your stay here in Japan as much as possible.

Thank you.

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