

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Third Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries which was held in Manila from 9 – 12 December 2009. This was our first opportunity to hold a Good Governance Seminar in Manila and we were deeply impressed and touched by the warm hospitality afforded to us by our Philippine hosts.

The main theme of the Seminar was “Measures to Freeze, Confiscate and Recover Proceeds of Corruption, including Prevention of Money-Laundering” and it was attended by 23 criminal justice practitioners from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, and Thailand. The Seminar was co-organized by UNAFEI, the Department of Justice of the Republic of the Philippines and the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific.

As widely known, the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) provides the most fundamental legal framework to tackle corruption. To effectively implement the measures provided by the UNCAC, it is indispensable to develop each country’s criminal justice practitioners’ knowledge of how identifying, tracing, freezing, confiscating and recovering the proceeds of corruption can be carried out successfully, thus overcoming their lack of expertise and experience. Therefore, the organizers decided to hold this Seminar to provide an opportunity for practitioners from Southeast Asian countries to familiarize themselves with the current situation of this global issue as it occurs in this region and to broaden their knowledge of how to identify, trace, freeze, confiscate and recover the proceeds of corruption.

By the conclusion of the three-day seminar, we had gained a broader perspective from which to evaluate and analyse the current situation regarding this issue in the context of Southeast Asian countries. We also gained information on beneficial practices employed by our international colleagues and have been apprised of useful international methods of addressing this issue.

On the basis of the all above, the recommendations were adopted. The recommendations reflect the very well prepared and informative presentations given by the participants and the great contributions given by the visiting experts and honourable guests. As an organizer of this Seminar, I genuinely hope that these recommendations will prove to be a practical and realistic step in our common endeavour, and that the Seminar will also contribute to the mutual understanding and friendship of the Southeast Asian nations.

Finally, on behalf of UNAFEI, I would like to express my deepest appreciation to the Department of Justice of the Republic of the Philippines, especially the National Prosecution Service, and the UNODC Regional Centre for East Asia and the Pacific for their unwavering support and commitment to the realization of this Seminar.



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