

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Fourth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Manila from 7 – 9 December 2010. This was the second time to hold a Good Governance Seminar in Manila and it was a pleasure to visit the capital city of the Philippines once again, and to experience the wonderful hospitality and friendliness of our Philippine hosts, friends and colleagues.

The main theme of the Seminar was “Securing Protection and Cooperation of Witnesses and Whistle-blowers” and it was attended by 22 criminal justice practitioners from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam. The Seminar was co-organized by UNAFEI and the Department of Justice of the Republic of the Philippines.

Witnesses and whistle-blowers play a significant role in the criminal justice process, and how to protect them and secure their cooperation is a shared concern among law enforcement authorities all over the world. This shared concern is reflected in various articles of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols, and the United Nations Convention against Corruption. To actually implement the measures provided by those conventions and achieve success, it is indispensable to develop each country’s criminal justice practitioners’ knowledge and expertise of how to effectively protect witnesses and whistle-blowers and obtain their cooperation. The purpose of this Seminar was to become familiar with the current situation of this global issue: how to secure protection and cooperation of witnesses and whistle-blowers, and to broaden knowledge thereof.

Owing to the very well prepared and informative presentations and contributions given by the participants and Visiting Experts, and the lively discussions of the issues raised therein, the three-day Seminar concluded with all attendees’ improved knowledge of this important issue and its particular situation in Southeast Asian countries. Information on beneficial practices employed by international colleagues and useful international methods of addressing the protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers were shared and exchanged.

On the basis of the foregoing, the participants could agree upon and adopt a series of practice-oriented recommendations as the final document of this Seminar. As Director of UNAFEI, I genuinely hope that these recommendations will contribute significantly to enhancing cooperation among Southeast Asian countries to fight against organized and economic crime, including corruption.

It is my pleasure to publish the recommendations, and 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 policy.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere and deep appreciation, on behalf of UNAFEI, to the co-organizer, the Department of Justice of the Republic of the Philippines, for its enormous contribution in convening the Fourth Regional Seminar. Without its members’ expertise, professionalism and tireless efforts, this meeting could not have been such a success.



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