

OPENING REMARKS

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Mr. Katsuyuki Nishikawa, Honourable Vice Minister of the Ministry of Justice, Mr. Tamotsu Shinotsuka, Honourable Ambassador in charge of International Cooperation for Countering Terrorism and International Organized Crime, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Osamu Shimizu, Honourable President, Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice; honourable guests, distinguished experts and participants, ladies and gentlemen;

It is a great pleasure and privilege for me to announce the opening of the Fifth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries. On behalf of UNAFEI, I would like to extend my heartfelt welcome to the honourable guests, the distinguished experts and participants who come to join this significant forum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Government of Japan for its continued support as the host country of UNAFEI. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to the Japanese Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs for their assistance in organizing this Seminar.

The topic to be discussed at the Seminar is “Preventing Corruption: Effective Administrative and Criminal Justice Measures”. Corruption destroys nations. Every country has to make serious efforts to address this destructive force. This requires a multidisciplinary approach involving all government departments. While criminal justice measures play a core function of punishing acts of corruption and deterring future corrupt conduct, the importance of other preventive measures can neither be overlooked nor overstated.

This meeting coincides with the United Nations’ International Anti-Corruption Day, 9 December, which was designated to commemorate the historic High-level

Political Conference for the purpose of Signing the UNCAC, convened from 9 to 11 December 2003 in Merida, Mexico. Further, less than two months ago, the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC was held in Marrakech, and one of its core outcomes was the adoption of “the Marrakech Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption.”

I believe this seminar, and particularly this year’s seminar topic, to be highly relevant and very timely. As a United Nations affiliated institute in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, UNAFEI, by holding this seminar, wishes to contribute to the efforts of Southeast Asian countries in their fight against corruption.

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

Thank you very much for your attention.