

FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Seventh Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 3 – 5 December 2013. This was our first opportunity to hold a Good Governance Seminar in Kuala Lumpur, and we were deeply impressed and touched by the warm hospitality afforded to us by our Malaysian hosts.

The main theme of the Seminar was “Enhancing Investigative Ability in Corruption Cases”, and it was attended by three speakers from public institutions and thirteen international participants — all criminal justice practitioners — from Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. The Seminar was organized by UNAFEI, with the support of the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy.

As anti-corruption practitioners, the Seminar’s participants were keenly aware of the dangers that corruption poses to democracy and the rule of law. In addition to distorting business activities and competition, corruption also threatens the security of societies and creates environments in which organized crime, terrorism, and other forms of unlawful activity may prosper. Yet in contrast to the grave and far-reaching threats it poses, corruption is very difficult to detect because it is ordinarily committed in secret among a very limited number of parties. As a result, it is a challenge for criminal justice authorities to obtain effective leads and to fully develop and investigate them. Investigative authorities must enhance their investigative abilities in order to punish these offenders and learn to cope with the concealment of evidence.

To accomplish these aims, investigators must obtain the cooperation of key witnesses during the investigation and persuade them to testify at trial. It is also effective to use covert surveillance to secretly record oral statements of suspects and related persons, using methods such as lawful wiretapping. Additionally, it is important for investigators to master how to track the flow of the proceeds of corruption. Necessary skills include the analysis of bank statements and related documents, conducting investigations in cooperation with banks, seizing the proceeds of corruption and so forth. Moreover, the progress of science and technology has enabled many other forensic investigations, and investigative authorities must master the newest forensic investigative methods to combat sophisticated corruption offenders.

The Seventh Regional Seminar explored the legal frameworks and techniques of anti-corruption investigation in the participating countries. Through discussion of the issues, participants exchanged knowledge, experiences, effective strategies, and best practices in the fields of anti-corruption investigation and asset tracing. In addition, the Seminar developed contacts between anti-corruption authorities and investigators in East Asia and Southeast Asia.

It is my 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.

Finally, on behalf of UNAFEI I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission and the Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy for their great contributions to convening the Seventh Regional Seminar.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tomoko Akane". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish that starts from the left, goes over the top of the name, and ends with a sharp downward stroke on the right.

Tomoko AKANE
Director, UNAFEI

October 2014