
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

It is with pride that the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community the Resource Material Series No. 102. This volume contains the Annual Report for 2016 and the work produced in the 165th International Senior Seminar, conducted from 12 January to 10 February 2017. The main theme of the 165th Seminar was *Juvenile Justice and the United Nations Standards and Norms*.

The United Nations standards and norms for juvenile justice—which include the Beijing Rules, the Riyadh Guidelines and the “United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty”—establish minimum standards for the treatment of juveniles in conflict with the law. These standards include, among others, ensuring due process in juvenile justice systems, promoting diversion from the formal juvenile justice process and encouraging the use of alternatives to institutionalization. Many if not all of these principles have become binding international law on more than 190 countries that have ratified “the Convention on the Rights of the Child”. Although most countries have implemented specific measures for the treatment of juveniles, many countries continue to face challenges including long-term detention, lack of social inquiry, and lack of use of diversion, and there is room for further improvement in terms of alternative measures to incarceration, treatment programmes, and cooperation with related organizations and individuals.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Seminar to explore various issues that relate to juvenile justice. This issue of the *Resource Material Series*, in regard to the 165th International Senior Seminar, contains papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual-presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Seminar. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the participants of the Seminar could be published.

This volume of the *Resource Material Series* is noteworthy in that it contains a new section entitled “Supplemental Material”. This section is dedicated to important material which may, or may not, be directly connected to the theme of the training programmes covered in the publication. In either case, material published in this section will be related to UNAFEI’s activities and will broaden the perspectives shared, in furtherance of UNAFEI’s ongoing mission to widely disseminate practical and professional information impacting the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of the Government of Japan, particularly the Ministry of Justice, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, for providing indispensable and unwavering support to UNAFEI’s international training programmes.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who so unselfishly assisted in the publication of this series.

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