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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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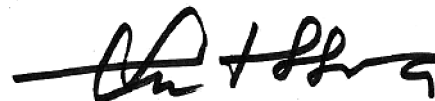
It is with pride that the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community the Resource Material Series No. 103. This volume contains the work product of the 166th International Training Course, conducted from 10 May to 15 June 2017. The main theme of the 166th International Training Course was *Criminal Justice Procedures and Practices to Disrupt Criminal Organizations*.

The rise of globalization has led to economic development around the world, but it has also enabled criminal organizations to use international borders to avoid prosecution and to hide their illicit proceeds. In response, the United Nations Convention against Transitional Organized Crime (UNTOC) entered into force in 2003 with the goals of harmonizing substantive criminal laws to combat organized crime, promoting the confiscation of illicit proceeds and enhancing international cooperation. Although UNTOC has been ratified by 187 countries, combating organized crime, including its links to terrorism, remains a global threat to the rule of law and sustainable development.

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

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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Keisuke SENTA  
Director of UNAFEI