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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. 105. This volume contains the Annual Report for 2017 and the work produced in the 168th International Senior Seminar, conducted from 11 January to 9 February 2018. The main theme of the 168th Seminar was *Enhancing the Rule of Law in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Policies and Practices Based on the United Nations Conventions and Standards and Norms*.

In order to establish peaceful, inclusive and sustainable societies, legal institutions must apply the law fairly and equally to all members of society. While many countries have made great efforts to strengthen their legal institutions, there is a limit to the success that state agencies and policymakers can achieve on their own. Over the past several decades, a global consensus has emerged recognizing that many challenges in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice can only be solved with the participation and support of an informed public. In this sense, it is important that criminal justice practitioners consider how the rule of law can be supported and enhanced by law-related education, access to justice for all, public participation in criminal justice, and measures to prevent state agencies from infringing on the legitimate rights of citizens.

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 the rule of law. This issue of the *Resource Material Series*, in regard to the 168th 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.

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.

September 2018

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Takeshi SETO  
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