
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. 109. This volume contains the work product of the 172nd International Training Course, conducted from 15 May to 21 June 2019. The main theme of the 172nd International Training Course was *Criminal Justice Responses to Trafficking in Persons and Smuggling of Migrants*.

Human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants are serious crimes that cause grievous harm to human dignity, human rights and sustainable development. Transnational organized crime groups deceive victims into believing that they are *en route* to a better life, but they are instead pressed into indentured servitude or outright slavery. In order to suppress these crimes, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was adopted, along with its protocols on trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. These instruments seek to, *inter alia*, harmonize the criminalization of human trafficking and smuggling, to strengthen investigative techniques to counter trafficking and smuggling crimes while maintaining a victim-oriented approach, and enhance international cooperation among States Parties.

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 trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants. 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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