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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 this issue of *Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders*, UNAFEI's Resource Material Series No. 113. Due to the global impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the severe restrictions on international travel, it was necessary to postpone all our international training courses and seminars scheduled in Fiscal Year 2020.

However, I am pleased to report that we have resumed our international training programmes, beginning with the 23rd UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme on *Tackling Emerging Threats of Corruption in the Borderless and Digitalized World*, which was held exclusively online from September to October 2021. Following the success of UNAFEI's first online training programme, we held the 175th International Training Course on the *Treatment of Women Offenders* (Oct.–Nov. 2021) and the 176th International Training Course on *Achieving Inclusive Societies through Effective Criminal Justice Policies and Practices* (Nov.–Dec. 2021).

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks to establish a global society in which no one is left behind, and Sustainable Development Goal 16 underscores the importance of governance and the rule of law in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In March 2021, overcoming challenges posed by the pandemic, the United Nations Member States renewed their commitment to achieving these goals through the adoption of the Kyoto Declaration – the political declaration of the 14th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan.

Each of the training courses covered in this issue aimed to exchange and promote good policies and practices towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: the 23rd UNCAC programme focused on countering corruption and cybercrime, while the 175th and 176th training courses considered measures to reduce reoffending and to promote the rights and interests of crime victims throughout the criminal justice process.

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 and other activities.

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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