
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 this issue of *Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders*, UNAFEI's Resource Material Series No. 114.

First and foremost, I wish to congratulate Dr. Matti Joutsen, the former director of the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI), on having received the Order of the Rising Sun, Golden Rays with a Rosette, from the Emperor of Japan, in recognition of Dr. Joutsen's promotion of Japanese-European cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, including his many decades of close cooperation with UNAFEI. We are honoured to include Dr. Joutsen's "Basic Guide to the United Nations Crime Programme" in this issue and remain indebted to him for sharing his expertise with us and the international community.

While the Covid-19 pandemic forced us to postpone many of our training courses, this fiscal year marks UNAFEI's return to our regular training schedule. Regrettably, we have been forced to conduct our programmes exclusively online, but the online training modality has brought significant and lasting improvements to a number of aspects of UNAFEI's training programmes. We have learned to better accommodate participation among numerous time zones, introduced an online learning and collaboration platform, created on-demand training materials, and provided live online lectures and Q&A sessions – all of which contributed to the success of the programmes covered in this issue.

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. UNAFEI's training courses aim to exchange and promote good policies and practices towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: the 177th course focused on reducing reoffending, the First Inclusive Societies course focused on the rights and interests of crime victims and the 178th course focused on combating cybercrime through the identification and collection of digital evidence.

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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