
REPORT OF THE COURSE

THE 181ST UNAFEI INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE “COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME –THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNTOC–”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 12 May to 8 June 2023
- 25 overseas participants from 19 jurisdictions
- 3 participants from Japan

2. Programme Overview

This programme mainly focused on the challenges that criminal justice practitioners face in countermeasures against transnational organized crime. In particular, the programme considered the following topics: (1) Effective legal frameworks and measures in investigation, prosecution and trial in various transnational organized crime cases such as organized violent crime cases, organized drug smuggling cases, organized financial crime cases and organized human trafficking/migrant smuggling cases; (2) Effective legal frameworks and measures on matters which often arise in various transnational organized crime categories and require special consideration, such as tracing and confiscation of proceeds of crime, asset recovery, witness and whistle-blower protection and mutual legal assistance, etc.; (3) Good practices, challenges and solutions in specific cases of transnational organized crime in each jurisdiction with regard to issues under paragraphs (1) and (2). Also, this programme, through lectures on best practices and the participants' discussions, aimed to enhance the participants' knowledge of measures to improve anti-transnational-organized-crime efforts in their respective jurisdictions and to establish a global network for the exchange of updated information on the practices of the respective jurisdictions.

3. Contents of the Programme

(1) Lectures

The following visiting experts from overseas and Japanese experts, as well as UNAFEI faculty members, gave lectures as follows:

- Visiting Experts
 - Mr. Rosario Salvatore Aitala
Judge, International Criminal Court
Lecture on investigation in transnational organized crime cases and the role of the International Criminal Court
 - Mr. David Jaffe
Chief of Organized Crime and Gang Section
U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division
“Challenges in Complex Transnational Investigations and Prosecutions”
 - Ms. Daniela Buruiană
Chair of the Eurojust Anti-Trafficking Team and National Member for Romania
European Union Agency for Criminal Justice cooperation
“Eurojust’s Work against Trafficking in Human Beings: Current Landscape, Challenges, Available Tools”
- Japanese Experts
 - Mr. HARADA Ryotaro
Superintendent, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau
National Police Agency
Lecture on investigation in transnational phone scam cases

- Mr. HORII Takashi
Superintendent, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau,
National Police Agency
“Current situation of *Boryokudans* in Japan”

- Mr. OKADA Tetsuaki
Public Prosecutor, Criminal Affairs Department
Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office
“Problems with Investigations and Trials in Transnational Economic Crimes”

(2) Individual Presentations

Participants shared the practices and the challenges in their respective jurisdictions regarding the theme of the programme through their individual presentations. Materials of all presentations were uploaded online for later reference by the participants.

(3) Group Workshops

The participants were divided into three groups and exchanged their views and knowledge through discussions on the following topics: (1) Effective legal frameworks and measures in investigation, prosecution and trial in various transnational organized crime cases such as organized violent crime cases, organized drug smuggling cases, organized financial crime cases and organized human trafficking/migrant smuggling cases; (2) Effective legal frameworks and measures on matters which often arise in various transnational organized crime categories and require special consideration, such as tracing and confiscation of proceeds of crime, asset recovery, witness and whistle-blower protection and mutual legal assistance, etc.; (3) Good practices, challenges and solutions in specific cases of transnational organized crime in each jurisdiction with regard to issues under paragraphs (1) and (2).

In each group, the participants mainly discussed effective measures to identify perpetrators in investigating transnational organized crime cases involving information and communication technologies, including network services with high anonymity, enhanced use of special techniques, forfeiture of proceeds of crimes and domestic/international cooperation among authorities etc. Participants recommended the following practices: legal frameworks and practices which enable disclosure of various information from various network service providers, effective use of non-conviction-based confiscation and enhancing protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers.

Each group concluded the programme by presenting their recommendations based on the challenges they identified and what they learned in the lectures, presentations by the fellow participants and discussions.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Most participants commented that the lectures, individual presentations and group workshops helped them gain knowledge. On the other hand, some commented that it would have been better if more specific information and best practices had been exchanged and intensive discussion on mock cases had been included in the programme. We appreciate all the feedback from the participants and will take them into consideration in planning our future training programmes.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer (Professor YAMANA Rompei)

Transnational organized crime is an issue that all countries face, and identifying countermeasures thereto is an urgent issue throughout the world. I felt the enthusiasm of the participants in the programme by their active participation. The participants were highly interested in the lectures, presentations and group workshops, which led to active discussions. We hope that the knowledge gained from this course will help the development and enhancement of each participant's jurisdiction.

This programme was held in person at UNAFEI's facilities for the first time since its in-person training courses were suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic. In-person communication among both overseas and Japanese participants throughout the programme made it easier for them to understand the content of the programme as well as to establish personal connections. We hope that this personal network will contribute to preventing transnational organized crime in the future.