

---

# REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

---

## THE 183<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL SENIOR SEMINAR

### “MANAGEMENT OF CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY – WITH A FOCUS ON THE NELSON MANDELA RULES”

#### 1. Duration and Participants

- From 11 January to 6 February 2024
- 14 overseas participants from 13 countries
- 3 participants from Japan

#### 2. Seminar Overview

In order to create a safer and more just society, correctional institutions have two main responsibilities: to protect society from crime and reduce reoffending. To fulfil these responsibilities, criminal justice authorities are obliged to take necessary measures to ensure that prisoners are safely held in custody, ensure that each offender’s human rights are respected, and support their reintegration into society as law-abiding citizens. In this regard, these underpinning principles have been recognized in the international community through international standards and norms, represented by the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which proclaim those principles and embody them into a set of guidelines. The Nelson Mandela Rules call for respectful and fair treatment of inmates, promoting humane conditions of confinement. All these are indispensable preconditions for a rehabilitative environment in prison.

The purpose of the Seminar was to consider the management of correctional institutions in the 21st century based on the International Standards and Norms, including the Nelson Mandela Rules mentioned above. The seminar participants first presented the current state of correctional institutions in their own countries and shared the challenges they faced respectively. The participants learned about measures to tackle overcrowding and achieve a rehabilitative environment through lectures, and further discussed these issues in group workshops. Finally, based on the knowledge and in-depth understanding gained through the Seminar as a whole, they delivered Individual Presentations to present possible solutions to tackle the challenges in each country.

UNAFEI’s Training Courses and Seminars are designed to build a human network that will enable the sharing of information on each country’s efforts. The seminar participants stayed at the UNAFEI dormitory for four weeks, nurturing friendship through day-to-day exchanges and building a network of life-long international cooperation.

#### 3. Contents of the Seminar

##### (1) Country Reports

All participants made presentations on the systems, practices, statistics and challenges related to correctional institutions in their respective countries. After all the presentations, the Programming Officer summarized the presentations and held a summarizing session. Participants eagerly made comments and asked questions about challenges such as overcrowding and corruption in correctional institutions, which revealed their strong interest in the main theme of the Seminar.

##### (2) Lectures

Lectures were given by UNAFEI faculty members, experts from overseas (Visiting Experts) and Japanese lecturers as listed below. After each lecture, a Q&A session was held. A broad range of questions was asked by the seminar participants regarding each of the lecturers, which provided a lively exchange of opinions.

##### i) UNAFEI Faculty Members

- Professor MIYAGAWA Tsubura  
Lecture Title: Imprisonment around the World

Lecture Title: International Standards and Norms (Bangkok Rules and Beijing Rules)

- Professor AKASHI Fumiko  
Lecture Title: International Standards and Norms (Tokyo Rules)
- Thomas L. Schmid, Linguistic Advisor  
Lecture Title: Connecting Correctional Theory with Sustainable Development: An Historical Perspective on the United Nations Crime Congress

ii) Visiting Experts

- Mr. Robert Hollander  
Prison System Advisor, International Committee of the Red Cross  
Lecture Title: Improvement of Quality of Life and Protection of Human Rights in Correctional Institutions
- Mr. Charlie Taylor  
His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Prisons  
Lecture Title: The Importance of Independent Inspection in England and Wales (Online)

iii) Japanese Experts

- Mr. SHINIKETANI Rei, Director of Inspection Office, General Affairs Division, Corrections Bureau of the Ministry of Justice  
Lecture Title: Complaints and Inspection System in Penal Institutions in Japan
- Mr. ONO Fumihiko  
Manager of General Affairs Section, Training Institute for Correctional Personnel  
Lecture Title: Introduction of Training Institute for Correctional Personnel
- Ms. HANDO Mayumi  
Research Officer, Centre for Evidence-Based Research  
Lecture Title: Introduction of Centre for Evidence-Based Research

(3) Panel Discussion

The following three panellists made presentations on three topics, followed by Q&A and discussion by seminar participants and the guest audience. Active discussions were held on a wide range of topics, including the prison inspection system and the enhancement of staff awareness of human rights.

i) Panellists

Mr. Robert Hollander  
Mr. Charlie Taylor  
Dr. SHINKAI Hiroyuki, Professor, Faculty of Law, Kanagawa University

ii) Discussion Topics

- Measures to ensure the effectiveness of international standards and norms
- Methods for effective capacity-building
- Promoting human rights protection and quality of life in correctional institutions

(4) Group workshop

Seminar participants were divided into three groups to discuss the issues assigned to each group. In the discussions, the participants shared the systems and practices of their respective countries, identified challenges facing the promotion of legal aid based on the knowledge gained through the country report presentations and lectures, and discussed specific solutions to resolve those challenges. Each participant was very enthusiastic and engaged in active discussions. The main topic and outlines of each group's presentations are as follows.

## REPORT OF THE SEMINAR

Each group made presentations on the results of the discussion. In response to each presentation, participants in other groups asked insightful questions which contributed to lively presentations.

- Group 1: Measures to ensure the effectiveness of international standards and norms
  - Ensuring accountability and transparency for management of correctional institutions
  - Establishing an independent oversight body to prevent torture and ill-treatment
  - Implementing institution visits by external agencies
  - Establishing the procedures of filing complaints by inmates
  - Establishing appropriate procedures and guidelines
- Group 2: Methods for effective capacity-building
  - Implementing appropriate training and capacity-building programmes for staff
  - Preparation of training curriculum based on international standards and norms
  - Collaboration with universities and educational institutions
  - Evaluation of staff who contributed to the introduction of international standards and norms
  - Collaboration with private organizations and volunteers
- Group 3: Promoting human rights protection and quality of life in correctional institutions
  - Introduction of alternative punishment and diversion as measures against overcrowding
  - Building the new correctional institutions and renovating deteriorated institutions
  - Ensuring adequate salaries for correctional staff
  - Prevention of corruption through raising the awareness of correctional staff, etc.
  - Visits by judges and prosecutors to correctional institutions

### (5) Individual Presentation

In the final stage of the seminar, each participant delivered individual presentations addressing issues in their own countries based on the knowledge and in-depth understanding gained through the seminar. Some of the presentations extended to a comparison of Japan's system or an introduction to efforts in criminal justice in Japan. It was clear that the participants were keen to apply what they had learned in the seminar and the knowledge they had gained at the places they had visited to their future practice.

### (6) Self-learning Session

In order to efficiently implement the programme, a self-learning session for about one hour was set up every day. One of the self-learning programmes was e-learning materials on the Nelson Mandela Rules provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). All participants successfully passed the final online examination and they were issued a certificate. On-demand video materials jointly produced by UNAFEI and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) were also provided to the participants to learn about the criminal justice system in Japan. When all participants finished watching the videos, UNAFEI Professors conducted a feedback session to deepen their understanding.

## 4. Feedback from Participants

Many positive opinions were received from the participants, on the well-prepared curriculum and the comprehensive content. They commented that they have learned much from the programme. Through lectures and visits, the management of correctional institutions and the treatment of offenders in Japan attracted the participants' interest. They were especially surprised by the fact that Japan has managed facilities on an appropriate scale after the period of overcrowding, and that corruption has not spread to correctional officers. Opportunities to interact with Japanese volunteer probation officers greatly impacted the participants, acknowledging the significant contribution of Japanese citizens to the treatment of offenders and prevention of reoffending.

Based on experiences inside and outside the Seminar, including going out to various places on weekends, many participants mentioned that cities in Japan were safe and clean, and that they were impressed by the Japanese people's punctuality and disciplined behaviour.

## 5. Comments from the Programming Officer (Professor Miyagawa)

The principles of the international standards and norms concerning the management of correctional institutions and the treatment of offenders are very important and essential. Nevertheless, in many countries

around the world, overcrowding of correctional institutions is an urgent issue, causing extreme difficulties to put these principles into practice. With regard to those circumstances, the main theme of the seminar was highly challenging

Despite the difficulties, the participants earnestly engaged in the programme to deepen their understanding of the significance of the main theme and to learn from lectures and presentations. They had a high level of insight to objectively analyse the current situation and issues in their own countries. They were also willing to further improve the practices in accordance with the principles of the international standards and norms. In order to tackle various issues related to the management of correctional institutions, cooperation among relevant organizations with various expertise is indispensable. Therefore, I believe that it is meaningful that the International Senior Seminars invite high-level policymakers and practitioners from various fields of criminal justice. The participants spend four weeks together, sharing experiences and discussing important issues, which contributed to networking.

I was impressed by the sincere attitude and enthusiasm of the participants and learned much about practices in the participants' countries. I hope that the knowledge gained from the programme will serve as the basis for the development of the practise and contribute to the management of correctional institutions and the rehabilitation of offenders in each country.