
REPORT OF THE COURSE

THE THIRD INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON BUILDING INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

“EFFECTIVE MEASURES FOR PREVENTING AND RESPONDING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 5 to 14 March 2024
- 7 overseas participants from 7 jurisdictions
- 4 participants from Japan

2. Programme Overview

This programme focused on effective measures for preventing and responding to domestic violence. While keeping in mind the recent international trends in domestic violence cases in light of the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the programme explored efforts made to provide support for domestic violence victims in each country, the prevention of secondary victimization, and effective treatment of domestic violence perpetrators. Through participants' presentations, lectures and discussions, this programme aimed to enhance the participants' mutual understanding and knowledge in regard to measures to improve efforts to address domestic violence in their respective jurisdictions as well as to establish a global network among criminal justice practitioners.

3. Contents of the Programme

(1) Lecturers

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

- Visiting Experts
 - Ms. Frances Gordon
International Justice Consultant/ Former Director of ICCLR Ms. Eileen Skinnider
Senior Associate of ICCLR
“Effective Measures for Responding to Domestic Violence”
 - Dr. Stuart Ross
Enterprise Professor, School of Social and Political Science, University of Melbourne
“Perpetrator Interventions for Preventing and Responding to Family Violence”
- Japanese Experts
 - Dr. KIKUCHI Akiko
Professor, Faculty of Human Sciences, Musashino University
“Psychology of Victims of Domestic Violence”
 - Ms. UEMIYA Ai
Senior Lecturer, Institute of Human and Social Sciences, Kanazawa University
“Forensic Interview — The NICHD protocol”
 - Ms. TOMITA Satoko
Director, International Affairs Office, Headquarters of the Japan Legal
Support Center/ Attorney at Law
“Measures Taken by the Japan Legal Support Center for Domestic Violence Victims”

(2) Individual Presentations

Participants shared the practices and the challenges in their respective jurisdictions regarding the theme of the programme through their individual presentations.

(3) Observation Visits

Participants visited the Tama Branch of the Tokyo Women's Consultation Center and the Salvation Army Japan Shinsei-ryo to learn efforts and practices of counselling services and temporary protection for domestic violence victims.

(4) Creation and Presentation of Action Plans

Each participant concluded the programme by presenting their own action plans to the fellow participants and faculty of UNAFEI, focusing on the challenges they identified, possible solutions, as well as what they learned in the lectures, presentations by colleagues and discussion.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Most participants commented that it was a meaningful programme in which they were able to comprehensively learn about support for domestic violence victims, efforts to prevent secondary victimization, and effective treatment of domestic violence perpetrators through individual presentations, lectures, and observation visits. On the other hand, there were also comments that the short duration of two weeks did not allow enough time for discussion among the participants. We appreciate all the feedback from the participants and will take them into consideration when planning our future training programmes.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer (Professor Okuda)

In cases of domestic violence, especially from the perspective of protecting victims and preventing secondary victimization, it is necessary to establish an effective support system through cooperation among related organizations and to take appropriate measures with consideration of the feelings, circumstances, needs, and so forth of domestic violence victims.

Through this programme, it became clear that each country prioritizes countermeasures against domestic violence as an issue of national importance, reviewing the current situation and clarifying the problems that need to be solved. In this regard, useful knowledge and effective practices, including collaboration with other relevant organizations and communities, were exchanged among participants. Moreover, each lecture contained useful knowledge and practical experiences, such as the mechanism of trauma among domestic violence victims and forensic interviewing – perspectives that were difficult for participants to obtain in their daily practice. Therefore, the participants were highly interested in the lectures, which led to active discussions.

We hope that the knowledge gained from this programme will be utilized in the development and enhancement of each participants' jurisdiction.