
REPORT OF THE COURSE

THE 184TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

“COUNTERMEASURES AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS, WITH A FOCUS ON TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS FOR SEXUAL EXPLOITATION”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 9 to 29 May 2024
- 19 overseas participants from 18 countries
- 5 participants from Japan

2. The Purpose of the Course

This course aimed to have participants learn the current situation of trafficking in persons in Japan and around the world and to explore effective countermeasures. In addition, this course also aimed to enhance the participants' mutual understanding and establish a global network among participants.

3. Contents of the Course

(1) Lectures

- Overseas Experts
 - A) “Countermeasures against trafficking in persons, with a focus on trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation”
Ms. Silke Albert (Crime Prevention Expert, Human Trafficking and Migrant Smuggling Section, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC)
 - B) “U.S. Countermeasures Against Trafficking in Persons”
Ms. Kimberly Sokolich (Resident Legal Advisor for the Department of Justice, Office of Overseas Prosecutorial Development, Assistance, and Training (OPDAT), Prosecutor)
 - C) “Human Trafficking in Canada”
Ms. Cinthya Rebaza (Director of Serious and Organized Crime Policy, Public Safety Canada)
Ms. Lori-Ann Smith (Senior Policy Advisor on Public Safety Canada’s Anti-human-trafficking Policy Team)
Ms. Ellen Wiltsie-Brown (Counsel, Department of Justice, Canada)
- Lectures by Japanese Experts
 - A) “Measures against trafficking in persons in Japan”
Mr. OKI Kuniaki (Superintendent, Safety Division, Community Safety Bureau, National Police Agency)
 - B) “Trafficking in persons cases at the Metropolitan Police Department”
Mr. TAKEDA Nobukazu (Inspector, Safety Division, Community Safety Bureau of Tokyo Metropolitan Police Department)
 - C) “Countermeasures against Trafficking in Persons by the Immigration Services Agency”
Mr. HOSHI Tomoya (Deputy Director of the Adjudication Division of the Immigration Services Agency of Japan)
 - D) “IOM’s Roles in Assisting Victims of Trafficking”
Mr. MOCHIZUKI Daihei (Chief of Mission, IOM, Mission in Japan)

(2) Individual Presentations

Each participant made an “Individual Presentation” describing the current situation and challenges in the participant’s country. Participants asked many questions to the presenters and an active discussion was held.

(3) Observation Visit

The participants visited Haneda Airport (Haneda Airport District Immigration Services Office, Tokyo Regional Immigration Services Bureau, Immigration Services Agency of Japan). They learned countermeasures against trafficking in persons through immigration control in the airport and observed the facilities and immigration control practices.

(4) Group Discussion

Participants were divided into three groups and engaged in group discussion about effective countermeasures against trafficking in persons based on the knowledge gained in the individual presentations, lectures and observation visit. For example, they focused on the difficulty of detection, the necessity of a trauma-informed approach and the importance of preventive measures, and they discussed various measures based on these factors. Each group presented an overview of its discussion and held a Q&A session with their fellow participants.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Most participants commented that this course was well-structured and that they learned a lot. On the other hand, there were also comments that a case study or role play could have been included. We appreciate all the feedback from the participants and will take it into consideration and try to improve our training courses.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer (Professor Nakayama)

Trafficking in persons occurs in every region of the world and its victims suffer physical, sexual, financial, psychological and/or social damage and harm. Especially, in terms of trafficking in persons for sexual exploitation, most victims are vulnerable people such as women and children. Therefore, various measures and considerations are necessary for their protection and for the prevention of secondary victimization. The participants deepened their understanding of the importance of a trauma-informed approach through the lectures by experts. For example, participants understood that interviews of victims should be made in a way of preventing secondary victimization and the credibility of their statements should not be underestimated even though the statements may appear inconsistent or irrational, considering their trauma etc. In addition, participants recalled that it is important to collect corroborant evidence.

Through this course, we recalled that trafficking in persons is one of the most serious global problems that impacts every country and that socio-economic factors such as poverty and immigration are root causes. At the same time, we learned that each country has various measures for detection, investigation and victim protection etc.

All participants were very active and engaged enthusiastically in the activities of the course. They learned the current situation, legal systems and good practices in other countries and around the world and discussed them. I learned a lot from the participants. For example, participants emphasized the importance of preventive measures, considering difficulty of detection and investigation and the gravity of harm to the victims.

I hope that the knowledge and information gained in this course will be utilized in the development and enhancement of each participating country.