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# REPORT OF THE COURSE

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## THE 187<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

“Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures  
in the Fight Against Money-Laundering”

### 1. Duration and Participants

- From 9 May to 5 June 2025
- 11 overseas participants from 10 countries
- 3 participants from Japan

### 2. Overview of the Course

This Course aimed to share the current situation regarding money-laundering, examine key issues and challenges of prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering, and explore effective countermeasures. The Course fulfilled its objectives by highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration, international cooperation and public-private partnership through the lectures of experts and individual presentations by the participants. The Course also fostered mutual trust and understanding among the participants as a foundation for a global network of criminal justice practitioners committed to combating money-laundering.

### 3. Contents of the Course

#### (1) Lectures

##### ● Overseas Experts

##### A) “Digital Fundamentals”

“Introduction to Darknet and Cryptocurrencies”

Joshua James

Regional Counter-Cybercrime Coordinator

UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

##### B) “UNODC Global Programme on Money-Laundering, Proceeds of Crime and Countering the Financing of Terrorism”

“AML/CFT International Standards and UN Instruments”

“The Evolving Threat - Southeast Asia & Global Money-Laundering Trends & Typologies”

“Effective Domestic Coordination in AML/CFT”

“Building a Collaborative National Defense Coordination”

Aibek Turdukulov

Programme Officer (Anti-Money-Laundering/Counter-Financing of Terrorism)

UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific

##### C) “Current Challenges and Effective Countermeasures in the Fight Against Money-Laundering”

Gavin Raper

Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team, Asia/Pacific Group On Money Laundering (APG)

Stephen Munro

Deputy Director of Technical Assistance and Typologies Team, Asia/Pacific Group On Money Laundering (APG)

##### D) “International Cooperation in the Fight Against Transnational Organized Crime and Associated Money-Laundering: Thailand’s Perspectives”

Jumpon Phansumrit

Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General of Thailand

##### E) “Countermeasures Against Money-Laundering”

Jennifer Wallis

Senior Trial Attorney with the United States Department of Justice Criminal Division,

International Unit of Money-Laundering and Asset Recovery Section (MLARS)

- Lectures by Japanese Experts
  - A) “Current Status and Challenges of AML/CFT Measures in Japan”  
Hamada Koki  
Financial Crimes Office, Risk Analysis Division, Strategy Development and Management Bureau,  
Financial Services Agency
  - B) “Measures Against Money-Laundering and Terrorist Financing in Japan”  
Fukutani Masahiro  
Government Attorney, Public Security Division, Criminal Affairs Bureau, Ministry of Justice
  - C) “Current Situation of Money-Laundering in Japan”  
Hiramoto Masaki  
Second Organized Crime Division, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau,  
National Police Agency
  - D) “Outline of Countermeasures Against Proceeds of Crime in Japan”  
Tachi Shinichi  
First Organized Crime Division, Organized Crime Department, Criminal Affairs Bureau,  
National Police Agency
  - E) “Anti-Money-Laundering Measures”  
Watanabe Shintaro  
Managing Director, Head of AML Department, Financial Crimes Office for Japan, MUFG Bank,  
Ltd.
  - F) “Use of Digital Forensics in the Investigations of Crime including Money-Laundering”  
McIlroy Nanae  
Public Prosecutor, Japan Prosecutors Unit on Emerging Crimes (JPEC), Supreme Public  
Prosecutors Office
  - G) “Investigation of Cross-Border Money-Laundering Cases”  
Tate Junya  
Criminal Proceeds Division, Organized Crime Department, Tokyo Metropolitan Police  
Department, Superintendent Designated by the National Police Agency
  - H) “Investigation and Prosecution of Money-Laundering Cases Using Crypto Assets”  
Tokutake Keiichi  
Public Prosecutor, the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors Office

(2) Individual Presentations

Each participant made an “Individual Presentation” outlining the legal frameworks against money-laundering, current situation and challenges, as well as best practices in each country. The presentation was followed by numerous questions and active discussions among the participants.

(3) Study Visits

The participants visited the following facilities to learn about effective countermeasures against money-laundering:

- Tokyo Customs, Haneda Airport Branch
- Tachikawa Branch of the Tokyo District Court

(4) Group Discussion

The participants were divided into three groups and discussed the following topics based on the knowledge gained through the individual presentations, lectures by experts and study visits:

- Prevention of money-laundering

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- Detection, investigation and prosecution of money-laundering

The results of the discussions were summarized as concrete action plans for possible future measures, and presented to all participants and staff of UNAFEI, followed by question-and-answer sessions.

### **4. Feedback from the Participants**

Most participants highly appreciated the structure and contents of the Course, noting that they were able to enhance their knowledge and understanding of global trends and emerging anti-money-laundering issues through the lectures by overseas and Japanese experts highlighting the importance of inter-agency collaboration and international cooperation. Many participants also commented positively that the Course provided them with the opportunity to learn good practices from other countries through individual presentations and question-and-answer sessions. They also reported that the Course was effective in establishing a robust human network among their fellow criminal justice practitioners for future cooperation. UNAFEI would like to express its sincere appreciation for all comments and suggestions received, and will take such feedback into account in the planning of future courses and seminars.

### **5. Comments from the Programming Officer**

Money-laundering is a criminal offence involving concealment, transfer and reintegration of proceeds of crime derived from predicate offences such as drug trafficking, fraud or illegal gambling. Such reintegration enables these organizations to exploit laundered assets in furtherance of future criminal activities. To dismantle criminal organizations, it is essential not only to prosecute and punish those who commit predicate offences, but also to impose strict penalties on those engaged in money-laundering activities and to ensure the comprehensive confiscation of criminal proceeds. This approach disrupts the financial infrastructure of criminal groups and deprives them of the economic resource to operate. Moreover, perpetrators of organized crime often circumvent jurisdictions that strictly enforce anti-money-laundering (AML) measures, exploiting legal and institutional loopholes in countries with weaker controls. Money-laundering cannot be effectively addressed by any one country acting alone; it represents a global challenge that requires coordinated international action. In recognition of this, the international community has adopted several key legal instruments—including the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988) and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000)—and has promoted the implementation of effective AML measures through bodies such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Despite these efforts, money-laundering continues to pose significant challenges.

One of the key takeaways from this training programme is the recognition that many countries, including Japan, continue to face significant challenges in combating money-laundering. The cross-border nature of such crimes frequently necessitates complex procedures for international cooperation in criminal matters. Furthermore, the rapid evolution of digital technologies—including the rise of crypto-assets and the use of dark web platforms—has outpaced the capacity of many national investigative authorities, thereby complicating investigations and delaying enforcement efforts. Unlike cases of murder or robbery, money-laundering may lack an immediately identifiable “victim,” and unlike corruption cases, there may be no obvious “villains” such as a corrupt public official who has accepted a bribe. These characteristics may, in part, explain why AML measures have not been prioritized or have only been implemented with limited urgency in some jurisdictions. Nonetheless, without concerted efforts by all countries to close the gaps that facilitate money-laundering, it will be impossible to prevent criminal organizations from accessing illicit funds and reinforcing their criminal activities.

Effectively combating organized crime requires a fundamental shift in mind-sets among all relevant stakeholders—both public and private—and a commitment to sustained, robust anti-money-laundering action. This Course has emphasized that AML measures cannot be effectively implemented by a single country or institution in isolation. Instead, a “whole-of-society approach” is imperative. To that end, the programme featured contributions from a broad range of stakeholders, including international organizations, national government agencies and private financial institutions. These diverse perspectives helped to underscore the importance of enhanced coordination and cooperation across jurisdictions and sectors.

Over the course of approximately one month, participants stayed at the UNAFEI facility where they engaged in extensive deliberations on AML strategies, exchanged ideas and learned from one another.

UNAFEI sincerely hopes that the expertise gained through this course will contribute to strengthening AML measures in the participants' home countries. We are also confident that the friendship and trust fostered during this course will serve as a valuable foundation for future cooperation in the fight against transnational organized crime.