
REPORT OF THE COURSE

THE 188TH INTERNATIONAL TRAINING COURSE

“Theories of Offender Treatment and Their Effective Implementation”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 27 August to 18 September 2025
- 14 overseas participants from 13 countries
- 4 participants from Japan

2. Overview of the Course

This course aims to support the development and refinement of evidence-based rehabilitation strategies by deepening understanding of risk assessment (particularly related to reoffending), effective treatment interventions and evaluation methodologies. The Course also aimed to strengthen the capacity of practitioners responsible for implementing these approaches and to discuss effective collaboration with relevant agencies, thereby contributing to the further development of offender rehabilitation in each participating country.

3. Contents of the Course

(1) Country Presentations

Each participant delivered an Individual Presentation on the current situation, challenges and practices of offender treatment in their own country. The presentations were followed by numerous questions and active discussions among the participants.

(2) Lectures

· Overseas Experts

“Theories of Offender Rehabilitation: RNR Model”

“Theories of Offender Rehabilitation: Good Lives Model and Desistance Model”

“Treatment Programme Methods of Evaluating Effectiveness: RNR and GLM”

“Introduction of overseas implementation examples: RNR in the Philippine Parole and Probation Administration”

Raymund E. Narag, PhD, Southern Illinois University Carbondale

(3) Lectures by Japanese Experts

A) “Social Investigation by Family Court Investigating Officers in Criminal Cases Involving Juveniles” KAWAMURA Satoru

Supervising Senior Family Court Investigating Officer, Tachikawa Branch of the Tokyo Family Court

B) “Enhancement of Correctional Treatments Tailored to Inmates”

TSUKAHARA Akihiro

Specialist, Prison Service Division, Correction Bureau, Ministry of Justice

KUMAGAI Wataru

Official in the Ministry of Justice

C) “Community Supervision and New Assessment Tools in Japan”

NAKANO Tomoyuki

Deputy Director, Supervision Division, Rehabilitation Bureau, Ministry of Justice

D) “Motivational Interviewing (Basic Introduction)”

AOKI Osamu

Analyst, Training Institute for Correctional Personnel, Ministry of Justice

(4) Study Visits

The participants visited the following facilities to learn about offender rehabilitation in Japan, including assessment and treatment practices as well as capacity-building for staff:

- Tama Juvenile Training School
- Tokyo West Juvenile Assessment Centre
- Kawagoe Juvenile Prison
- Training Institute for Correctional Personnel

(5) Group Discussion

Participants were divided into three groups and discussed ways to improve effective offender treatment based on the knowledge and experiences gained through individual presentations, lectures and study visits. They examined four major themes:

- assessment,
- effective treatment programmes,
- measurement of outcomes and evaluation of effectiveness and
- capacity-building of staff and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

The results of the discussions were presented to all participants and staff of UNAFEI, followed by question-and-answer sessions.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Most participants expressed a high level of satisfaction with the structure and content of the training course, noting that they were able to gain detailed knowledge of Japan's practices and deepen their understanding of the theories and application of offender treatment. Many participants also developed a strong interest in Japanese culture throughout the training course, and this was recognized as an additional positive outcome of the programme.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer

It is essential that countries implement evidence-based treatment methods and develop more effective ways to measure and evaluate their outcomes, in order to promote offender rehabilitation and ensure a safe society. Although the conditions of their systems and practices differ across countries, quite a few participants have struggled to address these challenges. Under such circumstances, this training course offered a valuable opportunity for them to gather, share their national situations and practices, and explore possible solutions away from their workplaces.

In this course, we covered a wide range of key topics in offender treatment. Participants learned about various rehabilitation theories, assessment, effective treatment methods, measurement and evaluation of outcomes, capacity-building of staff and multi-stakeholder cooperation.

Dr. Raymund E. Narag, as an overseas expert, shared his extensive experience in introducing new assessment tools and treatment programmes, as well as the good practices and challenges encountered throughout those processes. Dr. Narag also took full advantage of the residential nature of the programme by actively engaging with participants outside the official sessions, including in the evenings and on weekends. He exchanged opinions and provided advice, which further enriched the participants' learning experience. Thanks to his contribution, participants were able to deepen their practical understanding. Furthermore, his lectures attracted great interest among officials of the Ministry of Justice, Japan, and provided valuable learning opportunities for Japanese criminal justice practitioners as well.

Japanese experts from the Family Court and the Ministry of Justice introduced the latest systems and practices in Japan, as well as treatment techniques for offenders.

Although many participants were correctional or probation/parole officers, we were also joined by criminal justice practitioners from other professional fields. As a result, the discussions were enriched by diverse perspectives, including questions from legal and institutional viewpoints.

Participants also showed great interest in Japanese culture. It was impressive to see them learning the Japanese language on their smartphones and trying to communicate with Japanese people, including experts and volunteers. After the training, participants shared reports of their achievements and takeaways with their colleagues in their home institutions. Some also contacted us to request additional reference materials. We are sincerely proud of their positive attitudes and motivation. Through this training course, we have

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gained many assets, including valuable human relationships, knowledge and experiences.