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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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The Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) is proud to submit to the international community the Annual Report for 1997 and Resource Material Series No. 53.

In the first part of this publication, the Annual Report outlines the Institute's main activities in 1997, as well the work programme for 1998.

Resource Material Series No. 53 comprises the second part of this publication. It contains the work product of the 107th International Training Course, "The Role and Function of Prosecution in Criminal Justice", which was conducted at UNAFEI from 1 September to 21 November 1997. Specifically, the papers contributed by the visiting experts, selected country reports from among the Course participants, and the reports of the Course are published.

Briefly, I would like digress and take this opportunity to pay tribute to the contributions of the Government of Japan, particularly the Ministry of Justice and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation. Without their indispensable and unwavering support, UNAFEI international training programmes would not be so successful.

Resource Material Series No. 53 also features the Ninth Meeting of the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee of Experts on UNAFEI Work Programmes and Directions. This meeting was convened on 27 October 1997 with a twofold purpose: to review and assess the work accomplished by UNAFEI in the past, and to consider proposals to improve and enhance future programmes. Contained herein are my report to the Committee on the recent activities and future perspectives of UNAFEI and the evaluation report prepared by the Committee.

In my report to the Ad Hoc Advisory Committee, I explained that the publications of the Institute are designed to meet the practical needs (including training) of criminal justice officials by providing comprehensive information on urgent and contemporary criminal justice issues. Primarily these efforts have been realized through the Resource Material Series. Unfortunately, in recent years, the timeliness of UNAFEI's publication of the Resource Material Series greatly diminished—falling behind by more than one year.

However, it is truly my pleasure to report that the completion of Resource Material Series No. 53 marks the end of a black chapter in UNAFEI history. Owing to the truly herculean efforts by the editors of the Resource Material Series, Mr. Yuzuru Takahashi (Chief of Training Division) and Ms. Ana M. Vander Woude (Linguistic Adviser), an unprecedented five editions of the Resource Material Series have been published in a period of less than one year, bringing the institute up-to-date. In consideration of the above, I must request the understanding of the selected authors for not having sufficient time to refer the manuscripts back to them before publication.

Moreover, to widen the scope of UNAFEI's target audience and to disseminate even more rapidly our training programme results, the Resource Material Series, as well as the UNAFEI Newsletter, will be available soon on our new homepage, which is scheduled to open in the very near future.

Resource Material Series No. 53 is significant for another reason also. Towards further increasing the international perspective of our publications, the number of participants' papers published by UNAFEI has been increased from the usual four or five to ten. Regrettably, not all the papers submitted by the Course participants could be published, but certainly, a larger representation is present now.

By continuing to improve its training, research and publication activities, UNAFEI wishes to demonstrate its firm commitment to promoting the sound development of criminal justice administration in the Asia-Pacific region, as well as the entire international community.

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Toichi Fujiwara  
Director of UNAFEI