
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

It is with pride that the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community the Resource Material Series No. 57.

This contains the Annual Report for 1999, the work produced in two UNAFEI international training programmes: the 114th International Seminar (conducted from 17 January to 18 February 2000) and the 115th International Training Course (conducted from 15 May to 7 July 2000). The main themes of these training programmes were “International Cooperation to Combat Transnational Organized Crime - with Special Emphasis on Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition”, and “Current Issues in Correctional Treatment and Effective Countermeasures”, respectively.

As an affiliated regional institute of the United Nations, UNAFEI has paid utmost attention to the priority themes identified by the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. The United Nations has given special attention to the issue of transnational organized crime. Particularly, pursuant to the General Assembly resolution 53/111 of 9 December 1998, the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was created, for the purpose of drafting a comprehensive international convention on transnational organized crime. Last month (July 2000), the Ad Hoc Committee completed its intensive drafting work which it embarked on in January 1999. Taking this into consideration, UNAFEI decided to undertake a series of training programmes in fall and winter courses for the coming few years under the general subject of “transnational organized crime”. The 114th International Seminar was the first of those to be conducted. Discussions in the Seminar focused on mutual legal assistance and extradition as the main tools of international cooperation.

UNAFEI took up correctional treatment as the main theme of the 115th International Training Course, considering that many countries are confronted with important issues such as overcrowding in correctional facilities, improvement of prison conditions, an increase of drug-related offenders and a shortage of effective treatment programmes. During

discussion in the Course, the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, adopted by the First United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, were often referred to, to remind the participants of the importance of benchmarking best practices in correctional treatment.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among Course and Seminar participants, and reports of the Course and Seminar are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Course and Seminar participants could be published. Also, I must request the understanding of the selected authors for not having sufficient time to refer the manuscripts back to them before publication.

I would like 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 for providing indispensable and unwavering support to UNAFEI international training programmes.

Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who so unselfishly assisted in the publication of this series, in particular, the editors of Resource Material Series No. 57, Mr. Hiroshi Iitsuka (Chief of Training Division) and Ms. Rebecca Findlay-Debeck (Linguistic Adviser), who so tirelessly dedicated themselves to this series.

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