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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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It is with pride that the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community Resource Material Series No. 64.

This volume contains the work produced in the 124<sup>th</sup> International Training Course that was conducted from 21 April to 12 June 2003. The main theme of this Course was, “The Effective Prevention and Enhancement of Treatment for Drug Abusers in the Criminal Justice Process”.

Drug abuse is a major challenge for the international community. It affects every country both developed and developing and the harm it causes is both far-reaching and substantial. The international community has sought to combat this growing menace by promoting international cooperation with the following United Nations Conventions: Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs (1961), Convention on Psychotropic Substances (1971), and the Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (1988).

There is a growing recognition that a comprehensive strategy needs to be implemented that emphasizes the need for drug demand reduction policies. This was addressed by the General Assembly of the United Nations at the 20<sup>th</sup> Special Session in 1998 in its Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction. This Declaration highlighted the need for early detection and prevention of drug abuse and appropriate rehabilitative services.

This course gave the participants an opportunity to share information on the current situation of drug abuse including punishment, prevention and treatment and the challenges faced by each country. Equipped with this information the participants explored more effective measures and strategies for preventing drug abuse and treating drug abusers in both the pre-sentencing stage and post-sentencing stage in order to facilitate the reintegration of drug abusers into the community.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the Course participants, and the reports of the Course are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Course 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 Minister of Justice and the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation for providing indispensable and unwavering support to UNAFEI's 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 editor of Resource Material Series No. 64, Mr Simon Cornell (Linguistic Adviser) who so tirelessly dedicated himself to this series.

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