
INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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. 65.

This volume contains the work produced in the 125th International Training Course that was conducted from 8 September to 30 October 2003 and the Sixth International Training Course on Corruption Control in Criminal Justice that was conducted from 4 to 28 November 2003. The main theme of the 125th Course was, “Effective Countermeasures against Illicit Drug Trafficking and Money Laundering”.

Drug trafficking is a major global problem that facilitates drug abuse and helps to fund the growth of organized criminal groups. The proceeds of this crime often find their way into the legitimate business sphere impairing the integrity of legitimate financial systems. There is also evidence that terrorists use such proceeds to fund their activities; there is therefore, a pressing need to take steps to combat this threat.

One of the most effective measures that can be taken against drug trafficking is to target the proceeds of this crime and thereby deprive the criminals of the purpose of their operations. By implementing effective strategies to prevent them cleaning this dirty money we can stop them gaining the benefits of their activities and in turn stop the growth in drug trafficking and other criminal activities carried out by these criminal groups. The UN Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the FATF “Forty Recommendations” are at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking. Regional initiatives, such as the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, help implement these international standards within a specific region.

This Course gave the participants an opportunity to share information on the current situation of illicit drug trafficking and money laundering and the challenges faced by each country. Equipped with this information the participants were able to explore more effective measures and strategies to meet their own countries needs and those of the international community as a whole.

Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life, and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. This evil phenomenon is found in all countries, big and small, rich and poor; however, it is in the developing world that its effects are most destructive. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a government’s ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice, and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element in economic under-performance, and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development.

Since the problems of corruption are so great and perennial, UNAFEI has held a course on corruption control for the last six years. This year, however, was significant in that the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention against Corruption which introduces many measures to aid the fight against corruption. This Course gave the participants a timely opportunity to focus their discussions on how to implement the provisions of this Convention, so that their countries could become parties to this instrument.

In this issue, in regard to the 125th Course, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Course are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Course participants could be published. In regard to the Sixth Corruption Course the papers contributed by the visiting experts and the Report of the General Discussion are published. 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'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. 65, Mr Simon Cornell, who so tirelessly dedicated himself to this Series.

March 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kunihiko Sakai', written in a cursive style.

Kunihiko Sakai
Director of UNAFEI