
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 the Resource Material Series No. 67.

This volume contains the work produced in two UNAFEI International Training Courses: the 127th International Training Course, conducted from 17 May to 24 June 2004, and the 128th International Training Course, conducted from 30 August to 7 October 2004. The main themes of these Courses were “Implementing Effective Measures for the Treatment of Offenders after Fifty Years of United Nations Standard Setting in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice” and “Measures to Combat Economic Crime, Including Money Laundering”, respectively.

In 1955 the United Nations adopted the “Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners” (SMRs). Although not formally binding it was envisioned that States would incorporate the rules into their criminal justice systems and thereby improve the living conditions of their prisoners and also take steps to rehabilitate them. Indeed, many States have adopted the SMRs into their domestic laws and practices and this has greatly contributed to the institutional treatment of offenders. However, an increase in the number of prisoners being incarcerated has made it increasingly difficult for some States to adhere to the SMRs and thus the prisoners’ opportunities for rehabilitation have been diminished. In response to prison overcrowding, and the consequent deterioration in prison conditions, in 1990 the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (Tokyo Rules) to promote the use of non-custodial measures.

Despite the above measures prison populations continue to increase and there are relatively few countries that have fully incorporated non-custodial measures; the norm is still to imprison offenders. However, the international community recently renewed its determination to use and apply the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice in their national law and practice in the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice (2001). It is hoped that this new Declaration will motivate individual States to make the necessary changes to their laws and practices to fully implement these important standards and norms. UNAFEI, as a United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institute, held this Course in order that the participants could study the current situation and problems of implementation and find practical solutions and countermeasures.

Economic crime is a serious problem for the world community due to its transnational nature aided by globalization of the economy and the spread of communications technology. It causes not only direct loss to individuals and companies but can also undermine and destabilize a State’s economy. Its complexity and the involvement of organized groups hamper its detection. Among the organized crimes money laundering needs to be focused upon because criminals always conceal and launder their ill-gotten proceeds and reinvest them in further illegal activities. In addition, because economic crime is committed in order to gain profit, the most effective solution is to deprive criminals of the proceeds of crime and thus their incentive to commit crime.

The United Nations has recognised the growing problem of economic crime, including money laundering and has adopted various conventions to combat it. Other international fora have also addressed this issue, especially the Financial Action Task Force on Money

Laundering which developed international standards known as the Forty Recommendations which sets out a comprehensive plan for countries to implement effective money laundering programmes. It is essential that all States incorporate these international standards and harmonize their countermeasures to prevent criminals targeting countries lacking regulations or with weak law enforcement so that criminals will find no safe-haven for their illicit proceeds.

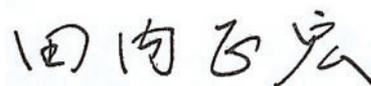
This year the 11th UN Congress focused on economic and financial crimes and included a workshop on “Measures to Combat Economic Crime, Including Money laundering” which UNAFEI, in collaboration with the Government of Sweden, coordinated. In view of the increasing threat that economic crime, including money laundering poses and our involvement with the topic at the 11th UN Congress, UNAFEI decided to hold this International Training Course in order to enable our participants to explore more effective countermeasures and examine ways in which to implement the international standards.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the Course participants, and the Group Workshop Reports are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Course participants could be published.

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 assisted in the publication of this series; in particular, the editor of Resource Material Series No. 67, Mr. Simon Cornell.

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