
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. 68.

This volume contains the work produced in the 129th International Senior Seminar that was conducted from 11 January to 9 February 2005. The main theme of this Seminar was, "Crime Prevention in the 21st Century – Effective Prevention of Crime associated with Urbanization based upon Community Involvement and Prevention of Youth Crime and Juvenile Delinquency".

Rapid migration from rural areas to urban areas, especially in developing countries, has resulted in overpopulation, a strain on social services, an increase in unemployment and other problems. This has in turn led to an increase in crime, including an increase in youth crime and delinquency. Criminal justice agencies have traditionally responded by strengthening law enforcement and punishment. However, such approaches do not address these problems in the long term. In order to tackle these problems effectively it is necessary to establish an environment that is conducive to preventing crime and implement programmes that are geared at the reintegration of offenders into the community. The United Nations and the international community have taken various measures, for example, the U.N. Riyadh Guidelines and the U.N. Guidelines for the Prevention of Urban Crime offer a comprehensive approach to preventing juvenile delinquency and combating urban crime, respectively. And the Safer Cities Programme, established by the UN-HABITAT, provides support to local authorities to nurture their crime prevention capacities.

Despite the various international initiatives that have been taken, crime associated with urbanization and youth crime is a problem that continues unabated. As the trend towards urbanisation continues the need to find effective solutions will become greater. In recognition of this fact the 11th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Treatment of Offenders held a workshop in April 2005 on Strategies and Best Practices for Crime Prevention, in particular in relation to Urban Crime and Youth at Risk, to discuss these issues. In view of this, and the growing importance of this problem, UNAFEI decided to hold this Seminar.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the Seminar participants, and the Group Workshop Reports are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Seminar 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 so unselfishly assisted in the publication of this series; in particular, the editor of Resource Material Series No. 68, Mr. Simon Cornell.

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