
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. 71.

This volume contains the work produced in the 132nd International Senior Seminar that was conducted from 10 January to 9 February 2006 and the Eighth International Training Course on Corruption Control in Criminal Justice that was conducted from 24 October to 17 November 2005. The main theme of the 132nd Seminar was, “Strengthening the Legal Regime for Combating Terrorism”.

The threat terrorism poses to international peace and security has long been recognised by the international community. Prior to the attacks on the United States on 11 September 2001 the international community had already promulgated 12 of the current 13 international counter-terrorism instruments. However, many countries had either failed to accede to these instruments or failed to incorporate the provisions into their legislation and implement them.

In order for a country to effectively combat terrorism it needs an anti-terrorism legal regime which will help prevent, detect and punish such offenders. It is also necessary that countries have in place legal instruments to combat transnational organized crimes and a financial system that isn't vulnerable to abuse by terrorists. Strengthening anti-terrorism legislation in accordance with the Conventions and Protocols and implementing anti-terrorism measures in cooperation with other countries should have a significant impact on the prevalence of major terrorist attacks.

The attacks of 11 September prompted the Security Council of the United Nations to adopt Resolution 1373 (2001) [SCR 1373] calling upon all States to become parties to the relevant international conventions and protocols. As a result 121 Member States have either ratified or acceded to at least 10 of the 13 instruments, and there is no longer any country that has neither signed nor become a party to at least one of them. Nevertheless, recently a number of major terrorist attacks have occurred including those in Indonesia, Madrid, Russia, London and India.

In order to fight terrorism effectively it is necessary that all countries become parties to and implement the universal instruments against terrorism, as called upon by SCR 1373 and more recently by the Bangkok Declaration of 2005, in order that there is no safe haven in which terrorist can operate and hide. The aim of the 132nd International Senior Seminar was to assist efforts by Member States in the fight against terrorism, in particular those efforts towards accession to and implementation of the relevant legal instruments.

Corruption imposes a wide range of harmful effects on society. In particular, corruption by public officials seriously undermines their integrity and neutrality in performing their official duties. This can lead to the public's distrust in the government and its institutions and may lead to its eventual collapse. Corruption is a problem that constantly needs to be challenged and the reason UNAFEI holds an international training course specifically on corruption control every year.

In recognition of the harm corruption can cause, especially in developing countries, and the fact that it can transcend national borders, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the UN Convention against Corruption in 2003. The Convention came into force in December 2005 and requires States Parties to implement a number of measures to tackle corruption in a comprehensive way, including measures directed at prevention, criminalization, international cooperation, and asset recovery. It is hoped that all countries, including our participants' countries, will become party to this Convention and fully implement it, thereby taking a closer step towards freeing the world from the grip of corruption.

In this issue, in regard to the 132nd Seminar, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Seminar are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Seminar participants could be published. In regard to the Eighth International Corruption Course the papers contributed by the visiting experts are published.

I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of the Government of Japan, particularly the Ministry of Justice, 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. 71, Mr. Simon Cornell.

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