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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. 72.

This volume contains the Annual Report for 2006 and the work produced in the 133rd International Training Course that was conducted from 15 May to 22 June 2006. The main theme of the Course was “Effective Prevention and Enhancement of Treatment for Sexual Offenders”.

Most countries stipulate harsh penalties for those committing sexual offences. Nevertheless, despite punishments generally being increased in recent years, it appears that sexual offences are growing in number and severity in many jurisdictions. Moreover, many sexual offenders continue to re-offend after they have been convicted and served their sentences. It therefore appears that punishment alone is not the solution to this problem.

In response to this, some countries, such as Canada and the UK, have implemented treatment for the rehabilitation and reintegration of sexual offenders, both in an institutional and community setting. In some cases offenders are required to participate in such treatment as a condition of release on parole. Numerous studies have been carried out on the effectiveness of treatment programmes for sexual offenders which suggest that certain types of treatment can be highly effective, and recidivism rates for those that have received treatment have been reduced.

In addition to treatment, which it is hoped will have the effect of the offender curbing his behaviour, some jurisdictions have introduced various measures intended to place controls on the offender’s movements and activities for extended periods after they have served their sentences. Such measures allow the authorities to closely monitor offenders and hopefully prevent their re-offending.

The aim of this Course was to allow the participants an opportunity to discuss the most effective treatment and preventive measures for sexual offenders with a view to their possible implementation in their respective countries.

In this issue, 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.

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. 72, Mr. Simon Cornell, who so tirelessly dedicated himself to this Series.

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