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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 the Resource Material Series No. 81.

This volume contains the Annual Report for 2009 and the work produced in the 144<sup>th</sup> International Senior Seminar, conducted from 12 January to 9 February 2010. The main theme of the 144<sup>th</sup> Seminar was “The Enhancement of Measures for Victims of Crime at Each Stage of the Criminal Justice Process”.

Compared with the substantial effort devoted to ensuring the rights of the criminally accused, relatively little attention has been paid to various needs, interests and the rights of the victims of crime. However, since the 1960s, a common understanding regarding the necessity of responding to their needs and interests has grown.

This development led to the adoption of “The Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power” at the Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of the Offenders, held in Milan, Italy in September 1985. The Declaration was subsequently adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 29 November 1985 (Assembly Resolution 40/34 annex), and remains to date the most fundamental United Nations document addressing the rights of the victims of crime.

Measures taken by various countries in order to promote the interests of the victims of crime include (i) direct financial support by the State; (ii) direct support and protection within the criminal justice system, especially measures designed to reduce the hardship experienced when assisting in the prosecution of offenders; and (iii) enactment of statutes designed to improve their legal status and establish “the rights of the victims of crime.” How these measures have been implemented, and the degree of practical implementation, however, vary substantially from state to state.

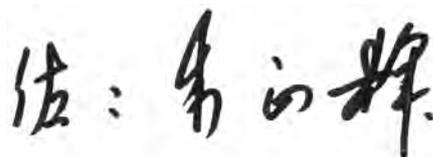
As 2010 marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Declaration of Basic Principles of Justice for Victims of Crime and Abuse of Power, it should be worthwhile for criminal justice practitioners of Member States to review their criminal justice systems in the light of the Declaration. Accordingly, UNAFEI, as an institute of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, decided to hold this Seminar.

In this issue, in regard to the 144<sup>th</sup> International Senior 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 participants of the Seminar 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. 81, Ms. Grace Lord.

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