
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. 82.

This volume contains the work produced in the 145th International Training Course, conducted from 12 May to 18 June 2010. The main theme of the 145th Course was “Effective Resettlement of Offenders by Strengthening ‘Community Reintegration Factors’”.

Since the 1990s, scientific trends measuring the efficacy of rehabilitative programmes for offenders from the viewpoint of ‘what works’ have spread in many countries. As a result, many have come to believe that adequate treatment can change offending behaviours and reduce the possibility of repeat offences. Particularly, programmes based on cognitive behavioural theory have come to be widely utilized in both institutionalized and community-based settings. However, it has become gradually apparent that these programmes alone are not sufficiently effective unless coupled with programmes aimed at strengthening community reintegration factors, such as stable accommodation, basic skills (literacy and numeracy), employment, and budgeting/debt counselling. Strengthening these factors reduces the possibility of repeat offences, increases the possibility that cognitive behavioural programmes are successfully completed, and could complement and reinforce the efficacy of such programmes. The Japanese government’s *White Paper on Crime 2009* statistically demonstrates lower rates of repeat offences for offenders who have proper employment, who have stronger ties with family members, or who have a guarantor who swears supervision of the offender in court.

Strengthening community reintegration factors cannot be appropriately implemented by a single agency. Co-operation with a wide range of agencies, organizations and individuals is indispensable. The Japanese government’s *White Paper on Crime 2007* states that “a multidisciplinary approach” for wide-ranging support is to be carried out with the close collaboration of the criminal justice agencies and other relevant agencies responsible for employment, welfare, education, health and medicine and so forth. For the international community, the Bangkok Declaration, adopted by the United Nations on the occasion of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice recognizes the role of individuals and groups outside the public sector in contributing to the prevention of and fight against crime. Strengthening community reintegration factors, through establishing co-operation with such a wide range of agencies, organizations and individuals in both the public sector and the private sector, is, however, difficult to accomplish, and it is a great challenge in the treatment of offenders at present.

Based on the above, this course aimed to clarify the current situations and problems existing in participating countries’ treatment of offenders systems, mainly in terms of ways of strengthening community reintegration factors. It also aimed to study good measures to improve these kinds of treatment for offenders, including ways of co-operating with concerned agencies, organizations and individuals in the public sector and the private sector, and by doing so, aimed at further promotion and development of the administration of both institutional and community-based treatment of offenders in the participating countries.

In this volume, 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. 82, Ms. Grace Lord.

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