
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. 90. This volume contains the Annual Report for 2012 and the work produced in the 153rd International Senior Seminar, conducted from 9 January to 8 February 2013. The main theme of the 153rd Seminar was *Treatment of Female Offenders*.

Historically, the treatment of female offenders had not received much attention because of their relatively small population in comparison with male offenders. However, the population of female inmates is on the rise in many nations, which has increased the demand to enhance their treatment. The adoption of the *United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*¹ by the United Nations General Assembly in December 2010 indicates the international surge of such demands.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Seminar to explore various issues that relate to the treatment of female offenders, including the implementation of the Bangkok Rules. In this issue, in regard to the 153rd International Senior Seminar, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual-presentation and overview 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.

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¹G.A. Res. 229, U.N. GAOR, 65th Sess., U.N. Doc. A/Res/65/229 (2010).