
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. 91.

This volume contains the work product of the 154th International Training Course, conducted from 15 May to 28 June 2013. The main theme of the 154th Course was the *Stress Management of Correctional Personnel — Enhancing the Capacity of Mid-Level Staff*.

Officers who engage in the treatment of offenders often must suppress their emotions and maintain patience on the job. Naturally, treatment of offenders can be stressful, and, thus, officers experience work-related stress. For example, crimes are often caused by offenders' cognitive distortions, which in turn result in unreasonable claims or violent acts directed against officers in correctional settings. Even in these cases, officers must treat offenders calmly and dispassionately without anger, injustice, or hatred.

Furthermore, the rising population of offenders including difficult-to-treat offenders increases the quantity of work of correctional staff, which results in a loss of focus on offender treatment. Some offenders may feel they are not treated appropriately and become aggressive. As a result, correctional officers' stress will become more serious.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Training Course to explore various issues that relate to the stress management of correctional personnel. This issue of the *Resource Material Series* contains papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the 154th Training Course. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the participants of the Course 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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