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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. 93. This volume contains the Annual Report for 2013 and the work produced during the 156th International Senior Seminar, conducted from 15 January to 14 February 2014. The main theme of the 156th Seminar was *Protection for Victims of Crime and Use of Restorative Justice Programmes*.

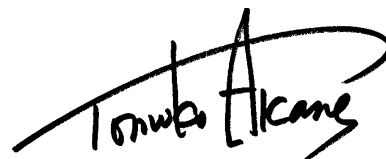
The improvement of victim protection is an international trend, yet some countries in Asia, Africa, and Central and South America do not have adequate systems for the protection of victims of crime. The three-fold objectives of the 156th Seminar were to clarify and analyse the current situation of victim protection in the participating countries, to explore more effective ways to protect crime victims and to encourage their active participation in the criminal justice process—specifically in the context of restorative justice approaches.

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 victim protection and restorative justice. This issue of the Resource Material Series, in regard to the 156th International Senior Seminar, contains papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual-presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Seminar. 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.

August 2014

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tomoko Akane". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial 'A' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Tomoko Akane  
Director of UNAFEI