
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. 96. This volume contains the Annual Report for 2014 and the work produced in the 159th International Senior Seminar, conducted from 14 January to 12 February 2015. The main theme of the 159th Seminar was *Public Participation in Community Corrections*.

The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-Custodial Measures (the Tokyo Rules) emphasize the necessity of involving the public in the process of reintegrating offenders into the community. This Seminar provided the participants with the opportunity to explore effective ways to enhance and strengthen the community-based treatment of offenders through public participation, using Japan's volunteer probation officer system as a model.

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 community corrections and desistance theory. This issue of the Resource Material Series, in regard to the 159th 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.

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