

**SUMMARY OF THE OPENING REMARKS OF  
THE HONOURABLE MS. AGNES VST DEVANADERA,  
SECRETARY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Money laundering as a form of corruption is a decades-old problem but it is only recently that countries have developed laws to counteract it. Countries have recognized that money laundering and other forms of corruption create further poverty and denial of services and hinder the development of affected nations. Corruption in both the private and public sectors impacts on a society.

When formulating anti-corruption measures, we should consider the vital matter of the prevailing public attitudes to corruption in affected regions or countries and the culture of the people. Do the people think this is a way of life? Are they forgiving? These factors must be understood and addressed when devising any campaign to counter corruption. We should remember that measures which may be effective in one country may not work in another.

I express my gratitude to the governments of Switzerland and the United States of America for their assistance in recovering Marcos assets from both countries. International forums, such as the Third Good Governance Seminar, are very good opportunities to consider measures to recover stolen assets which are uniform in terms of objective, but not in strategy. It is my wish that international co-operation in pursuing corruption crimes by public figures will be promoted.

The recovery of the Marcos assets was time-consuming and laborious. We should think about how to make asset recovery easier for affected countries. Conceding that the challenge is great, I am confident that the Seminar delegates will meet it with vigour.

**SUMMARY OF THE CLOSING REMARKS OF  
THE HONOURABLE MS. AGNES VST DEVANADERA,  
SECRETARY OF JUSTICE OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

I would like to thank the organizers for their work. I also thank His Excellency Mr. Makoto Katsura, Ambassador of Japan; Mr. Masaki Sasaki, Director of UNAFEI; Mr. Haruhiko Ukawa, Deputy Director of UNAFEI; the Visiting Experts; and the staff members of the DOJ of the Philippines.

I would like to express my respect to all delegates for the enthusiasm with which they pursued the objectives of the Seminar and for the practicality and care with which they crafted the recommendations. Although the pursuit of the proceeds of corruption is a difficult task, and although each of us has our own work to do and duties to fulfill, the pursuits must not be put on the back burner. Considering the determination evident in the output of the Seminar, I would like to urge all delegates and participants to work together as catalysts for anti-money laundering and anti-corruption efforts in their countries and across the region.

Anti-corruption campaigners, and anti-money laundering advocates in particular, face many obstacles, especially when they become a threat to the official and personal interests of powerful people. In the fight against money laundering and corruption, collective efforts are vital. I would like to urge all participants, including participants from the DOJ of the Philippines, to become catalysts at the operational level in each respective country.

The best method of teaching is to share experiences. Please consider the gains made by the Philippines in its fight to recover the Marcos assets. Although the difficulties in recovering stolen assets will be many, I would like to encourage delegates to share the success stories.