

The 129th International training Seminar
(11 January – 10 February 2004)

1. Main Theme of the Seminar

Crime Prevention in the 21st Century - Effective Prevention of Crime associated with Urbanization based upon Community Involvement and Prevention of Youth Crime and Juvenile Delinquency

2. Rationale

(1) Changes of Society and Crime Trends associated with Urbanization, Current Countermeasures and Problems Encountered

Economic growth and development of modern industry have promoted migration of people from other areas. The living conditions in urban areas have worsened as a consequence, slum areas have emerged and street crime has expanded. Economic growth and other factors have also altered the social fabric; for instance, the extended family has shifted into a nuclear family, and the erosion of human ties in the community has promoted a breakdown in the traditional form of the community. This has been accompanied by a weakening of normative consciousness in the community and it is a cause of the deleterious change in the community environment.

This enervation of living conditions and social environment accompanied by urbanization has also affected crime trends. For instance, in urban areas, crime such as larceny, robbery, violent crime and drug related crime have drastically increased. At the same time, the type of offences committed by organized criminals, youth, juveniles and foreigners have become more serious. This phenomenon generates “feelings of insecurity” in the majority of people who are living in urban areas. This increase in crime has adversely affected the “quality of life” in the community and it will be a serious cause of hindrance to the sustainable growth of a country.

Governments have faced difficulties to provide timely, necessary and sufficient countermeasures to this quantitative and qualitative change in criminal activity. Criminal justice agencies have not been able to respond to the explosion of the number and seriousness of crimes being committed in terms of the system itself and their budget. Improvement of policies in relation to city planning, immigration and migration and education and welfare for juveniles and youth have also fallen behind.

Responding to the demands of the people and public opinion who seek safety and security, the government has to put an emphasis on repressive approaches such as strengthening law-enforcement and punishment, which directly responds to the public’s beliefs and are effective

in the short term. For instance, they are making wholesale arrests of street gangs in some metropolitan areas, tearing down slums and imposing harsher penalties on offenders.

It is clear that these countermeasures are necessary and we can expect some positive results from them; however relying solely on such countermeasures is insufficient to combat the crime associated with urbanization. Because offenders will be back in the community sooner or later and repressive approaches do not take into account prevention of crime and reintegration of offenders into the community.

(2) Fundamental Measures to Combat Crime associated with Urbanization

The phenomenon of an increase in crime due to urbanization has been brought about by many factors as we stated above. Therefore it is difficult for criminal justice agencies to combat such crimes alone. It is essential to establish an “integrated approach” carried out by agencies and organizations concerned and people in the community closely cooperating and collaborating.

In the criminal justice field, in addition to the traditional repressive approaches, we also have to introduce the following measures which emphasize the prevention of crime and reintegration of offenders into the community with the cooperation and collaboration of other agencies and organizations concerned. A series of these countermeasures need to be taken in the form of community involvement (people in the community should come first and be allowed to participate in determining and carrying out policies and measures). It is important that we rebuild communities (which are instrumental in preventing crime and reoffending) during the process of taking these measures. Furthermore it is necessary for the criminal justice agencies to cooperate and collaborate with these efforts.

On a concrete level, the above-mentioned measures must provide for: the establishment of a social environment that aims to prevent crime; the establishment of an effective policy for petty offences; the introduction of treatment measures for offenders which include new and appropriate measures for persons who commit petty offences; the sound development of youth living in urban areas, especially effective countermeasures for “youth at risk”; and effective reintegration of offenders back into the urban community.

(3) Measures to Combat Crime associated with Urbanization taken by the United Nations and the International Community

In order to address the above-mentioned situation, the General Assembly of the UN adopted the “Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (Riyadh Guideline)” in 1990 as a UN guideline for youth at risk (GA Resolution 45/112, 1990). In relation to crime associated with urbanization, the Economic and Social Council adopted “Guidelines for the Prevention of Urban Crime” in 1995 and in the Annex of this, “Guidelines for Cooperation and Technical Assistance in the Field of Urban Crime Prevention” shows the basic policy for countermeasures to such crimes based

upon the viewpoint of primary prevention of crime and prevention of recidivism (secondary prevention, ECOSOC Resolution 1995/9, 49th plenary meeting, 24 July 1995). In following with this, the ECOSOC Resolution entitled “Action to Promote Effective Crime Prevention” was adopted in 2002. In the Annex of this resolution “Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime,” it clearly states the policies of the UN and the theoretical framework of crime prevention (definition, positive involvement of the community, etc.), basic principles, organization, methods and approaches, international cooperation (ECOSOC Resolution 2002/13, 24 July 2002). Regarding the crime associated with urbanization and youth at risk (prevention of youth crime and juvenile delinquency), this issue will be discussed in a workshop of the 11th UN Congress for Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders held in Bangkok, Thailand in 2005.

There is also a UN programme that aims for the amelioration of the urban environment from the viewpoint of crime prevention. It is called “the Safer City Programme” and it is a technical assistance programme held by the UN Habitat. Under this programme, for prevention of crime associated with urbanization, youth crime and juvenile delinquency, there are a series of plans that consist of assessment, crime prevention, implementation of plans and the establishment of a system. These have been conducted in Kenya, South Africa, Madagascar and Cameroon, etc., with the support of international public organizations and private bodies.

3. Objectives

On the basis of the explanations indicated above, in this Seminar, we will examine what kinds of measures can be taken by the criminal justice agencies of the respective countries to solve these problems. When we examine and discuss them, we will concentrate on the current situation of crime associated with urbanization, countermeasures for them and related problems and future prospects from the viewpoint of preventive approaches (i.e., prevention of crime and reintegration of offenders into the community) along with the traditional repressive approaches (i.e., strengthening of law-enforcement and just deserts to offenders). The major topics of this Seminar are as follows.

- (1) The Current Situation of Crime associated with Urbanization, Countermeasures and Problems experienced by Participating Countries
 - (a) Current situation.
 - (b) Measures which have been taken by the current criminal justice systems.
 - by police, prosecution, courts, corrections and rehabilitation services.
 - (c) Problems faced.

- (2) Effective Measures for Prevention of Crime associated with Urbanization
 - (a) Measures that can be taken by the police and prosecution to prevent crime associated with urbanization- community policing and community prosecution.
 - (b) How to identify target areas – mapping analysis of reported crimes.
 - (c) Situational crime prevention – reduction of crime by the improvement of urban planning.
 - (d) Measures for preventing victimization – reduction of risk factors for victims, i.e., target

hardening.

(e) Crime prevention measures in the community by the active participation of community residents increasing the awareness of community residents about their sense of belonging in the community, cooperation and collaboration of agencies, organizations concerned and community residents, utilization of volunteers, i.e., neighbourhood watch activities by community residents as a form of implementation of the “Broken Windows Theory,” and the upkeep of parks and other public places by community residents (Adopt-A-Park Programme).

(3) Effective Measures for Youth at Risk

(a) Integrated approach (multidisciplinary approach) for youth at risk by the cooperation and collaboration of multiple agencies such as the criminal justice system, schools, welfare services, hospitals and others.

(b) Measures for enlightening youth.

(c) Early intervention for youth at risk – establishment of an appropriate risk and needs assessment scale and measures for early intervention based upon assessment.

(d) The establishment and management of a flexible disposition and treatment system/measures to tackle youth offending/juvenile delinquency – examination of various forms of disposition and treatment, establishment and management of diversion programmes (mainly community-based treatment) at the police, prosecution and courts level; i.e., courts which handle specific issues such as “Problem Solving Courts” in the USA, disposition and treatment which are based upon restorative justice approaches such as victim offender mediation programmes in Australia, New Zealand, Canada, USA and others.

(e) Effective institutional treatment for youth/juveniles

Effective institutional treatment programmes for prevention of recidivism and enrichment of the through care system under cooperation and collaboration with community-based treatment services (probation services).

(f) Effective community-based treatment for youth/juveniles

Effective community-based treatment programmes for prevention of recidivism, measures that give an active role to the community for the effective rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders in the community and promotion of the through care system under cooperation and collaboration with multiple agencies/organizations and the establishment of a smooth transition programme from the community-based treatment stage by criminal justice agencies to the aftercare stage.

(4) Role of the Community in the Integrated Approach (multidisciplinary approach) and Establishment of an Effective Multi-Agency Cooperation and Collaboration System

(a) Necessity of the integrated approach (multidisciplinary approach), ways of planning and implementation and agencies which are in charge of this.

(b) Role of the community in the integrated approach (mainly focused upon prevention of crime and reintegration of offenders into the community) – revitalization of the local community, active participation of the community with the victim and the offender under restorative justice approaches and methods of recruitment and utilization of community resources and citizen volunteers, such as volunteer probation officers.

- (c) Measures for the establishment of an effective integrated approach (multidisciplinary approach)
 - information sharing with agencies/organizations concerned and improvement of the aftercare system after sentencing/dispositions.