

The 133rd International Training Course
(15 May – 23 June 2006)

1. Main Theme of the Course

Effective Prevention and Enhancement of Treatment for Sexual Offenders

2. Rationale

There are various types of sexual offences in the world. Each jurisdiction has its own definitions and forms of punishment for sexual offenses/offenders. Various measures at each stage of the criminal justice system have been taken by each country/jurisdiction characterized by differences in relevant determinants such as laws related to sexual offenses, types of dominant offenses in each country, etc. As to sexual offender treatment for rehabilitation and reintegration into society, new types of practices have been introduced in some European and North American countries over the last two decades. Empirical evaluation studies of these practices have also been carried out.

With regard to sexual offender treatment in correctional institutions, various new treatment programs based on cutting-edge behavioral/medical knowledge have been developed and utilized in addition to the basic programs for rehabilitation such as vocational training, counseling, etc. For instance, programs for sexual offenders include behavioral therapy using conditioning techniques, medical treatment such as surgical or chemical castration, cognitive-behavioral skills training and relapse prevention programs, etc. In institutional settings, some countries establish special institutions or units for sexual offenders, and/or provide intensive treatment programs in order to enhance their treatment effects.

As to treatment for sexual offenders who are convicted but not committed to prison, or have received a community-supervision order, many types of programs have been introduced, such as group programs based on the cognitive-behavioral approach, long term probationary supervision, etc. Various Preventive measures have also been developed and implemented such as an electric monitoring system for probationers, a sexual offenders register system, DNA data banks containing the DNA profile of convicted sexual offenders which is utilized for investigation, peace bonds, criminal court orders to set out specific conditions to protect the safety of victims, etc.

In order to achieve and maintain its effectiveness and efficiency, the program should focus on the particular offender's own problems. As mentioned above, the definitions of sexual offenses are not always the same among countries/jurisdictions.

Moreover, each offender has his/her own unique problems. Therefore, an accurate and reliable risks and needs assessment for offenders should be done in order to ensure the appropriate delivery of treatment and rehabilitative services. Practices and experiences of these detailed assessments have also been accumulated and evaluated for further improvement of current programs.

There are some important issues to cover in order to improve prevention and treatment programs for sexual offenders. For instance, it is necessary to explore possible strategies at each stage of the criminal justice system, from preventive activity, investigation, prosecution to rehabilitation of offenders. Appropriate punishment, a sentencing based upon the offender's risk of re-offending and diversification of disposition should be re-examined. More specifically, stalking orders or other punishment for stalking committed with a sexual motivation, sexual misconduct with or exploitation of children, etc. should be discussed. Moreover, if a new program or measure puts emphasis only on prevention of re-offending, it might hinder offenders reintegrating into society or violate their basic human rights. Furthermore, it is also important to consider victims of sexual offenses in the criminal justice process.

The United Nations, and various international bodies and organizations, have taken various measures to combat problems related to sexual offenses. For instance, in 1993, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the "Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women". Following this Declaration, in 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, held in Beijing, adopted the "Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action". In this conference, "Violence against Woman" was identified as one of the "most important problematic areas" in the "Platform of Action". "To take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women" was one of the two strategic objectives concerning the issue of violence against woman provided in the "Platform of Action" in which specific actions to be taken by member countries/jurisdictions are illustrated.

Various resolutions, declarations, guidelines, and codes of conduct concerning crime prevention and treatment of offenders adopted by the United Nations should also be taken into consideration. With regard to institutional treatment, the international society and the United Nations have set out certain basic requirements in the United Nations standards and norms such as the "United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners", adopted at the First Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, and other resolutions, declarations, guidelines and codes of conduct. Each Member State/jurisdiction has made efforts to implement these standards and norms by making the necessary changes to their relevant domestic laws and practices. Similarly, the General

Assembly of the United Nations adopted the “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)” in 1985 for juvenile offenders, and the “United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures (The Tokyo Rules)” in 1990 for community-based treatment. These rules are also important for Member States to re-examine their current preventive measures and treatment programs for sexual offenders.

3. Objectives

On the basis of the explanations indicated above, the purpose of this International Training Course is to offer participants the opportunity to share information on the current situation of sexual offenses, punishment, prevention and treatment for sexual offenders; and challenges faced by each country. At the same time, this Course offers opportunities to explore more effective measures and strategies for preventing sexual offenses and providing treatment programs for sexual offenders to promote their reintegration into society.

In summary, among the major topics to be discussed are the following items:

- (1) To examine and analyze the current situation of sexual offenses; the legal framework of prevention, punishment, and treatment for sexual offenders; and practices and programs for prevention and treatment.
 - (a) current situation of sexual offenses and other related offences
 - (b) the legal framework of punishment and treatment
 - (c) preventive measures and treatment programs

- (2) To identify current problems and challenges faced by each country/jurisdiction and their practices concerning prevention of sexual offenses, punishment and treatment for sexual offenders.
 - (a) investigation, prosecution, and sentencing procedures (including legislation and punishment)
 - (b) institutional treatment programs
 - (c) community-based treatment programs and supervision
 - (d) preventive measures
 - (e) inter-agency cooperation

- (3) To explore effective measures and strategies to improve prevention and treatment programs for sexual offenders at each stage of the criminal justice system.

- (a) best practices and empirical studies
- (b) effective preventive measures/treatment models at each stage of the criminal justice system
- (c) inter-agency cooperation to establish an integrated sexual offender treatment model
- (d) preventive measures/treatment models applicable to each country
- (e) possible international cooperation