

I succeeded Mr. Yamashita as Director of UNAFEI on 11 April, and I am very pleased and honoured to join an institute which has been contributing to the development of criminal justice systems and the promotion of international cooperation in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in the Asia and Pacific region, and indeed further afield, for more than half a century.

For the last thirty years, I have been working as a lawyer in the field of criminal law, including as a Japanese public prosecutor. From 2003 to 2007, I served at UNAFEI, first as a professor and then as deputy director; thus, this is my second time to work for the institute. I also worked for the UN Secretariat, first in Vienna from 1990 to 1992 (Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch) and second in Bangkok from 2007 to 2009 (Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific, UNODC).

In order to cope with today's crime situation, each country has to develop necessary national legislation and provide effective training for its personnel. Furthermore, international cooperation in investigation, control of proceeds of crime, extradition, research and training are essential if we are to collectively face global challenges. While maintaining our long-held good traditions, UNAFEI, under my directorship, is determined to constantly develop our activities to meet such challenges, bearing in mind the needs of the countries we assist and the priority areas identified by the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

Alumni of our past training courses and seminars are making great contributions to their respective countries as high ranking officials in ministries and agencies responsible for crime prevention and criminal justice. Many of them are presently occupying the highest positions in the justice administration or judiciary. UNAFEI will continue to maintain and develop this alumni network, including those who will attend our future courses, in which we will endeavor to ensure its professional quality and amicable hospitality. We would like to work as a liaison, not only among alumni members, but also between interested organizations and individuals.

I very much look forward to meeting and working together with UNAFEI's future participants and its existing network of alumni and friends around the world.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keisuke Senta', written in a cursive style.

Keisuke Senta
Director, UNAFEI