

UNAFEI

16th UNAFEI UNCAC TRAINING PROGRAMME

CLOSING CEREMONY (November 12, 2013)

FAREWELL SPEECH

Vladimir Aras, M. Sc. (Federal Prosecutor, Brazil)

Honorable Members of the Diplomatic Corps;

Mr. Hisanao NODA, Deputy Director General, TIC, JICA;

Ms. Tomoko AKANE, Director of UNAFEI,

Mr. Kenichi KIYONO, Deputy Director of UNAFEI,

JICA Staff Members,

Faculty and Staff Members of UNAFEI,

ACPF Members,

Distinguished Guests,

Fellow Participants,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

American Professor Ray L. Huntington once said and I quote: “*May we have hearts that can feel, ears that can hear, and eyes that can see our blessings and live in continual gratitude toward God and those around us.*”

We felt, we heard, we saw. Now I have the honor to express on behalf of all my fellow participants our deepest gratitude for having been granted the opportunity to participate in this **16th UNAFEI UNCAC Training Programme.**

We extend our sincere appreciation to the **Government of Japan, to the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNAFEI and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF)**, and all the people who have made our participation an unforgettable experience for us. We appreciate very much the academic contribution we received from you, which improved our understanding of corruption issues and the Japanese Criminal Justice System.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I appreciate the opportunity of being with you today. I would like to take it to convey our profound and sincere gratitude. This is indeed a very special moment for all of us. **We, the participants, experience now a blending of happiness and sadness.** We are happy because soon we will meet our loved ones; but we also are sad, because we will say goodbye to our new friends and family.

JICA and UNAFEI provided us the opportunity to participate in this unique training course. We are witnesses of the continuous effort you've made to organize a really enlightening experience. Besides our 7 Japanese colleagues, 18 participants from 11 countries gathered here: **Algeria** (Mr. Touti), **Bangladesh** (Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Rahman), **Brazil, Cambodia** (Mr. Norith), **Kenya** (Ms. Thinguini, Mr. Gathii, Mr. Kemboi and Mr. Obuo), **Myanmar** (Mr. Myo Swe and Ms. Khin Myat Tar), **Moldova** (Mr. Donciu and Mr. Crismaru), **Namibia** (Ms. Justine Namukwambi and Mr. Ihalua), **Panama** (Ms. Jaen-Fernández), **Thailand** (Mr. Appichai Thongprasom) and **Timor-Leste** (Mr. Amaral).

We came from different countries and we have different backgrounds and professional experiences, such as the prosecution, the police, and the judiciary, as well anticorruption agencies. **This perfect blend** helped us to broaden our views and enhanced our knowledge about the available approaches to

tackle corruption issues.

The participants came from different places, **but I am sure that, by speaking my heart today, I express the profound appreciation of them all.** Japanese kindness, discipline and dedication will be with us in the Americas, in Africa and in the other Asian countries which are represented here, because you, JICA and UNAFEI faculty and staff members, showed us what to do to the betterment of our criminal justice systems, in a warm and friendly manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Dear Mr. Hisanao NODA, Deputy Director General of JICA Tokyo, we want to thank you and JICA staff members for all the support and attention dedicated to us. **We appreciate especially Ms. HISA KEIKO's commitment to the achievement of the objectives of this training course.** Her presence and skills were essential to the success of this programme.

In the same way, we thank UNAFEI for promoting the training course on a subject so important nowadays: how to prevent and fight corruption. We know you have made an enormous effort in planning and to complete this training programme. **But you provided us more than learning.** You provided us a warm atmosphere, especially with the loving way you welcomed us in front of this building, always waving both hands, every time we left for a study trip or a ceremony outside these premises. You were also there when we came back, once again, welcoming us whatever the time or the weather. This would not be possible without a totally devoted and committed team.

Ms. AKANE, your work as the Director of UNAFEI sustained and favored the outstanding result of this training course. We saw your humbleness and spirit of leadership. Your wisdom and hard work made this 16th UNCAC Training Programme a great success.

In the same way, we thank the Deputy Director, **Mr. KIYONO**, who also dedicated himself to the programme, and joined us in the conference hall, **enriching the sessions many times with useful information**. Moreover, Mr. KIYONO delivered a really interesting lecture in October 24th, which helped us to understand in detail the Japanese Criminal Justice.

We offer our very special thanks to **Professor MORIYA**, our Programming Officer. You provided all the information we needed to understand the UNCAC's requirements and its purpose. You also played a great role to make our study successful. Your commitment inspired us all. We will miss your good mood, fairness and, of course, your expected announcements, which always provided us useful information about our studies and leisure activities.

Dear Professors HIROSE-san, IWASHITA-san, MIO-san, NAGAI-san, OYAIZU-san, TASHIRO-san, TSUNODA-san, and YOSHIMURA-san, and Linguistic Adviser Mr. THOMAS SCHMID, we also thank you for your devotion to work. Your supervision and counseling in our individual presentations and in the group work sessions were fundamental to the improvement of our understanding. Your lectures and teachings were interesting and helpful. Furthermore, you were always present with us, not only during the training, but sometimes during the joyful Karaoke parties at lounge B.

Thank you **Mr. ANDO, Mr. SUGIYAMA, Mr. TADA, Ms. HICHIGURO, Mr. TOYODA, Mr. FUKUTA, Ms. SUZUKI, Ms. NISHI, Mr. HAYASAKA, Mr. FURUHASHI, Ms. YAMADA, Mr. HONDA and Ms. IWAKATA**, UNAFEI staff. You provided us a friendly environment to perform our studies.

Thank you to our tireless and qualified interpreters, YAMAGA-san and others, for their immense support and cooperation. Without you this international course would not be possible.

Mentioning the name of SAKAI-san, we say thank you also to the **entire cafeteria staff**. We were pleased to receive their service in a very kind and healthy environment. We had delicious meals, prepared with care.

Likewise, we thank **the Rotary Club of Tokyo/Fuchu branch** for receiving us at the Tokyo Horse Race Course as special guests.

Our sincere thanks also go to the ACPF, which supported many activities that we participated in, as well as the unforgettable dinner at the **Meiji Kinenkan**. We really feel indebted to the ACPF members for their generosity, hospitality and continuous assistance.

Ladies and Gentlemen, Brothers and Sisters,

During this training programme, we had individual presentations that showed us the situation of the fight against corruption in **12 countries**. Based on this previous knowledge, we had the group sessions in which themes related to corruption were discussed and analysed thoroughly, with the purpose of developing good practices and methods that can enhance the fight against corruption in our nations. Likewise, **we had lectures by UNAFEI professors and visiting experts** that helped us to know the Japanese Criminal Justice System and learn about anti-corruption initiatives overseas, especially in Malaysia, the United Kingdom and in the Hong Kong SAR.

As a part of the same training programme, **we visited the Supreme Court, the Tokyo Regional Taxation Bureau, the Tokyo District Court, Yokohama Customs, the Hiroshima Public Prosecutor's Office, the Harima Rehabilitation Program Center and the Kyoto Police Headquarters.**

We were especially touched by the visit to the city where **one of the greatest tragedies of humankind** took place. The **Hiroshima Peace Center** shows the resilience, the national effort, the determination, the discipline, unity and strength of the Japanese people. From the destruction caused by WWII to the current position as a developed nation, you succeeded. By abandoning any eagerness for revenge, you have strived for the betterment of your nation by discipline, love, respect and solidarity. Most importantly, the city of Hiroshima engaged in a crusade to make sure that the rest of the world does not face such atrocity again. Thank you for that.

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a Brazilian citizen, I also must show my respect and gratitude to all the Japanese migrants who left these islands in the beginning of the 20th century on board the KASATO MARU, bound for the harbour of Santos, Brazil. This nation, the "*Land of the Rising Sun*", helped to bring more progress to my country. Now Japan supports us again, by providing specialized training for officials from my country and from all over the world. **Nihon, your wisdom and teachings, like sun rays, brighten the world.**

Madams and Sirs,

I also would like to express our special appreciation and esteem to the seven Japanese participants: **INUKAI-san, ITO-san, KOYAMA-san, NAKABAYASHI-san, SAKAI-san, SATO-san and YAMADA-san.** You, my friends, are examples of commitment and fellowship. **More than colleagues, you were brothers and sisters to us.** Every day you were by our sides, seeking to do the best you could to help us in our daily lives at UNAFEI or outside it. You always tried to make it easier for us living in Japan, not only by answering our questions and explaining your country's habits, culture and language, but also when we needed to go somewhere. You were our guides to magnificent places like HAKONE, KAMAKURA and the IMPERIAL PALACE. You always showed concern for our welfare, which goes beyond your position as participants, and in the spirit of the Japanese people,

you showed your disposition to help others; you showed us the real meaning of the word "friend". **We will never forget this, and we will miss you all, always looking forward to meeting you again.**

Before coming to Japan, I was used to the Japanese pop culture we frequently see in the movies; to the Japanese food with all its delicacies; and to the rich and amazing Japanese history, from the old days of the Samurai to this Heisei Era. **But, fortunately for us, the best part of Japan was yet to come.** And it came when we met you, our Japanese friends. Now I know for sure that the best feature of this nation is not its breathtaking landscapes or its marvelous temples and shrines, or its amazing technology. **The best part of Japan is the Japanese people.** You! Thank you for that.

Madams and Sirs,

Forgive my long speech, but it is not a mere formality. We really feel that whatever words of gratitude we use, they will not be enough to reveal **the appreciation we would like to convey.**

As the North-American writer **Melody BEATTIE** once said and I quote:

*“Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. It turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos to order, confusion to clarity. **It can turn a meal into a feast, a house into a home, a stranger into a friend.** . . . Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow.”*

Dear colleagues,

We will miss these days in Japan. **May God bless this wonderful country.** I hope for all of us that we are able to go forth and make a difference in our countries. I hope that each of us is able to contribute in a way that is helpful to the fight against corruption; **and ultimately I am confident that we will all persevere and succeed because we have been given the tools and the skills to do so.**

Our joy and satisfaction is the result of your work, UNAFEI, JICA and ACPF members and staff.

This is why we say again and again, **from the very bottom of our hearts**: Arigato gozaimasu (Japan).

Muito obrigado (Brazil and Timor-Leste). Thank you very much (Namibia and Kenya). Muchas

gracias (Panama). Merci beaucoup/Shukran (Algeria). Multsumesc (Moldova), Kob kuun krap

(Thailand), Dhannabad (Bangladesh), Orkun (Cambodia) and Cè-zù tin-ba-deh (Myanmar).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let's recall the inspiring words of U.S. President Theodore Roosevelt who said: "***We have too much to do to sit on the sidelines. We need to step out of the gray twilight into the bright sunshine so that we can all see the dawn of a new day.***"

A new day of integrity, development, transparency will be soon rising in our nations. We must strive for that.

As the Chinese philosopher **Confucius** taught: "***What I hear, I forget; what I see, I remember; what I do, I understand***". We've heard what we have to do to fight corruption. We've seen what we need to do, and we will not forget. Now is the time to do it, and, together, I am sure we can do it.

At last, this is the end of my speech. But it is not the end of our partnership and endurance. Thanks to UNAFEI and JICA this is the beginning! Now we are friends. **Iroiro osewa-ni narimashita.**

Sayonara. Mata ai-mashoo. Thank you.