

**A Note on the 13th Training Course:
“The Criminal Justice Response to Corruption”**

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1. Introduction

UNAFEI conducted the 13th International Training Course on the Criminal Justice Response to Corruption from October 18 to November 12, 2010 with 17 overseas participants from 16 countries and six domestic participants (of which two were observers). In this note, I would like to overview the Course as its Programming Officer.

2. Summary of the Major Topics and an Outline of the Programme

The programme aimed to contribute to crime prevention and the improvement and development of criminal justice systems in the participants' countries by discussing (i) possible solutions to corruption in their respective criminal justice systems and (ii) methods to strengthen the respective systems against corruption. It was also hoped that the participants would share their experiences and ideas and create an international network of counterparts which would enable the continuous exchange of information in order to improve practices in each country.

Firstly, the participants explained the current corruption situation and countermeasures in their respective countries and shared the problems that they face. Then, Mr. Demosthenes Chryssikos from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) gave a lecture on the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which provides international guidelines for measures against corruption. He also explained the UNODC's anti-corruption efforts at the international level. Lecturers were invited from Singapore and Hong Kong, where measures against corruption have produced successful results: Mr. Koh Teck Hin, Deputy Director of the Corrupt Practices Investigation Bureau, Singapore and Mr. Steven Lam, Acting Assistant Director of the Independent Commission against Corruption, the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region explained the effective measures against corruption currently

implemented in their respective jurisdictions. Japanese experts in corruption investigations also gave lectures and explained measures against corruption in Japan.

Following the lectures, the participants were split into two groups and discussed measures against corruption from the standpoints of corruption prevention and corruption investigations, respectively. They then summarized and presented their recommendations on measures best implemented at the national level in order to eradicate corruption.

The group which discussed anti-corruption measures from the corruption prevention standpoint explained that a strong political will, which enjoys popular support, is needed to eradicate corruption. They then recommended that laws which strengthen anti-corruption measures should be developed based on that political will and that an anti-corruption organization independent of political influence should be established to enforce the laws.

From the corruption investigation standpoint, the other group recommended that a witness protection programme should be established and that data from Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) should be actively utilized as one source of information, in order to take rigorous action against corruption, to execute proper criminal investigations and to successfully prove that crimes have been committed.

3. Conclusion

The programme was attended by participants from Afghanistan, Botswana, Brazil, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Indonesia, Iraqi Kurdistan, Mexico, Nepal, Pakistan, Paraguay, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam and Zimbabwe. Partly because this was the first programme where I served as a programming officer, I had some concerns about whether or not it would be possible for participants from different countries with different legal systems and problems to discuss the same issues and make meaningful proposals. However, as the programme proceeded, it turned such concerns were unfounded.

Every participant wished to obtain useful information and knowledge in order to achieve his or her wish of eradicating corruption and creating a better society in their respective countries. Therefore, they gave candid explanations of their countries' current

situations, were proactive in seeking information from the lecturers and participated in the discussions. Their enthusiasm in committing themselves to all kinds of activities in addition to absorbing knowledge impressed me. The participants continued exchanging views after the official daily programme was concluded and deepened the trust among them day by day. This created a virtuous circle: the deepened trust enabled more frank exchanges of opinion and deeper discussions within the official daily programme, which in turn built further trust among the participants. At the end of the course, one participant stated, “Knowing that my colleagues are working in their respective countries towards the shared goal of creating corruption-free countries motivates me to work harder.” All the other participants agreed with him.

The programme aimed to provide an opportunity for the participants to share their aspirations, rather than simply disseminate knowledge and information, and this was the most important result that we achieved. I would like to sincerely thank the participants for allowing me to experience an occasion when people from various countries were united in the wish to eradicate corruption. They inspired me to do my best as a criminal justice practitioner and to emulate their competency in my work.