

UNAFEI
149th International Training Course

Closing Ceremony – 29 September 2011

Farewell Speech By
Brian Kipling Samuel
Saint Lucia

Honorable Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
Mr. Tatsuya SAKUMA, Director of UNAFEI;
Mr. Haruhiko UKAWA, Deputy Director of UNAFEI;
Mr. Hisanao NODA, Deputy Director of TIC, JICA;
Mr. Osamu SHIMIZU, President of Research and Training Institute of the Ministry of Justice;
Faculty and Staff Members of UNAFEI; JICA Staff Members; Distinguished Guests;
Fellow Participants; Ladies and Gentlemen;
Good evening.

GENERAL REMARKS

Six weeks ago, ten overseas participants from Barbados, El Salvador, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Panama, Saint Lucia and Tanzania arrived in Tokyo. Coming from diverse parts of the world, we were of different backgrounds, cultures, beliefs and practices. However, although we were total strangers to each other, we landed in Tokyo with two things in common- We were all practitioners of our respective country's justice system and we came to participate in the 149th International United Nation's Far East Training Institute Course under the theme "Securing the Protection and Cooperation of Witnesses and Whistle-blowers."

Our progress from security checks by immigration and customs, to arrival at the Japanese International Cooperation Agency's (JICA) desk at Narita, to the bus en-route to Tokyo City Air Terminal, to the Japanese International Cooperation (JICE) Centre was facilitated flawlessly.

At the JICA Centre, we received our general orientation and briefings during which all

our questions were adequately answered and our logistical issues were taken care of.

In order to better prepare us for our stay in Japan, we received lectures on various aspects of Japanese society including Japanese economy, Japanese education, Japanese history and culture and so on.

Having been adequately prepared, we left for UNAFEI. Upon arrival, we were treated with an unforgettable reception; such had never been seen or experienced before. In short, it is difficult to find words that will do justice, in describing this reception; the first impression really lasted forever.

After receiving new orientation and briefings, it was introduction time. We were introduced to all UNAFEI's staff from the director and deputy director, to the professors and general staff. We too introduced ourselves. It was during this session we officially met six Japanese men and women. They too, shared our commonalities. They were all practitioners of their justice system and came to participate in the training programme.

THE COURSE

The main theme of the course was, "Securing the Protection and Cooperation of Witnesses and Whistle-blowers." Related matters were the obstruction of justice, corruption, immunity and mitigation of punishment. In our general information hand-out, the objective of the course was stated as, "To give criminal justice officials from Asia and Pacific region, and other regions, an opportunity to share experiences, gain knowledge, and examine concrete measures against crime, especially measures to secure protection and cooperation of witnesses and whistle-blowers. It is hoped that participants will create an international network of counterparts."

The means adopted in this course were- lectures, individual presentations, group workshops and observation visits, and they proved very conducive for learning. UNAFEI professors were all knowledgeable and experienced in the respective fields they lectured on. Visiting experts truly represented the meaning of the word, experts. They were vastly experienced practitioners in the field of prosecution and witness protection. Individual presentations and discussions in plenary or group, allowed us to share our experiences and learn from each other. Study trips allowed us to observe and learn from several aspects of the Japanese criminal justice system including the facilities for witness protection at the Tokyo District Court; evidence handling and storage; the

operations of police kobans and programmes at the Juvenile Correctional Institute. We also graced with the privilege to meet with the former Minister of Justice and a Justice of the Supreme Court.

In short, the course achieved its objectives. All participants are now more knowledgeable and sensitized to the subject areas. In addition, a new international network against transnational organized crime has been established. As we go our separate ways, we wish to assure you that the network will not be broken but built upon. In our respective justice systems, we will be more prepared to handle the issues dealt with during the course and will endeavour to make an influential contribution towards adopting best practices.

SOCIAL ASPECT

Despite the busy schedule, we found time for several social activities. The karaoke parties provided the opportunity for participants to socialize with each other and also the director, deputy director and professors and staff of UNAFEI. In addition, we enjoyed parties hosted by Minister of Justice; Training Institute for Correctional Personnel; Nara's District Prosecution Office; host families and Asian Crime Prevention Foundation. We also enjoyed parties hosted by UNAFEI with legal apprentices and law students.

In addition to the parties, we visited several interesting including shrines; rain forest fish farm; a sake factory; Hiroshima's Peace Memorial; a bus tour around Tokyo etc. We will not forget the fun-filled table tennis tournament, during which we enjoyed the participation of the director, his deputy and UNAFEI'S professors and staff. The Japanese language classes were very entertaining.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Now is the time to publicly acknowledge the many people and agencies who made this course and our stay in Japan successful.

JICA

TIC

Course coordinator-Ms. Kiyomi Hoshino

Staff of JICE

Director of UNAFEI, his deputy, professors and staff; in particular, Programming Officer, Professor YANAKA, Deputy Programming Officer, Professor IZUMI and Assistant Programming Officer, Mr. Honda.

Justice FURUTA of the Supreme Court and Mr. EDA, former Minister of Justice

Fuchu Police Station

Hiroshima's Prefectural Headquarters

Other agencies and departments of the Japanese Justice System

Director of TICP, its staff and trainees

ACPF

Interpreters

Japanese language teachers

Government of Japan

Kitchen and Housekeeping staff of UNAFEI

Visiting experts and lecturers

Japanese course participants need special acknowledgement. From the time we met, we have lived as family. You gave us your attention and time freely. You were there whenever needed, whether it was for interpretation; direction; accompaniment; explanation or just keeping us happy. Sometimes saying THANK YOU does not sound good enough but we hope you get the message. You will remain in our memories forever. You were truly ambassadors for your country. We all look forward to keeping in touch and most of all seeing you again. We wish you and your family the best the future can bring.

CLOSING

During our stay in Japan, we have no complaints. I have said it before and wish to say it again; Japanese hospitality is **SIMPLY THE BEST**.

I am sure all overseas participants will approve me saying, "I want to visit Japan again (in Japanese).

Thank you.

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