

The 168th International Senior Seminar

“Enhancing the Rule of Law in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Policies and Practices based on the United Nations Conventions and Standards and Norms ”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 11 January to 9 February 2018
- 21 overseas participants from 14 jurisdictions (including 1 course counsellor)
- 7 domestic participants

2. Programme Overview

Promoting the rule of law is one of the targets in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015. The Fourteenth UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice will be held in Kyoto, Japan in 2020. The UN Congresses are the biggest UN international conferences in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. The overall theme of the Fourteenth Congress is advancing crime prevention, criminal justice and the rule of law towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda. Accordingly, enhancing the rule of law is attracting attention as an important issue throughout the world.

Although there are many ways to promote the rule of law in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, this programme addressed policies and measures focused on inclusion and empowerment of the general public and communities to enhance the rule of law in view of the high interest expressed by the Member States of the United Nations.

Specifically, this programme focused on: (1) law-related education contributing to peaceful and inclusive societies; (2) easy access to justice for all including vulnerable persons; and (3) public participation in criminal justice. On the other hand, if state agencies infringe legitimate rights and interests of citizens when fighting crime, the rule of law and human rights protection will be rendered meaningless; thus, this programme also focused on (4) legal safeguards against the tyranny of the majority and to prevent state agencies from infringing legitimate rights and interests of citizens.

3. Lectures

The following visiting experts from overseas and ad hoc lecturers from Japan, as well as professors of UNAFEI, gave lectures:

○ Visiting Experts

- Dr. Roy Godson
Emeritus Professor, Georgetown University
- Ms. Lulua Asaad
Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC
- Dr. Matti Joutsen
Special Advisor, Thailand Institute of Justice
- Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak
Executive Director, Thailand Institute of Justice
- Mr. Severino Gaña
Senior Deputy State Prosecutor, Department of Justice, Republic of the Philippines

○ Lecturers

- Mr. Masahito Inouye
Professor, Waseda University
- Dr. Kyoko Isoyama
Professor, Shizuoka University
- Mr. Hiroshi Kikuchi
Assistant Vice-Minister of Justice
- Ms. Wakaba Hara
Attorney