

The 174th International Senior Seminar

“Prevention of Reoffending and Fostering Social Inclusion: From Policy to Good Practice”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 16 January to 14 February 2020
- 16 overseas participants from 13 jurisdictions
- 7 domestic participants

2. Programme Overview

In order to build a safe and inclusive society, it is crucial not only to prevent reoffending but also to facilitate offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration as responsible members of society. International community has been fully conscious of the importance of social inclusion of those who committed crimes, and has taken steps towards its achievement.

In 2015, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the “2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (or Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)), and Goal 16 of the SDGs is to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels” (Goal 16). Towards the goal of building inclusive societies, it is important for criminal justice authorities to take measures to ensure each offender's rehabilitation and reintegration into society as a law-abiding citizen.

Although the main purpose of criminal proceedings is to clarify the facts of the offense through investigation and prosecution, and then to decide a proportionate penalty or case disposition, the importance of offender rehabilitation should not be underestimated. Ultimately, almost all imprisoned offenders return to society, therefore the whole criminal justice process should seek to impose effective measures with collecting adequate information for offender rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Given the variety of needs of offenders, it is evident that criminal justice authorities alone are not able to provide all necessary interventions, treatment and support. Since offenders return and live their lives in the community, community-based approaches cannot be pursued without understanding and acceptance of the community members. Therefore, it is important to sensitize the general public and community members in order for them to understand that the rehabilitation of offenders and their social inclusion is the best way to prevent reoffending and to establish a safe and inclusive society. A high level of awareness in, and cooperation from, the community can accelerate setting up successful partnerships with various stakeholders.

This program offers participants an opportunity to share experiences and knowledges focusing on (1) incorporating rehabilitative perspectives into penalties and case dispositions, (2) promoting interventions, treatment and support tailored to offenders' individual needs and (3) forming multi-stakeholder partnerships and engage the community in the social reintegration of offenders.

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. Matti Joutsen
Special Advisor
Thailand Institute of Justice
- Ms. Jana Špero
Assistant Minister
Directorate for Prison System and Probation, Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Croatia
- Mr. Matthew Wee Yik Keong
Chief Executive Officer
Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE)

○ Lecturers

- Mr. Okamoto Yasuhiro
Deputy Director
Planning and Reoffending Prevention Promotion Office, Secretarial Division,
Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice
- Mr. Eto Shohei
Deputy Director
Employment Support Office, Employment Development Policy Planning Division,
Employment Security Bureau, Ministry of Health, Labor, Welfare
- Mr. Yosuke Miyashita
Chief Vocational Guidance Officer
Kawagoe Public Employment Security Office