

The 189th International Senior Seminar  
“Reducing reoffending through rehabilitation and social reintegration: Relevant  
UN standards and norms and promising practices”

1. Duration and Participants

- From 14 January to 5 February 2026
- 9 overseas participants from 9 jurisdictions
- 3 participants from Japan

2. Programme Overview

This programme addressed the critical issues of reducing reoffending with a particular focus on promoting non-custodial measures, ensuring effective prison management, and advancing rehabilitation and reintegration of offenders. While highlighting the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (Kyoto Model Strategies) adopted by the General Assembly in December 2025, the programme examined the current situation and challenges of reducing reoffending and explored effective countermeasures while encouraging offender rehabilitation and social reintegration. Through participants’ presentations, expert lectures and group discussions, the programme aimed to enhance their knowledge for recidivism prevention efforts in their respective jurisdictions while fostering mutual trust and understanding as a foundation for a network of criminal justice practitioners committed to these efforts.

3. Contents of the Programme

(1) Lecturers

The following experts from overseas and Japan, as well as UNAFEI faculty members, gave lectures:

- Visiting Experts from overseas
  - Stephen John Pitts  
*Ambassador, Confederation of European Probation*  
“Building Probation Capacity: What Works? — National and Global Steps in Strengthening Community Corrections”  
“Reducing Reoffending through Rehabilitation and Reintegration: Evidence-based Practice”
  - Mohammad Fadly Bin Safie  
*Second Superintendent, Institution B4, Cluster B, Singapore Prison Service, Ministry of Home Affairs, Republic of Singapore*  
“Galvanising an Inclusive Society Beyond Second Chances”
- Japanese Experts
  - TAKASAKA Asato  
*Chairman, NPO Support Centre for Preventing Reoffending in Aichi*  
“You can change yourself and your future — To reduce reoccurring delinquency and increase smiles —”
  - KUSUKI Shigehiko  
*Deputy Director, Planning and Recidivism Prevention Promotion Office,*

*Secretarial Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice*  
“Overview of Initiatives to Prevent Recidivism in Japan”

(2) Individual Presentations

The participants shared the practices and the challenges in their respective jurisdictions regarding the theme of the programme through their individual presentations.

(3) Observation Visits

The participants visited the following facilities to learn efforts and practices regarding reducing reoffending.

- Hiroshima Prison
- With Hiroshima (Halfway House)
- Tachikawa Detention House
- Tokyo Probation Office Tachikawa Branch
- Tokyo Family Court

(4) Group Discussion

The participants were divided into two groups and discussed the following topics based on the knowledge gained through the individual presentations, lectures by experts and observation visits.

- “Implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategies before sentencing”
- “Implementation of the Kyoto Model Strategies after sentencing.”

The results of the discussions were summarized as concrete action plans for possible future measures and were presented to all participants and staff of UNAFEI, followed by a question-and-answer session.

4. Feedback from the Participants

Most participants found the programme meaningful, noting that they were able to obtain a comprehensive understanding of the Kyoto Model Strategies and good practices in reducing reoffending. They also reported that the programme was effective in establishing a network among their fellow criminal justice practitioners around the world. On the other hand, there was some constructive feedback to make future seminars more meaningful, such as to include a juvenile training school and a prosecutors' office as part of the observation visit. We appreciate all the feedback from the participants and will take it into account when planning our future programmes.

5. Comments from the Programming Officer

In December 2025, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Model Strategies on Reducing Reoffending (Kyoto Model Strategies). Given that this seminar is the first UNAFEI international programme to address the Kyoto Model Strategies after formal adoption, it covered all the core principles of the Strategies while highlighting recent developments and challenges in implementing non-custodial measures, rehabilitation and reintegration in the community and effective prison management. This programme aimed to analyse and discuss the current situation, share good practices and to propose effective measures to reduce reoffending.

Through this programme, knowledge and experience were shared among participants.

In particular, the lectures of overseas and Japanese experts captured the participants' interest and sparked active discussions. Notably through these lectures it was reaffirmed that the Kyoto Model Strategies provide a comprehensive framework for reducing reoffending underlining the importance of capacity building and evidence-based practice in offender rehabilitation, collaboration with stakeholders such as local governments and community volunteers, creating rehabilitative prison environments by using technology, and the value of lived experience.

In their group discussions, the participants identified key challenges and solutions to further implement the Strategies. With individualized approaches in mind, they pointed out the importance of introducing alternative sanctions such as non-custodial measures through the use of pre-sentencing investigations, promoting seamless social reintegration from the correctional facility to the community, strengthening collaboration with stakeholders and increasing public awareness. These efforts are fundamental to implementing the Model Strategies. It is hoped that by promoting their action plans, participants will contribute to reducing reoffending and promoting desistance in their respective countries.

Through this programme, participants have deepened their understanding of the Kyoto Model Strategies and reinforced momentum toward promoting them. It is expected that the knowledge gained will be applied to strengthen and enhance the systems within each participant's jurisdiction.