
OPENING REMARKS

*Opening Remarks by Mr. Masaki Sasaki
Director, UNAFEI*

Thank you Ms. Chairperson. Good morning distinguished delegates, and ladies and gentlemen.

As the director of UNAFEI, the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, it is my great honour and privilege to be here as a co-ordinator of the workshop on Strategies and Best Practices against Overcrowding in Correctional Facilities.

Overcrowding in correctional facilities is one of the most serious and most pressing issues faced in many parts of the world. It leads to deterioration in the living conditions of inmates and infringes upon their rights, which are set out in various international instruments. It undermines the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system by, inter alia, hampering the provision of appropriate correctional treatments aimed at the rehabilitation and social reintegration of offenders, as well as reducing recidivism.

In this workshop, UNAFEI would like to pursue the subject matter through a practice-oriented, comprehensive and integrated approach, addressing possible efforts at the legislative level and all stages of the criminal justice process, including the rehabilitation of offenders, instead of simply focusing on the causes and countermeasures within the prison settings.

I am hopeful that this workshop will present effective strategies to reduce overcrowding in correctional facilities which, in turn, will enhance the prevention of crime. I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere gratitude and appreciation for the participation of the eminent moderators, presenters and panellists of the workshop and for the co-operation of the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy in organizing this workshop.

Thank you very much.