

## FOREWORD

It is my great pleasure and privilege to present this report of the Fifteenth Regional Seminar on Good Governance for Southeast Asian Countries, which was held in Tokyo, Japan, from 20–22 December 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Good Governance Seminar was held online.

The main theme of the Seminar was *Effective International Cooperation for Combating Corruption*. The Seminar was attended by a specialist lecturer from Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and 19 criminal justice practitioners from the countries of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Corruption is a complex social, political and economic phenomenon that affects all countries. Corruption undermines democratic institutions, slows economic development and contributes to governmental instability. As with other regions in the world, the fight against corruption in Southeast Asian countries has taken on an international dimension. The main theme of the Fifteenth Seminar focused on providing updates on the latest anti-corruption measures and corruption-related trends across Southeast Asia.

The Seminar addressed the importance of mutual legal assistance and international cooperation among criminal justice officials in combating corruption. Among other issues, the participants discussed the utilization of informal channels to share leads and intelligence, approaches to conducting cross-border investigations, the need to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of MLA request writing, challenges posed by language and translation issues, and so on. The participants exchanged knowledge, experiences, effective strategies, and best practices, and the Chair's Summary, published in this report, details the key conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar. In addition, the Seminar enabled the participants to develop personal and professional contacts between anti-corruption authorities and investigators in Southeast Asia.

It is a pleasure to publish this Report of the Seminar as part of UNAFEI's mission, entrusted to it by the United Nations, to widely disseminate meaningful information on criminal justice policy.



MORINAGA Taro  
Director, UNAFEI  
October 2022