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## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

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It is with pride that the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) offers to the international community the Resource Material Series No. 106. This volume contains the work product of the 169th International Training Course, conducted from 9 May to 14 June 2018. The main theme of the 169th International Training Course was *Criminal Justice Practices against Illicit Drug Trafficking*.

One of the most serious global problems currently faced by criminal justice authorities is illicit drug trafficking, which involves the cultivation, production, manufacture, distribution, sale, delivery and possession of drugs and other illicit substances. Illicit drug trafficking not only facilitates drug abuse, which itself is a serious problem, but also generates substantial profits for organized criminal groups. These illicit profits fund such groups' activities and stimulate their growth, and much of these profits infiltrate the legitimate business sphere and impair the integrity and stability of legitimate economic and financial systems as a whole. Even more troubling is the growing link between illicit drug trafficking and the financing of international terrorism.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Course to explore various issues that relate to combating organized crime. This issue of the *Resource Material Series* contains papers contributed by the visiting experts, selected individual-presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Course. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the participants of the Course could be published.

I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of the government of Japan, particularly the Ministry of Justice, the Japan International Cooperation Agency, and the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation for providing indispensable and unwavering support to UNAFEI's international training programmes. Finally, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all who so unselfishly assisted in the publication of this series.

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