

---

## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

---

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 Resource Material Series No.62

This volume contains the work produced in the 122nd International Training Course that was conducted from 2 September to 24 October 2002. The main theme of this Course was, “The Effective Administration of Criminal Justice to Tackle Trafficking in Human Beings and Smuggling of Migrants.”

Human trafficking and smuggling of migrants is increasingly a serious world-wide concern. Many factors have led to its proliferation, including the growing disparity between the developing and developed countries; political persecution; and natural disasters. At the same time rapid globalization in transport and commerce and the involvement of organized criminal groups have added to its growth. Trafficking and smuggling in human beings has not only led to the disruption of established immigration policies of destination countries but also poses a threat to the fundamental human rights of the persons concerned. The exploitive nature of the trafficking often amounts to a modern form of slavery which victimizes the poorest and weakest, namely women and children. Moreover the increasing involvement of organized crime groups remains largely unchecked allowing them to make huge profits which have in turn been used to finance other criminal activities.

In recognition of the gravity of the current situation the international community has taken steps in recent years to control it. In 1999 the United Nations Center for International Crime Prevention and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute developed the Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings. In 2000 the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (the TOC Convention) which was accompanied by two important protocols i.e. “Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children” and “Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air”. This course sought to analyze the current situation, identify problems in detection, prosecution and punishment and explore effective ways to tackle trafficking and smuggling. This Course was part of UNAFEI's continuing commitment to the general theme of transnational organized crime.

In this issue, papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the Course participants, and the reports of the Course are published. I regret that not all the papers submitted by the Course participants could be published. Also, I must request the understanding of the selected authors for not having sufficient time to refer the manuscripts back to them before publication.

I would like to pay tribute to the contributions of the Government of Japan, particularly the Minister of Justice and 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; in particular, the editor of Resource Material Series No.62, Mr. Simon Cornell (Linguistic Adviser) who so tirelessly dedicated himself to this series.

February 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kunihiko Sakai', written in a cursive style.

Kunihiko Sakai  
Director of UNAFEI