
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 the Resource Material Series No. 85.

This volume contains the work produced in the 148th International Training Course, conducted from 11 May to 17 June 2011. The main theme of the 148th Course was “Drug Offender Treatment: New Approaches to an Old Problem”.

The question of how to treat drug-dependent offenders has long been a pressing concern for criminal justice systems around the world, and one to which they have struggled to find an effective and practical answer. Despite the time and resources devoted to anti-drug efforts, drug abuse is still prevalent, with a large number of offenders imprisoned for it, among whom the recidivism rate is high.

In the last two decades, however, various methods and techniques of intervention, designed to change the attitudes and behaviour of drug-dependent offenders, have been developed, tested, and applied with certain success.

Within the same period, criminal justice strategies that emphasize treatment and rehabilitation instead of harsh punishment and incarceration have developed.

After two decades of such developments, UNAFEI considered it worthwhile to conduct an overview of these methods and programmes, examine their effectiveness, learn from the experiences of countries that have implemented them, and discuss good practices.

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 treatment of drug-dependent offenders. This programme provided an opportunity to identify and examine current situations and challenges existing in participants’ countries, and build participants’ knowledge of possible measures to improve current situations in the treatment of drug-dependent offenders, especially in the stages of institutional and community corrections.

In this issue, in regard to the 148th International Training Course, papers contributed by the visiting expert, selected individual presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the Course are published. 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; in particular, the editor of Resource Material Series No. 85, Ms. Grace Lord.

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