
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. 88.

This volume contains the work product of the 151st International Training Course, conducted from 16 May to 22 June 2012. The main theme of the 151st Course was the *Evidence-Based Treatment of Offenders*.

The ultimate goal of any correctional intervention is to prevent and reduce reoffending, and there is growing recognition that programmes solely based upon experience and intuition do not produce satisfactory results. Information about “what works,” generated through research or evaluation using accepted scientific methods, should guide the treatment of offenders. This is the essential philosophy of the “evidence-based approach.”

There are two major components to the evidence-based treatment of offenders: appropriate risk assessment and proper implementation of treatment programmes. First, the risk factor of each offender must be identified, and then programmes proved to be effective that correspond to the identified risk must be properly implemented. This programme offered participants an opportunity to deepen their understanding and share knowledge and experience on the subject of the evidence-based treatment of offenders.

UNAFEI, as an institute of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Training Course to explore various issues that relate to the evidence-based treatment of offenders. This issue contains papers contributed by visiting experts, selected individual presentation papers from among the participants, and the Reports of the 151st Training 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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