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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. 94. This volume contains the work product of the 157th International Training Course, conducted from 14 May to 19 June 2014. The main theme of the 157th International Training Course was *Assessment and Treatment of Special Needs Offenders*.

Despite growing global awareness of the need for individualized, gender-specific treatment of offenders, many developing countries do not have adequate correctional systems to protect the human rights of special needs offenders or to provide them with effective correctional treatment. This Course provided the participants with the opportunity to review and reflect on the current challenges of accommodating and treating offenders with unique needs, such as women, the elderly, and the mentally or physically disabled. The participants were introduced to relevant United Nations standards and norms—in particular, the *United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules)*<sup>1</sup>—and to good practices identified by the UNODC for the treatment of elderly and mentally or physically disabled offenders.

UNAFEI, as one of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network, held this Seminar to explore various issues that relate to the treatment of special needs offenders. This issue of the Resource Material Series contains papers contributed by 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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<sup>1</sup>General Assembly Resolution 65/229 (16 Mar. 2011).