



TIJ QUARTERLY

Thailand Institute of Justice's newsletter

Issue 001 June 2015

THINK 'EVIDENCE'

DATA COLLECTION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA



ARTICLE :

- FOR DRUG OFFENDERS, PRISON IS NO SOLUTION
- MAINSTREAMING GENDER INTO CRIME AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE STATISTICS

TIJ MOVEMENTS AND ACTIVITIES :

ASIANSIL INTER-SESSIONAL CONFERENCE

'RULE OF LAW AND DEVELOPMENT NEXUS: A NEW DEAL FOR ASIA?'

TIJ's HISTORY

The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) was established by the Royal Thai Government

in 2011

as a semi-private organization, TIJ is directly accountable to the Board of Director which consists of experts from different backgrounds and ex-officio members from justice institutions, under the guidance of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol as the institute's special advisor.

TIJ aims to **promote excellence in research and capacity-building** in crime and justice. Building on Thailand's engagement in the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, **TIJ serves as a bridge to transport global ideas into local practice.** This includes enhancing domestic justice reform and to promote a rule based community within the **ASEAN region**. TIJ focuses its work towards several cross-cutting issues on the UN agenda such as the **rule of law, sustainable development, human rights, peace and security**. TIJ's primary objective is to promote the implementation of the UN standards and norms related to vulnerable groups including to women and children, especially the **"Bangkok Rules"**

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Dr. Phiset Saardyen
Director of External Relations and Policy Coordination

ED's Talk

Dear reader,

Many of you might already be familiar with TIJ Quarterly since the publication of its Special Issue on the occasion of TIJ's participation in the Thirteenth UN Crime Congress under the Rule of Law theme. But if this is the first time that you are reading us, then allow me to express my pleasure of having you as our reader.

In this issue, we chose to discuss a pretty scientific side of the criminal justice development, the importance of good research and data collection. TIJ believes that evidence-based policy decision making is the only path toward an effective and transparent criminal justice system and the source to a peaceful society where sustainable development can be fostered in all aspects.

As the international community is finalizing the post-2015 development agenda in which elements of rights and justice are included as enabling factors for its success, a particular focus is put on the work of the criminal justice system. It is a crucial time for us to invest more into the development of data while strengthening the quality and availability of statistics for management and performance monitoring purposes.

So let us "think evidence". Because it is not until we have data of good quality to measure trends and progresses made, that we can be sure that our efforts are taking us into the right direction and truly contributing to the advancement of the society at large.

With warmest regards,




Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak
Executive Director of TIJ



Think ‘Evidence’ – Data Collection and Implementation of Post-2015 Development Agenda

Dr. Phiset Saardyen
Director, Office of External Relations
and Policy Coordination
Thailand Institute of Justice

Evidence-based policy making

When assessing the outcome of the process led by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) the common response is that it was a mixed bag, but one important contribution of note is the legacy of a data-driven monitoring system. Under the MDGs context, ‘evidence-based policy making’ refers to ‘a policy process that helps planners make better-informed decisions by putting the best available evidence at the center of the policy process.’

Use of ‘good’ evidence can contribute to policy making at various stages. At the early stage, evidence helps reveal certain aspect(s) of social or economic life often remained hidden from the general public and from the policy makers, thus allowing for the policy issue to be recognized. Once identified, evidence informs the analysis of the policy issue by shedding light to the extent and nature of the problem. The information is thus crucial in designing the policy. At the later stage when the policy is implemented, an evidence is needed for monitoring the progress and measuring the impact of the policy. We need the policy to be relevant, efficient and achieve the desired outcomes, and to that end we need good evidence.

Still, in the real world, effective use of evidence in policy-making can be a challenge for many decision-makers. As noted by Segone (2008), the policy-

making process is essentially political in nature, and due consideration must be given to both knowledge and power if research is to be translated into practice, and 'knowing' transformed into 'doing'.

As the world is now pondering the Post-2015 Development Agenda, to substitute the MDGs we are faced again with the issue of how to balance the power and knowledge – how data can help decision-makers make well-informed choice, get results done in a way that the general public and their constituencies approve, and retain the legitimacy of their mandate.

Data Collection for the Post-2015 Development Agenda

The Post-2015 Development Agenda constitutes a rethinking of the overall development, taking stock of the MDGs experiences and putting forward a new agenda for action to transform the world beyond 2015.

The emerging consensus on the Post-2015 Development Agenda is that we need to think and act differently from the MDGs 15 years ago in many regards, including paying attention to specific conditions in each country. Many also stress the need to improve data collection as a means for measuring the progress in order to inform policy decisions.

The new agenda, currently being debated under the intergovernmental negotiation process, will be finalized and adopted in September 2015 at the UN Summit by world leaders. It is likely that the world will agree to a set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) proposed by the Open Working Group of the General Assembly who gathered inputs from all sources throughout a two-year stock-taking process since 2013.

Each SDGs goal describes an action in a concise and easy-to-communicate way and comes with a set of accompanying targets to further elaborate the scope of priorities. Each goal corresponds to one or more areas of development deemed crucial for fostering sustainable future for all. The total of 17 SDGs with 169 proposed targets is meant to address economic development, social inclusion, and environmental sustainability.

Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Sample of targets:

Target 16.1: significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere.

Target 16.3: promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all.

While it is important that the world agrees on defining these goals and targets, equally important is the process of defining and agreeing on the indicators and monitoring framework to measure the implementation of the sustainable development goals and targets. This process cannot be led by mere political negotiation, and support from experts become crucial. The UN Statistical Commission, thus, is charged with the job of consolidating inputs for developing these indicators.

Deciding on the indicators will take more time, and developing a minimum set of indicators will be even more time-consuming since some indicators may not have with them all necessary data. For other indicators, available data may have some limitation in terms of quality – they may not be

collected on a routine, harmonized and comparable basis. Some may need to be disaggregated based on sex, age, and other variables. For example, for the target 16.3 on ensuring equal access to justice for all, an indicator proposed is “the percentage of total detainees who have been held in detention for more than 12 months while awaiting sentencing or a final disposition of their case, by sex”.

It is most likely that for some countries, the administrative data available may not render this indicator to be monitored on a yearly basis. More capacity-building and investment will be required. While some people welcome the Post-2015 Development Agenda process as a crucial opportunity for a 'data revolution' where big data, new forms of social and geophysical data, and innovative means of data sharing will come into play. This means a significant investment as well.

Bearing in mind the immediate need for Thailand to get ready for the quickly approaching Post-2015 Development Agenda process, Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) will continue to invest in our capacity to support government agencies and other stakeholders to improve the quality and availability of data. We believe it is a worthy investment for the sustainable outcome of this new round of development process.

See also:

- *Bridging the gap. The role of monitoring & evaluation in evidence-based policy making*, M. Segone (eds.), (UNICEF, 2008).
- *The Road to Dignity by 2030: Ending Poverty, Transforming All Lives and Protecting the Planet*, (UN General Assembly, 2014).
- *Indicators and a Monitoring Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals*, (Leadership Council of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network, 2015).



Summary of AsianSIL Inter-Sessional Conference ‘Rule of Law and Development Nexus: A New Deal for Asia?’ 4-5 June 2015

Post-2015 Development Agenda and to strengthen the rule of law and criminal justice system in Asia as a means to achieve sustainable development.

Linkages between the rule of law and sustainable development, relevance of international legal frameworks in response to threats of organized crime and drug problems, international law and the protection of women and children, the rule of law and justice reform and the ASEAN integration were addressed.



The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) co-organized with the Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL) and the Ministry of Justice Thailand (MOJ) the “AsianSIL Inter-Sessional Regional Conference 2015” on “The Rule of Law and Development Nexus: A New Deal for Asia?”.

The conference was organized to promote research, education and the practice of international law in Asia. The focus was to support mainstreaming the rule of law, justice and security in the

Professor Simon Chesterman, Secretary-General of the AsianSIL and Dean, Faculty of Law at the National University of Singapore welcomed participants and opened the conference.

Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol, Chair of the Special Advisory Board to TIJ provided a keynote speech during the opening ceremony and also participated as a panelist in the second plenary on



“International Law and the Protection of Women & Children”.

In the open plenary there were speeches by **H.E. Mr. Direk Ingkaninanda**, President of the Supreme Court of Thailand, **H.E. Mr. Hassan Lahdah Saqr AL-Mohannadi**, Minister of Justice of Qatar, and **Professor Dr. Surakiart Sathirathai**, President of AsianSIL, former Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and the Chairman of the Asian Peace and Reconciliation Council (APRC).

The five panels were chaired by **Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak**, Executive Director of TIJ and former Permanent Secretary for Justice of Thailand, **H.E. Mr. Norachit Sinhaseni**, Permanent Secretary of Foreign Affairs of Thailand, **Professor Raul Pangalangan**, Executive Council Member of the AsianSIL and Professor of Law at the University of Philippines, **Professor Shin-ichi Ago**, Vice-President of the AsianSIL, Professor of Law at Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan and Judge of the Administrative Tribunal of the Asian Development Bank, and by **Professor Jayavadh Bunnag**, Vice-President of the AsianSIL and President of the International Law Association of Thailand.

Panelists included the Director and Vice Chairman of Credit Suisse Asia Pacific, the Attorney General of Thailand, Former Permanent Secretary of Justice to Sri Lanka, Chairman of the Board of Mae Fah Luang Foundation, Thailand’s Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the United Nations at Geneva, President of Asia Justice and Rights, the Director of United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), senior representatives from UNDP, UN Women, UNODC, UNICEF, professors from the National University of Singapore and Sogang University of Korea, and representatives from the Commonwealth Secretariat, Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, International Center for Transitional Justice, and the Asia Pacific Forum on Women.

More than 330 participants from 17 countries in Asia joined the conference. In attendance were representatives from governments, diplomatic missions, universities, the United Nations offices, private sector, law professionals, and non-government organizations. They included **H.E. General Paiboon Koomchaya**, Thailand’s Minister of Justice, **H.E. Mr. Jesus Miguel Sanz** Ambassador

to the Delegation of the European Union to Thailand, **Dr. Chaowana Traimas**, Secretary-General of Office of the Constitutional Court, **Mr. Pongdej Wanichkittikul**, Secretary-General to the President of the Supreme Court, **Mr. Nakorn Silpa-archa**, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Labour, **Dr. Yongyuth Mayalarp**, Government Spokesperson, **Dr. Areepong Bhoocha-Oom**, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Energy.

Representatives of diplomatic missions from Japan, Sweden, Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Laos, Malaysia and Indonesia participated. The conference was also attended by representatives from Raks Thai Foundation, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Ministry of Mines and Energy of Cambodia, International Labor Organization (ILO), World Bank, International Organization for Migration (IOM), UNHCR, UN-ACT, Asia Foundation, International Commission of Jurists (ICJ), International Drug Policy Consortium (IDPC), Australia-Asia Program to Combat Trafficking in Persons (AAPTIP), Australian National University (ANU), Chinese University of Hong Kong, Assumption University, Flinders University of Australia, Georg-August University Goettingen Germany, Waseda University of Japan, and Baker & McKenzie, Siam Premier International, to name a few.

The conference was successful in expanding the Asia and Pacific regional network of law professionals and bringing in the United Nations to share perspectives and discussed changes, as Asian countries are witnessing more regional cooperation through the launch of the ASEAN Community.



TIJ Youth Forum on Justice and the Rule of Law

Looking to instill the principle of the rule of law among youths, TIJ organized the First TIJ Youth Forum on Justice and the Rule of Law which offered the opportunity to young students to engage in activities that cultivate the understanding of the Rule of Law and the culture of lawfulness. Sixty undergrad students from 11 Asian countries and Thailand discussed their perspectives on the Rule of Law and aspects of development in sessions moderated by TIJ-trained student volunteers.

They were also invited to observe the AsianSIL Inter-Sessional Conference which was organized during the same period, and were provided with a session to present the outcome of their discussion which emphasized that the commitment to justice is vital for the sustainable development of Asia and ASEAN Community. The outcome also urges for more forums like this to engage more youth and young adults for it is the only way to effectively instill the culture of lawfulness in the next generations and ensure a happier and a more peaceful global society.



The youth forum was successful in raising awareness among Asian youth about the importance of the rule of law and its relation to the sustainability of socio-economic development. It also fostered a network of friends among students from all over the region who will potentially be in the frontline of development in the future. TIJ plans to keep the momentum by engaging the participants in our activities and hosting Youth Forum annually.



“How to have Justice Officers who are not Unjust?”

The seminar on “How to have Justice Officers who are not Unjust” took place on 11 June 2015, as part of the year-long project called “Thailand Institute of Justice CJ Seminar Series”. The event focused on how important personnel are in the development of criminal justice system – as the saying goes “an organization is only as good as its people”. Participants discussed the recruitment and career path of judges and prosecutors in various countries and underlined the need for effective human resource policies that could “identify the right type of personnel and get rid of the wrong ones” which are quite the prerequisite for the success of criminal justice administration. International speakers shared their knowledge and experiences, and 150 participants from the public and private sectors voiced their opinion on the issues via electronic voting system equipped in the seminar room.

TIJ co-organized a side-event at the 24th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

During the 24th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) held at the United Nations Office in Vienna during May 2015, TIJ in collaboration with the UNODC, ICCLR and ACUNS, organized a side-event on “Violence against Women: From Rape to Femicide – Criminal Justice as Prevention and Cure?”. The aim was to provide a platform



to share evidence-based research and promote solution-oriented dialogue on the roles of criminal justice system in preventing, alleviating and finally eradicating violence against women. Expert on Women Empowerment from TIJ, Dr. Sita Sumrit, joined international panelists to present findings from her study on the topic of “THE TRIAL OF RAPE: Understanding the criminal justice system response to sexual violence in Thailand and Vietnam”. Experiences in other countries, as well as key recommendations from the intergovernmental expert group meeting on gender-related killing of women and girls organized by UNODC in Bangkok in November 2014 was also discussed.

TIJ partners with PlanToys® in the “Toys for Babies Behind Bars” Project



TIJ has a mission to promote the implementation of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non Custodial Measures for Women Offenders or the Bangkok Rules. Our efforts are to ensure that female inmates receive the appropriate medical care and fundamental services needed for their specific gender condition, including pregnant inmates and their innocent newborns. With the

help from Plan Creations Company Limited, a Thai-based manufacturer of educational wooden toys under the globally recognized PlanToys® brand, we were able to distribute high-quality toys designed to stimulate age-appropriate physical, emotional, and social development to the young dependents of female inmates from 0-18 month old housed in various correctional facilities across the country. This project hopes to enhance the life of babies and toddlers of incarcerated mothers, create healthy bonding and provide the much-needed opportunity for them to live normal lives and strive as quality citizens in the future.

A Seminar on Access to Justice and Public Communication: News Report and Gender Sensitivity



From 25 - 27 May 2015, TIJ together with the Office of the Law Reform Commission of Thailand and the UN Women co-hosted a seminar to discuss news reporting and gender sensitivity in Thai society. With the objective to promote knowledge and understanding about how to properly communicate issues of women who come in contact with criminal justice system, the seminar not only highlighted gender sensitivity but also provided media participants with knowledge of laws and international standards and norms related to women’s rights. Media people, especially journalists, are the target participants as they have a significant impact on public perception which is crucial to the promotion of gender equality and make changes in the society.



For drug offenders, prison is no solution

Thailand is ranked 6th in the world in terms of the highest prison population, with over 330,000 prisoners. In ASEAN, following closely is Indonesia ranked 10th, Vietnam 12th, and the Philippines 14th.

Research by the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) which was recently discussed at the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna also reveals a number of ASEAN countries face serious overcrowding in prisons with the Philippines at 3.26 and Thailand at 1.57 times their occupancy rates. It also shows that drug-related offenders constitute large proportions of prison populations. Thailand, again, leads the ASEAN region with 70% of males and 80% of females detained in prison due to drug-related offences. The high

proportion of drug-related offenders should not come as a surprise. In Thailand, drug use has shown no decline with an estimated 1.2 million users, or 1.79% of the population.

Field research by TIJ shows that Indonesia has an estimated 4.2 million drug users and Laos about 76,000 such users. Laos is one of the least populated countries in the region, but drug use is becoming a major worry. Of particular concern is the rise in amphetamine-type stimulant (ATS) use in urban and border areas with an estimate of 60,000 users while opium consumption is declining and numbers about 16,000 users.

Most countries in ASEAN have a legal framework allowing alternatives to incarceration for drug-involved offenders by acknowledging them as patients

instead of criminals. They use treatment mandates as a diversion from imprisonment. But the system still fails to provide flexible alternatives to address different types of drug-related offenders. In addition, in terms of drug possession, the low legal threshold quantities - for example five ATS tablets in Thailand and three tablets in Laos - has resulted in court and prison overcrowding when suspects could have been diverted towards other solutions to avoid burdening the criminal justice system and state resources.

Thailand has tried to address the drug issue through the Narcotic Addict Rehabilitation Act of 2002 by diverting drug addicts from entering the criminal justice system to seek compulsory rehabilitation. The law provided a legal basis for the introduction of a new paradigm where drug users are no longer regarded as criminals but as patients who require treatment. Since 2003, the law has been successful in diverting 910,452 people from prison. Unfortunately, the number of addicts sent to this programme has continued to rise from just under 20,000 in 2003 to almost 150,000 by 2014. According to the Department of Probation, relapse rates are 70% for those who enter compulsory treatment.

As drug addiction rates increase, the system has also been unable to provide adequate treatment with a capacity of 20,000 beds for in-patients, compared to the demand for 50,000. Within the different categories of drug offences, arrests for consumption have also leaped from 51,566 in 2003 to 209,366 by 2013, accounting for 92% of all of the drug-related offences.

In the ASEAN region, there are also complications in the effective assessment of drug offenders with only the distinctions being a drug addict, trafficker and producer. Drug addicts are diverted to rehabilitation while traffickers and producers are sentenced through the criminal justice system. Often the arresting officer determines the distinction by the amount of drugs the suspect possesses - how many tablets of ATS or grammes of heroin the suspect is carrying.

In Thailand, the arresting officer's discretion often leads to the use of the law to arrest and detain drug users and low-level drug offenders instead of using it as a tool to aid in the diversion of drug offenders away from the criminal justice system as intended. Drug use also continues to be associated with criminal activities which need to be solved through law and order. Not only does the law criminalise drug use but society also criminalises users. This limits the chances for drug users to reintegrate into society as productive individuals without the burden of social stigma.

As a direct result of punitive drug control policies, the region continues to face growing prison populations and severe prison overcrowding with no decline in drug addiction. For a successful recovery from drug addiction, it is necessary to change the "one size fits all" approach by improving assessments that can identify addicts' needs and address the root causes of the addiction. There are also needs for an increase of non-compulsory treatment through community interventions and treatment facilities to

reduce the over-reliance on compulsory treatment.

At the same time, the arresting officers should use diversion laws appropriately and effectively. And last but not least, it is crucial that the negative public attitude toward drug users be tackled to allow users' productive reintegration into society.

The effectiveness of the treatment of offenders is a key indicator of a functioning criminal justice system. And a fair and humane criminal justice system is closely related to how the system adheres to the rule of law and its treatment of vulnerable groups. It is more pertinent than ever for the public and policy-makers in the region to review our "war on drugs" and take action to reduce drug addiction, relapse rates, unnecessary incarceration and the burden which large imprisoned populations pose on individuals, society and the state.

Kittipong Kittayarak

Executive Director,
Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ)
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Mainstreaming gender into crime and criminal justice statistics

Experts believe that there are gender disparities in how crime is committed and how offenders are prosecuted and convicted. It is widely accepted that women have lower arrest rates than men for almost all crime and have even lower representation in serious offences. This is true in all the countries where data is available.

Significant proportions of female inmates worldwide are being imprisoned for drug-related offences. These include 80 per cent in Thailand; 70 per cent in Tajikistan; 68 per cent in Latvia; 50 per cent in Estonia, Portugal and Spain;



40 per cent in Georgia and Kyrgyzstan and 37 percent in Italy.¹ On the other hand, women are more likely than men to be victims of particular types of crime such as domestic violence, harassment, rape, honor killings and human trafficking.

Moreover, how males and females are treated in the criminal justice system is arguably different. To a certain extent, the lower official conviction and imprisonment rates of women are believed to link to the “leniency” and “chivalry” of the criminal justice systems toward female offenders. A lower

probability of women being imprisoned is presumably related to factors such as pregnancy, their role as the primary carer of dependent children, and perceptions that women are less dangerous and more amenable to rehabilitation than men. In contrast, some believe that the criminal justice system in some places has the tendency to be “harsher” on women who commit a crime because of their violation of traditional gender role and social expectation of how women should behave.

However, reliable and disaggregated data is required to verify the accuracy of such gender-based assumptions. In reality, it is not easy to obtain comprehensive statistical information that presents a composite picture of women’s involvement in crime and criminal justice responses. One of the main reasons is simply because many criminal justice agencies do not disaggregate data.

The areas of great relevance that dominate most of the work on gender and crime statistics are usually sexual offences and violence against women. Other areas receive much less attention. To mainstream gender into crime and criminal justice statistics, first of all, we need to make sure that all administrative data related to both victims and offenders are disaggregated by sex. This includes official data from key criminal justice agencies such as the police, prosecutors, court, and prisons. It is also important to have an integrated data collection approach among these agencies in order to increase the usefulness of data. Uniform crime classification, for example, is particularly helpful in data analysis as it allows us to compare data from one agency to another.

Furthermore, we should aim to enhance data collection in specific areas where gender disparity appears to be the element that triggers crime. For instance, survey methods can be applied to obtain unreported data on violence against women. In addition, knowledge emerging from statistical analysis should be disseminated to the general public in an easy-to-understand format to raise awareness on how crime affects women and men.

To sum up, given the differences in male and female criminality and their vulnerability to become victims of crime, disaggregated data can help expand gender relevance in crime and criminal justice statistics and lead us to better understand the reasons behind gender differences as well as the underlying causes of crime and how it might be better responded and controlled.

Chontit Chuenurah

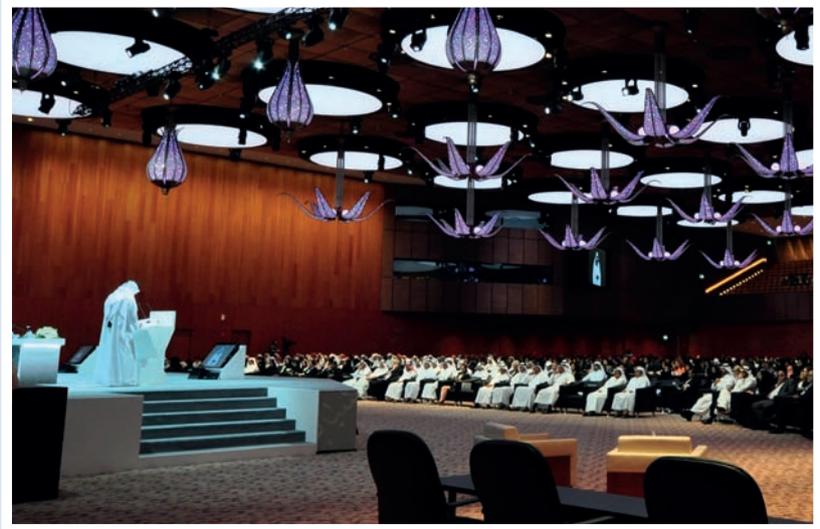
Criminal Justice Researcher,
Thailand Institute of Justice

See also:

Report of the National Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on a road map to improve the quality and availability of crime statistics at the national and international levels (ESA/STAT/AC.267/14)

¹ GA resolution A/68/340
“Pathways to, conditions and consequences of incarceration for women”

Thirteenth United Nations Crime Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Doha, Qatar



The Thirteenth UN Crime Congress, the largest and most important event in the field of international crime prevention, has recently wrapped up. This year which marks its 60th anniversary, the focus is on how best to mainstream justice and the rule of law into a wider global agenda which is in line with the on-going discussion at the UN Headquarter about the post-2015 development agenda. The basic argument is that justice and the rule of law are not merely the enabling factors for sustainable development,

but they constitute a legitimate goal of the development effort itself.

With the tremendous effort of the hosting government of Qatar in utilizing a series of preparatory meetings as early as two years prior to the Congress, it was the first time in the long history of Crime Congresses that the Declaration was adopted on the very first day of the week-long meeting. Delegates were then able to engage in a series of substantive workshops and ancillary meetings designed specifically for

knowledge-sharing and networking between participants; diplomats, practitioners, academia, representative of NGOs and experts in the field.

Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) has played an active role on the substantive part of the Crime Congress, by taking part in the preparation of the very important Workshop 1, hosted by UNODC and other members of the programme network institutes (PNI) of the UN on the topics relating to women and children in contact with the criminal justice system. We initiated and co-organized as many as four ancillary meetings that brought together experts from internationally renowned organizations in topics such as women and children, crime prevention policy, crime and justice statistics and criminal justice system performance measurement. In addition, TIJ had put on an exhibition to disseminate knowledge and raise awareness of the linkage between the rule of law and different aspects of development, which reflected the main theme of the Congress. The UN Secretary-General, Mr. Ban Ki-Moon, also visited and praised our work.



Editorial Team



Dr. Phiset Saardyen
 Director of External Relations
 and Policy Coordination,
 Thailand Institute of Justice.

A scientist, linguist and legal expert all-in-one, Dr. Phiset shares with us how his multi-disciplinary background has been helpful to the work at TIJ.

Dr. Phiset began his work at the Ministry of Justice in 2005 as a special case inquiry officer. From 2008, as a senior foreign affairs officer, he has been involved in the early effort by the Thai government in tabling the new set of United Nations Standards and Norms specific to the treatment of women offenders and their rehabilitation. "I consider myself very fortunate to have that opportunity. And since then I have become more familiar with the issue of women and vulnerable groups in the justice system", Dr. Phiset said. He was later promoted as the Director of International Affairs Division in the Office of the Permanent Secretary for Justice, responsible for regional and international cooperation in the field of crime prevention, justice and human rights. His team was successful in strengthening the capacity required for the Thai Ministry of Justice to contribute more substantively in the international arena, particularly during the time that The Ambassador of

Thailand and permanent representative to the United Nations office at Vienna, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha was the chairperson of the 21st session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice - CCPCJ.

Joining TIJ he has a very positive feeling toward the working environment, especially the flexibility of management and the highly focused strategies and work programmes. With a background in science, he is a true believer in making well-informed policy through the use of good quality research, data and statistics.

"Smart design and well-informed policy at the international level are increasingly essential for the global community to collectively build a fair, humane and effective criminal justice system. Research and data are important in identifying the cause of problems and measuring changes over time in order to pinpoint the right area where resources and efforts are truly needed. A policy poorly informed by research-based evidence, whether due to the lack of information, the need for immediate responses or political influences will

likely be targeting short-term pressures, or symptoms, rather than the cause."

Also equipped with language skills including Thai, English and Japanese, his role in many occasions seems "diplomat-like". As Dr. Phiset described *"At present, the complex inter-dependency between countries is undeniable, even in the area of internal security which was historically strictly confined within each state's border. Causes of violent crimes affecting peace and stability of a society are often time rooted outside its territory, in neighboring countries or somewhere very farther away. So diplomacy, as the art of dealing with sensitive issues tactfully to create effective cooperation, is always needed."*

A well-rounded person with a pleasant personality, Dr. Phiset is another valuable member of TIJ who will lead our External Relations team both in formal setting like presenting TIJ's stance in global stages and informal networking and partnership building with relevant sectors.

CRIME AND JUSTICE MUSEUM

Established more than one hundred years ago, this dreaded prison facility was home to the most dangerous inmates. Originally built to imprison serious offenders, this place underwent several historical and physical changes. In 1991, it was reshaped into a public park under the name of “Suan Rommaninat” but the prison buildings along with its thick walls, gate and guardhouse were preserved.

Under the leadership of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol and the partnership between the Thai Ministry of Justice and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ), the Crime and Justice Museum was established with the aim to highlight the history of the correctional system and to provide knowledge to the public and especially the youth. The Crime and Justice Museum will also be showcasing the history of the Thai monarchy and the administration of the justice, the treatment of offenders from past to present, the basic principles of justice, the rule of law and the work of the justice administration through the display of goods and technological simulations to attract worldwide tourists to this new destination where knowledge and tourism meet. This new interactive museum will open its door to the public in 2017.



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