

Statement of Ms. Jolanta REDO, Permanent Representative of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation to the United Nations Office at Vienna (Austria) at the Memorial Event for Mr. Minoru Shikita, Former Chief of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, Vienna, Former Director, UNAFEI, Former Chairperson, Asia Crime Prevention Foundation

The Twenty seventh-session of the United Nations Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (Vienna, Austria)

Vienna International Centre, 16 May 2018

Dear Colleagues and Friends of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1982, 36 years ago, I had the honour and pleasure to meet for the first time Mr. Minoru Shikita and his wife Hideko-san. When in 1972 I had first visited Japan as a student, I could not foresee that eventually Shikita-san will have become my boss at the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF), when in 1986 he left the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and returned to Japan.

For more than three decades, until Mr. Shikita's death, I had been privy to his professional advice and guidance and to his and his wife friendship. Ever since we have met, they both have become the friends of our house in Vienna, one of the venues where we not only informally discussed various ACPF's ideas and goals but tremendously enjoyed staying together and sharing our thoughts on various civic society challenges and successes.

Personally, I found Mr. Shikita's dynamism, his global vision of the role of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation extremely forthcoming and inclusive. Mr. Shikita passed away last year when the United Nations vision of peaceful and inclusive societies has just begun to be materialized across the world. We are now in the second year of the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda. I have no doubt that had he still been with us, he would have seconded that United Nations vision wholeheartedly. Thanks to Shikita-san, the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation which I have the honour to represent to the United Nations Office at Vienna, belongs to those global non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council who may and can help meeting the 2030 United Nations sustainable development goals.

I hope that then, that is in 2030, twelve years from now, our followers and successors will have a chance to reflect, as we do today, on the compelling vision of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation of "Prosperity without Crime", with which Shikita-san and his distinguished Japanese, Asian and other colleagues established ACPF in 1982.

Whenever I visit the Vienna International Center I pass by Mr. Shikita's 1996 donation to the United Nations Office: the magnificent painting by Sagenji Yoshida of Ho-o-Raigi sacred birds descending - showing that when they descend there will be Peace and Justice in the world. Some of you in this room may recall how Shikita-san has arrived at that idea and how welcome was the ACPF donation

by the United Nations. May this memorial event in honour of Shikita-san be another contribution to peace and justice in the world, which is so much sought by the United Nations nowadays.

Dear Shikita-san! I miss you!

Thank you for the floor.