

I have been asked to say a few words in memory of Minoru Shikita.

I would like to begin by again presenting my deepest condolences to Mrs Hideo Shikita and their two daughters, as well as to other members of Shikita-san's family.

I would also like to thank you all for attending this tribute to Shikita-san. Here in the halls of the Vienna International Centre, we are all, in a way, part of Shikita-san's family, and of his legacy.

I have had the privilege to have met many great persons through the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Minoru Shikita stands out not only for the range of his work, but also for having so often been the right person in the right place at the right time.

As some of you know quite well, Shikita-san loved golf. The great golf player, Tom Watson, once said that golf is a game of integrity: the most important thing is you do what is right when no one is looking.

That describes Shikita-san very well. As Slawomir Redo notes in 'Blue Criminology', Minoru Shikita had a hard work ethic, and he produced results.

In truth, Shikita-san had not one career, but several, and he was accomplished in all of them. In the Japanese civil service, he served as a prosecutor in many positions on several levels, in corrections, and in the Ministry of Justice, and as we all know, at UNAFEI.

He also had many years of distinguished service in the UN, starting in the Social Defence Section of the UN Secretariat in New York (1967-1973), and culminating as Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch in Vienna (1982-1986). In so doing, he was the acting Executive Secretary of the Fourth UN Congress in Kyoto (1970), and the Executive Secretary of the Seventh UN Congress in Milan (1975).

He was entrusted with guiding the UN Secretariat unit responsible for crime prevention and criminal justice at a difficult time, after its move from New York to Vienna. His ability to work with people from different backgrounds greatly contributed to the gradually expanding work of what is now known as the UNODC. As noted by Gerhard Mueller and Freda Adler, Shikita-san was a 'first-rate criminal justice specialist'.

He also had extensive experience representing Japan at the UN. He was the delegate of Japan at several sessions of the Crime Committee and the Crime Commission, and he was elected by acclamation as the Chairman of the Crime Committee (1987-1989). In 1990, he was Chairperson at the UN Crime Congress in Havana, and in 1991 was the head of the Japanese delegation to the Ministerial Conference at Versailles that restructured the UN Crime Programme.

He was entrusted with steering the UN Crime Committee when it, too, faced difficult

times, when the work of the UN in this area was heavily criticized, and indeed the very existence of key elements of the work of the UN – among them the legacy of the UN Crime Congresses - were at risk. As Chairman of the UN Crime Committee, and later as the head of the Japanese delegation, he was one of the key figures in achieving the successful restructuring of the UN Crime Programme.

Even retirement did not slow him down. He wrote a study on the evolution of Japanese criminal policy through the Showa era, and gave lectures. He was also ground-breaking in professional associations. He established and was the driving force of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, serving as chairperson of the Board of Directors for many years, from 1995 to 2009. His work at the ACPF served to ‘internationalize Asian crime prevention perspectives has been a landmark in bridging other regions of the world’ (as noted by Redo, *Blue Criminology*, pp. 249-250).

He was Vice President of the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation, and was one of the establishers and the Vice President of the International Association of Prosecutors. The IPA honoured his work by designating him Honorary Vice President for Life.

A great honour was conferred on him in 2002, when he was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star.

I have known Shikita-san for many years, extending back to the early 1980s when he was Director of UNAFEI, and I had the privilege of visiting UNAFEI. It was at that time that the European regional institute, HEUNI, was being established, and the wise counsel of Shikita-san, heading the oldest member of the UN Programme Network of Institutes, was of great assistance to us, as the newest member of the PNI.

His good offices to HEUNI extended through his years as Chief of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, and as the founder of the Asian Crime Prevention Foundation.

My wife and I shall always be grateful to Director Senta for having arranged, during the meeting in Tokyo last February of the "Friends of the Congress", a special event. With a few other close friends and colleagues of Shikita-san, we were privileged to spend an afternoon with him, his wife and daughter at their home. Shikita-san was in wonderful spirits, and we shared several memories from over the many years – and several glasses of excellent sake as well as whiskey.

Another great golfer, Paula Creamer, once gave good advice: Find a good teacher that will keep the game fun. Work hard and don't be afraid to have success or disappointment. That is what golf is all about.

In Shikita-san, I have found such a good teacher, and a good friend. I treasure his memory.