

First of all, I thank all those present here for coming to this event, commemorating Mr. Minoru Shikita, former Director of our institute, UNAFEI, the Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders.

Mr. Shikita is not just a former Director of UNAFEI, but is its father. He became a professor of UNAFEI in 1963 shortly after its inception in 1962. When he was posted in the Social Defence Section of the United Nations Secretariat, he worked on the amendment of the agreement between the UN and the Japanese government for the establishment of UNAFEI, which is presently in force. In the late 1980s, Mr. Shikita played a crucial role in the establishment of the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation in order to, among others, assist UNAFEI activities, especially by providing overseas participants various occasions to meet and socialize with other criminal justice practitioners and to experience Japanese food and culture.

He is also one of the forefathers of the UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme, and other international initiatives in criminal justice, including the International Association of Prosecutors and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation. Shikita-san played an important part in the formulation of the present UN crime prevention and criminal justice programme.

Shikita-san was also a prominent member of the prosecution service of Japan. Shikita-san is missed by many Japanese prosecutors, including myself. Last November, a commemoration event for Mr. Shikita was held in Tokyo. Photos of that event will be shown later.

I first met Shikita-san and Mrs. Hideko Shikita in 1990, when I accompanied them for the last session of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control in Vienna. Last February, I visited Shikita-san's house in a nice coastal area south of Tokyo, in order to collect many books on crime prevention and criminal justice which Mrs. Shikita generously offered to donate to UNAFEI's library. Before leaving Japan for this session of the Commission, I talked with Mrs. Shikita over the telephone, and she asked me to convey to you all her very best regards.

I thank you.