

Oct, 25th, 2018

REMARKS for the reception of the SHIKITA AWARD by Ms. Jolanta LEDO

Dear colleagues and friends,

For over three decades of my service for the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, as its Permanent Representative to the United Nations Office in Vienna and to other regional United Nations offices in Europe and Central Asia, I have been privileged to serve a unique community of nations, peoples, people and spirits.

Today I stand before you not only as that representative, but also as a barrister, European woman and one of the Friends of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme whose part is our Organization.

Since the early days after the ACPF's establishment by Mr. Minoru Shikita I have gained through him and Ms. Hideko Shikita, who is here in the audience, an immensely forthcoming and dynamic picture of Asian developments in which our Organization plays an evidently positive function. It brings together crime prevention, criminal justice and law enforcement authorities and experts from all over the world to advance one common cause: "Striving for prosperity without crime". If one would have asked the question, can such prosperity be achieved without the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation, then my own reply to it would be "no". If one would have asked another question, can crime be eliminated entirely, also then I would have replied "no".

These two "*nos*", or two minuses, give one plus. It was Shikita-san's calculated move to introduce the Asia Crime Prevention Foundation to the United Nations world by applying for a general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, because he knew that neither prosperity nor crime prevention can advance, if our Organization would limit its programmes only to the crime & justice sector. "Striving for prosperity without crime" as the ACPF slogan communicates, means that there should be no poverty in the world which breeds crime. In this sense there can be prosperity without crime. And Shikita-san illuminated this message with the ACPF's donation to the United Nations Office in Vienna, when our Organization presented to it the painting of the Ho-o Raigi (The holy birds) by Sagenji Yoshida: The two phoenixes will only come down to Earth when there is peace on Earth.

Excellencies, Distinguished Participants, Ladies and Gentlemen,

There is no peace without justice, no justice without crime prevention, and no prosperity without eliminating poverty. Nowadays, in the third year of the implementation of the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, and in less than two years before the Fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Kyoto, we- the ACPF members, face a new call to contribute to the success of the Kyoto Congress. When it was held there in 1970, Shikita-san was its Executive Secretary. Many years ago, when searching for its record, Shikita-san showed me his own diary of preparations for that Kyoto Congress. I was deeply impressed with his minute record of what had to be done to make it a success.

Today, in commemoration of Shikita-san's contributions to the United Nations community, I have been awarded with the Prize bearing his name. No words can say what I feel just right now, when I am speaking to you. I still vividly remember him from Vienna and Tokyo, but I am happy to see in this audience his wife, his friends and colleagues among whom I have been awarded as a European barrister with an Asian heart.