

Message on publishing the ACPF Mail Magazine

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Due to the rampant spread of COVID-19, the daily news on the number of infections and fatalities has had me choked up with great sorrow. I would like to express my sincere condolences for those who have lost their lives and to their bereaved families, and to pray for early recovery for those who are fighting against the disease.

I am afraid that many ACPF members have been forced to live their daily lives by avoiding going out and meeting with others during the period of a state of emergency in order to prevent the spread of infection. Due to the impact of the spread of COVID-19, the Fourteenth United Nations Congress (Crime Congress), which was due to be held in Kyoto from 20 to 27 April had to be postponed (and a new date for the Congress has not yet been decided), while UNAFEI's international training courses which were scheduled to be held in the spring and in the summer of 2020 were also postponed. As an event in the Congress, the ACPF planned a reception for those UNAFEI alumni serving pivotal roles in their respective countries to be jointly held with UNAFEI as well as panel discussions as side events on the treatment of offenders and measures against corruption. The spring and summer events and gatherings for UNAFEI participants and ACPF members, which are usually held with the support of the ACPF domestic branches, have regrettably not been held.

The ongoing situation is causing a substantial number of ACPF activities to be suspended. However, amid this situation in which we are restricted from engaging in face-to-face communication, the ACPF has decided to boost up the distribution of ACPF information through publishing the ACPF Mail Magazine.

The ACPF Mail Magazine will provide ACPF members with interesting information on the ACPF forums which commenced in June 2019, the overseas seminars jointly held with the Thailand Institute of Justice, and criminal justice related news both in Japan and other countries. The ACPF MAGAZINE ("*Asia Keisei Tsushin*") which has been periodically published for a long time has its limitations in terms of frequency of publishing and

restrictions on the volume of words. What it aims for is the speedy distribution of a wide range of information.

The ACPF Mail Magazine Issue No.1 presents the seminar report entitled, “Is Japanese Criminal Justice Still in the Middle Ages?!” (lecturer: Mr. YAMASHITA Terutoshi, Secretary General), a column titled “The Diverging Point for Rules That Work”. I would appreciate you reading these informative and interesting articles.

Last but not least, I wish all the ACPF members good health and prosperity.