

Topic: Volunteer Probation Officers in Japan – Community Volunteers Supporting Offender Rehabilitation

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From left: Mr. Iino, Ms. Iino, and Mr. Imafuku

Abstract

The Japanese offender rehabilitation system is supported by approximately 48,000 volunteer probation officers (VPOs) throughout the country. VPOs are essentially community volunteers officially appointed by the Ministry of Justice.

In this presentation, Ms. Kimiko Iino will introduce a case study which focuses on VPOs' fraternal support for probationers' rehabilitation through mental interaction with them.

Next, Mr. Mitsuru Iino will speak on the important roles of Offender Rehabilitation Support Centres, which are run by local VPO associations. These Centres systematically take charge of activities for crime prevention and for the healthy development of juveniles based on community needs, whereby function as a bridgehead for safety and peace in the community.

Finally, Mr. Shoji Imafuku will provide an overview of the VPO system and explain how VPOs take care of offenders based on a relationship of mutual trust as neighbours in the community. Consequently, the VPO system is primary factor in maintaining Japan's low crime rate. Mr. Imafuku will also address several challenges faced by the VPO system and efforts to overcome them.

Biography

Ms. Kimiko Iino is a former elementary school teacher. She retired after serving as the principal of the Kimagase Elementary School in Noda City, Chiba, and she was appointed as a volunteer probation officer in December 2004. Since then, she has engaged in community supervision of numerous adult and juvenile probationers and parolees. In 2011, she served as a member of the

committee for the improvement of the VPO system established by the Ministry of Justice. Since 2015, she has been the president of the VPO Association of the Noda probation district.

Mr. Mitsuru Iino was appointed as a volunteer probation officer in 1985 when he worked at Canon Inc. Since then, he has engaged in community supervision of numerous adult and juvenile probationers and parolees while he has worked as a business person. He began serving as the president of the VPO Association of the Ryugasaki probation district in 2006, and since 2015, he has been serving as the president of the Ibaraki Prefectural VPO Association. His leadership has contributed to the development of various VPO activities at the Offender Rehabilitation Support Centres in the prefecture.

Mr. Shoji Imafuku has served as a probation officer since 1985. He has over 30 years' experience working mainly in the field of community-based treatment of offenders of the Ministry of Justice. As to his professional career, he served Director of Naha Probation Office, Director of the Office for Community-based Treatment of Mentally Disordered Offenders, Counsellor and Director of the Supervision Division, and now works as the Director of the General Affairs Division of the Rehabilitation Bureau of the Ministry of Justice, Japan. MA (criminology) Simon Fraser University, Canada.

Topic: Development of Probation in ASEAN countries

Pol. Col. Naras Savestanan, Ph.D

**Director-General of the Department of Probation,
Ministry of Justice, Thailand**



Abstract

The ASEAN Roadmap for Probation and Non-custodial Measures, adopted in 2014 by the representatives from ASEAN members has paved ways for regional activities to promote probation and non-custodial measures. A series of seminars were held as platforms to discuss and exchange member's knowledge and practices on key issues on non-custodial treatment. One of the key issued discussed was the use of volunteers to enhance the probation work which is widely implemented by the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

Volunteer Probation Officers (VPO) in Thailand has started since 1986 and now a revision of the VPO policy, aiming to promote wider participation from even broader public, is underway. In essence, the new policy will 1) lower VPO minimum age to 20 2) expedite the recruitment process and 3) introduce 'on-the-job training' scheme.

As for Singapore and the Philippines with volunteer system since 1970s, their scheme operates in a similar fashion to Thailand's with minor variety according to the policies of responsible agencies such as minimum age, recruitment process and responsibilities.

Despite the different development level of probation services among ASEAN countries, the past 5 years sees major progress in regional cooperation. Public participation is one of the potential fields on which the members could further develop a regional cooperation framework in the future.

Biography

Pol. Col. Dr. Naras Savestanan is currently the Director-General of the Department of Probation, Thailand. He holds a Ph.D. in Criminology from Florida State University, USA and has extensive experiences in the field of criminal justice.

He has held executive roles at different departments under the Ministry such as Deputy Director-General of Department of Special Investigation, Director-General of the Department of Liberties and Rights Protection. Upon his appointment as Director-General of the Department of Probation in 2015, he determined to introduce new approach to Thai probation and implemented policies which includes, but not limited to, promotion of non-custodial measures through trust building among public and justice system, use of technological innovation such as Electronic Monitoring, and expansion of even wider network to communities and other law enforcement agencies.

Topic: Facilitating Offender Supervision and Re-Entry through Community Support Service: The Role of Volunteer Probation Officers Programme in Kenya

Clement Okech

**Assistant Director, Probation and Aftercare Service,
Kenya**



Abstract

The involvement of the community in criminal justice matters cannot be said to be a new phenomenon as it forms part of core of probation offender management strategy in many jurisdictions. For some probation establishments, such involvement may be inevitable, as reflected in work with offenders before, during or after the period of incarceration. In most instances, such engagement may not be well structured to bear the desired criminal justice outcomes.

This paper illuminates on the rise of the community volunteer probation officers programme as an innovative change means and as a method through which the community can be involved in probation work. The paper introduces the Kenya Probation Service functions as it connects it with national and international policy mandates. It explores the concept, structure and management of the volunteer probation officers programme. It further examines the various categories of cases and clients volunteer probation officers work with. A description is made regarding the facilitative role volunteer probation officers play as community agents in relation to court inquiries, supervision, mentoring and reintegration of offenders. The challenges that the programme is experiencing are discussed and efforts being made in ameliorating them. Finally, suggestions on what may help improve the VPO movement in Kenya and beyond is made.

Biography

Mr Clement Okech is a long standing probation practitioner for over 28 years and now serves as an Assistant Director in-charge of Probation Court Services, Legal and Human Rights and coordination of development partner collaboration at the Probation and Aftercare Service headquarters In Nairobi-Kenya.

He has vast knowledge and skills in matters of criminal justice including administration of probationary sentences (probation and community service), youth justice and child protection, offender re-entry, and generally on correction policy and practice. He is former Chairman of the Kenya National Association of Probation officers and currently serves in several criminal justice committees in Kenya.

Mr Okech has published on probation practice and has made presentations in several international conferences. He holds a Masters Degree in 'Youth Justice, Community Safety and Applied Criminology' from Middlesex University, London.

Topic: Best Practices of CoSA in Netherlands

Audrey Alards

Counsellor CoSA for the Dutch Probation Service, the Netherlands



Abstract

CoSA in Netherlands got awarded by the CEP (the Confederation of European Probation) in October 2016 on the category 'Social Inclusion', for the outstanding contribution to the integration of probation clients in the community.

Because of the fact that most sexual offenders are excluded from the Dutch society, we followed Circles of Support and Accountability in the UK. At the end of 2009 we started our first circle. Meanwhile we started more than 100 circles and trained more than 350 citizens. In the first quarter of 2017 we had 71 offenders active in circles.

From the leading thought that 'no one is disposable' we bring sexual offenders together with people from society. Every suitable sexual offender gets support from 3 to 5 citizens. These citizens are trained as circle volunteers and make sexual offenders count as a person in our society. Our volunteers are courageous enough to assist sexual offenders to ensure that there are 'no more victims'. Among other things our volunteers hold the sexual offender accountable for his actions and stand by his agreement. The circles are symbolic for our society. Best practices will be shared as it comes to ingredients of re-integrative shaming and group dynamics.

Biography

Audrey Alards is a graduated social worker and has the degree of Master of Laws in Forensics, Criminology and Law.

Since 1994 she works for the Dutch Probation Service. She is specialized in working with sexual offenders and in the method of Circles of Support and Accountability (CoSA).

Her current work as a coordinator and counsellor for CoSA focuses mainly on the support and management of volunteers who work with sexual offenders. In addition, she counsels European professionals in implementing CoSA projects in their country and holds a seat in the CEP's SO-SIG (sexual offender special interest group).

Topic: Reducing Reoffending and Social Impact Investment in Australia

Rosemary Caruana

Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections, Corrective Services NSW, Australia



Abstract

Reducing reoffending is the ultimate outcome driving correctional service delivery models across all Australian jurisdictions. In New South Wales, this outcome is being met by models which are evidence based and target offenders who pose the highest risk to community safety. As a result, services and resources are focussed on factors underpinning the criminal behaviour, including challenging attitudes and anti-social thinking which supports this behaviour.

Corrections agencies recognise that offenders form part of the broader community. As such, any reduction in reoffending requires the engagement of other justice and human service agencies, in both the government and non- government sectors.

The vast majority of services directed to offenders on community-based orders are delivered by the public sector, namely Community Corrections New South Wales. In addition, contractual undertakings are in place with a small group of non-government entities, working in collaboration with Community Corrections, to deliver additional support services to a small group of high risk offenders exiting custody.

Traditional contractual arrangements with these entities have been output focused, with government bearing all the risk. In 2015, the first Australian Social Impact Investment, targeting a Reduction in Reoffending, was entered into by New South Wales government. This contract is outcome focused, where payment is results driven targetting a reduction in offenders returning to custody for a new offence. The non-government entity delivering the service is backed by a financial institution. The risk in Social Impact Investment contracts, unlike traditional ones, means the risk is borne by all parties, not just government.

Biography

Rosemary has been an Assistant Commissioner since January 2011. Prior to this appointment she held the position of Regional Executive Director in Corrective Services, New South Wales.

Rosemary has a strong background in justice and correctional policy development and operations, across both community and custodial environments. She had lead the development and

implementation of major reforms aligning service delivery models with evidence based principles, focused on reducing reoffending and community safety. Rosemary has been responsibly involved with the development of major justice initiatives to reduce reoffending. She currently has the lead in implementing a number of these initiatives. Rosemary has lead the development and implementation of a new service framework for the contractual engagement of non-government sector agencies. She has also provided the lead for corrections' in developing and implementing Australia's first Social Impact Investment contract for Reducing Reoffending.

Rosemary holds a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) and a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology), Hons.