

World Congress on Probation, July 16, 2015

## Invitation from Japan

Excellencies, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen, I am Yoko Kamikawa, Minister of Justice of Japan.

I would like to first express my sincere appreciation to the organizers of the Second World Congress on Community Corrections for successfully hosting this event. This World Congress emphasized the effectiveness of community-based treatment in preventing re-offending and re-integrating offenders. The Japanese delegates will take home and apply the many lessons learned and best practices shared throughout this World Congress.

In so doing, we will further strengthen the community-based treatment of offenders in Japan. Japan's history of community-based treatment dates back to the late 19th century, when a number of citizen-volunteers formed a company to support discharged prisoners. Ever since, citizens such as volunteer probation officers have played crucial roles in Japan's community-based treatment of offenders. Furthermore, they significantly contribute to maintaining public safety in Japan.

Japan is deeply honored to host the next World Congress on Probation in 2017. At this important event, we look forward to sharing Japan's tradition and experiences of public participation in offender rehabilitation. We also would like to discuss expansion of the use of

community-based treatment, and hope that the Third Congress will broaden international networks in the field of community-based treatment of offenders. Japan stands ready to welcome delegates from all over the world to discuss the realization of a more peaceful and safer global society, through promoting community-based treatment of offenders. I look forward to meeting you in Japan in 2017.

Thank you for your attention.