

At the **NE**X**US**

A Record of **the TIJ's**
First 10 Years

2011 – 2021



At the
NE XUS

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FOREWORD

At the Nexus: A Record of the TIJ's First Ten Years tells the story of our organisation: our founding and principles, our initiatives and partnerships, our spirit and pride in striving to improve the criminal justice system and the lives of all of those who rely on it.

To create this publication, we commissioned an external team of experienced writers and editors, who conducted the key interviews and research to create a compelling portrait of our first decade. The benefit of this approach is that it allowed for outside perspectives and a more journalistic voice and style. This editorial team suggested we call this special volume 'At the Nexus' because the TIJ's unique positioning is arguably our most important and defining characteristic, one that will continue to define our work each and every day. The TIJ's formal status within the Thai criminal justice system and its official membership in the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes (UN-PNI) enables the TIJ to uniquely work on both international and domestic agendas and engage in a wide range of issues, from prison reform to crime prevention, from the public's access to justice to emerging criminal threats.

Indeed, the TIJ's identity as both a Thai and global advocate of change has allowed it to exchange knowledge, create partnerships and encourage new policies and practices in ways that would be difficult for a more typical criminal justice organisation. As a result, the TIJ is well positioned to perform – in the name of serving the public and promoting human rights, the rule of law and the best practices of criminal justice – the key role of bridge builder between international organisations and

Thai government agencies, between the state and the people and between the many different bodies that make up the criminal justice system: police, prosecutors, judges, offenders, victims and the vulnerable.

As polarisation in the world appears increasingly acute, and as a global health pandemic deals yet another heavy blow to the most vulnerable people, the need for effective partnerships, dialogue and new solutions has only grown. This publication is useful in times such as these, as a testament to the efforts we have made and our commitment to a better society.

At the Nexus: A Record of the TIJ's First Ten Years tries to make sense of our first decade, placing our own evolution and many activities into context. We hope it provides a clearer picture of the TIJ's work in relation to the United Nations and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and with regards to challenging issues facing ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region. Against such backdrops, we also hope readers will agree with the need for the TIJ to shift its focus to having a greater, measurable impact through innovative initiatives, especially in the domestic arena.

Finally, this publication is a chance to recognise the hard work of TIJ's staff members, management and board members as well as its colleagues and partners throughout Thailand and around the world. While we are proud of our achievements so far, we believe there is still much work to be done. So we look forward to maintaining the collective effort to uphold our principles, carrying forward our mission and strengthening our relationships over the next decade to come.



Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen
Executive Director





The TIJ in Context

Before we tell the story of the TIJ's early years, we begin this book with a closer look at the

United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (UN-PNI).

Joining the UN-PNI, an event that occurred halfway through the TIJ's first decade, was a pivotal moment for the organisation for several reasons: it secured the TIJ's profile as a respected contributor to the international criminal justice system; it allowed the TIJ to expand the scope of its work beyond its original mandate of implementing the so-called 'Bangkok Rules'; and it further secured the TIJ's unique position and leadership role at the nexus of domestic, regional and international criminal justice reform.

UN-PNI and the Crime Programme

Becoming a member of the UN-PNI network placed the TIJ officially into the fold of the United Nations. Understanding the TIJ's relationship with the United Nations is, indeed, crucial to understanding its ongoing work in the crime prevention and criminal justice arena.

The Programme Network consists of institutes formally recognised by the United Nations as contributing to the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (often referred to as the 'UN Crime Programme'), under the coordination of the UN Crime Commission. Since the inception of the oldest institute in 1962 in Tokyo, Japan and similar institutes in other regions, the network has grown in number and now comprises the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and multiple interregional and regional institutes as well as specialised centres around the world. They are tasked with assisting the international community in strengthening cooperation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice at the global, regional and subregional levels.

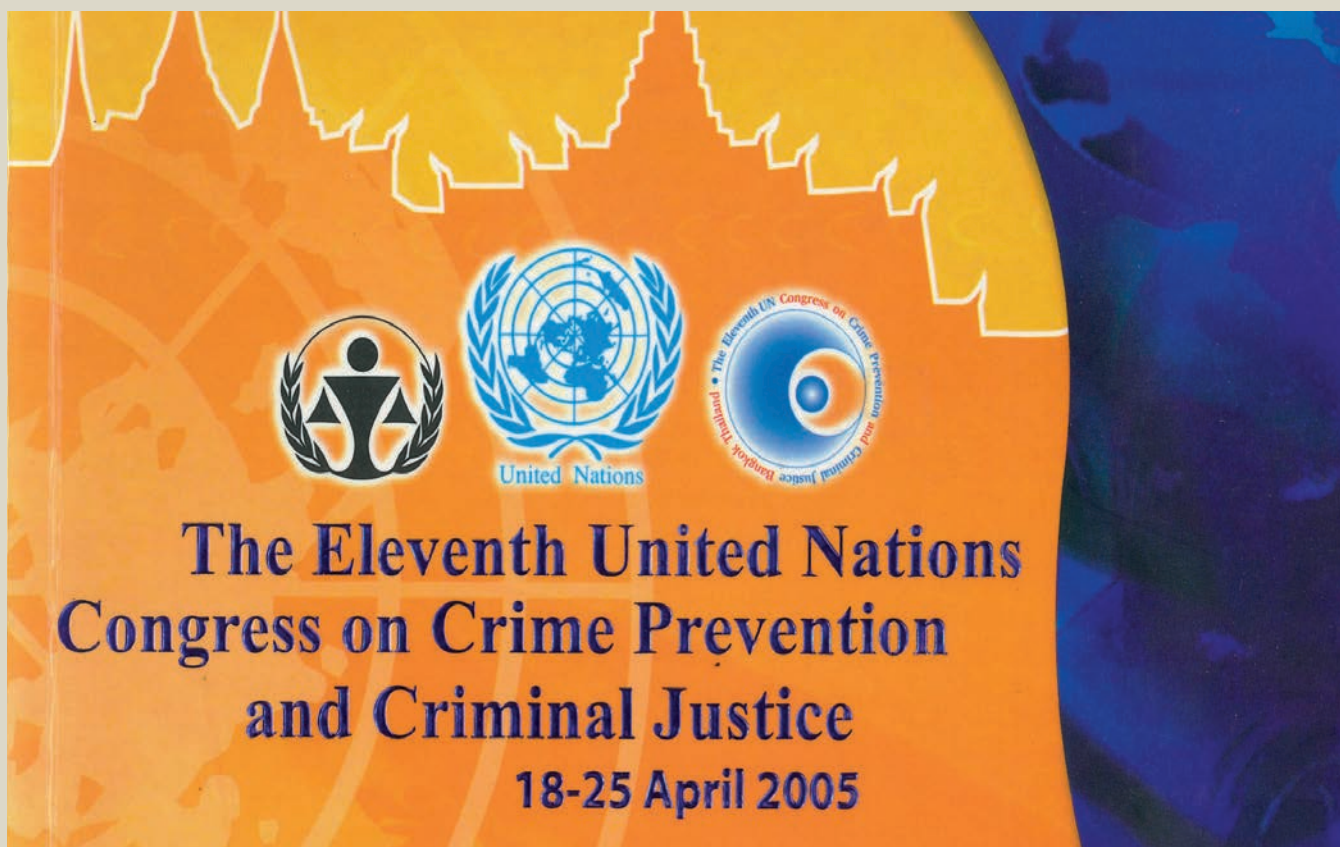
The UN-PNI has come to play a key role in the United Crime Programme, which was established soon after the founding of the United Nations. The UN Crime Programme distinctly has its roots in the work of the League of Nations and the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission (IPPC). With the dissolution of the IPPC after World War II, its functions in respect to crime and criminal justice were transferred to the United Nations in 1950. Among these were the important practice of holding an international conference on crime control matters at five-year intervals. Accordingly, the first United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (the 'UN Crime Congress') was held in Geneva in 1955 to act as a consultative

body for national delegations and experts from various organisations to exchange views and experiences on crime and justice.

By the time of the 1990 UN Crime Congress, a vigorous debate had arisen over the need to restructure the UN Crime Programme. This was accomplished by a General Assembly resolution 46/152 at the end of 1991. Following this effort, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) was established, replacing the previous expert-driven UN Crime Committee with a government-driven UN Crime Commission. Serving as the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, the CCPCJ meets annually as a forum for exchanging expertise, experience and information in order to develop national and international strategies and to identify priorities for combating crime.

Presently, the UN Crime Programme, represented by the members of CCPCJ, helps guide policies on crime prevention and control among UN Member States, strengthen regional and international cooperation and combat transnational crime. It also supports better administration of justice with due respect to the human rights of all those involved in the criminal justice system. Equally important, it promotes the highest standards of fairness, humanity, justice and professional conduct.

Furthermore, the CCPCJ performs as the preparatory body to the quinquennial UN Crime Congresses. The most recent, the 14th UN Crime Congress, which was held as a hybrid Congress in Kyoto, Japan, in 2021 – having been postponed from 2020 due to COVID-19 – was attended both in person and virtually by representatives from 152 Member States, 114 non-governmental organisations and 37 intergovernmental organisations as well as by 600 individual experts.



The cover of the information booklet given to participants at the 11th UN Crime Congress hosted by Thailand in April 2005 at the Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok.

The Congresses address a vast array of topics. They serve as a forum for exchange, for settling on concrete actions and for holding crime prevention and criminal justice-related special events and additional ancillary meetings. They have made considerable impact in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and influenced national and international policies and professional practices. The Declaration adopted by each Congress is transmitted through the following CCPCJ and the ECOSOC to the UN General Assembly for endorsement. It provides a five-year framework for the UN Crime Programme.

Integral to the functioning and leadership of the UN Crime Programme and the Crime Congress is the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). Its mission is to help make the world safer from drugs, organised crime, corruption and terrorism. As part of the UNODC's important role within the UN Crime Programme, the UNODC works closely with governments throughout the world as well as a

network of field offices. The head office for the UNODC's work in the Asia-Pacific region, for example, is located in Bangkok.

Because criminal justice problems are often international in nature and too great for states to confront alone, the UNODC offers practical assistance and support to UN Member States and encourages transnational approaches to action. Among other activities, the UNODC supports the ratification and implementation of various resolutions and frameworks and sets up agendas to focus on specific criminal justice issues. As a member of the UN-PNI itself, the work of the UNODC is also supported by all the institutes in the Network which currently consists of the UNODC itself and 17 institutes and other entities located in 15 different countries. Through its membership in the UN-PNI and proximity to the UNODC's regional office, the TIJ has also come to work closely with the UNODC.

Creation of an Effective UN Crime Programme

What is now known as the UN Crime Programme has been in existence since 1948.

According to Matti Joutsen's paper 'Four Transitions in the United Nations Crime Programme,' it was at first led mainly by Western European and North American experts and practitioners, and it was concerned chiefly with such 'traditional' concerns as juvenile delinquency, correctional treatment and criminal statistics. The influx of developing countries during the 1950s, among other factors, led to a considerable widening of the scope.

The 1990s saw the UN Crime Programme transition from an expert-driven programme to a state-driven one. In its resolution 46/152 dated 18 December 1991 on the creation of an effective United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme, the General Assembly (GA) called for the establishment of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) as a new functional commission in replacement of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control (CCPC). At the same time, the consultative function of the UN Crime Congresses was enshrined in the annex to the resolution.

In addition, the resolution underlines that it was the UN Crime Commission, and not the UN Crime Congress, that set UN policy on crime and justice, and that the UN Crime Commission was to 'select precisely defined topics for the congresses in order to ensure a focused and productive discussion.' The states that are members of the CCPCJ (as well as of the Commission on Narcotics Drugs and other functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council) are elected by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The CCPCJ has 40 members: 12 from African States, nine from Asian States, four from Eastern European States, eight from Latin American and Caribbean States and seven from Western European and Other States. A slate of 20 new members are elected by ECOSOC for a three-year term in those years in which the term of 20 current members expires. Thailand has been a member between 2004 to 2017 and 2019 to 2021.

According to Joutsen, by the 2000s, the focus of the UN Crime Programme had shifted from drafting what is known as soft law, or resolutions, principles and declarations that are not legally binding to enacting hard law conventions that are binding on the parties involved. Seeing two such conventions (on transnational organised crime and on corruption) come into effect was an inspiration for the UN Crime Programme, which also desired a sense of practicality. As a result, the 2000s saw an increased focus on transnational and organised crime as opposed to the more 'social' criminal justice concerns of previous decades.

Today, the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is a driving force of the Programme's agenda. Thus, the CCPCJ and the UN Crime Congress are increasingly focused on how crime prevention and criminal justice can contribute to sustainable development around the world. Subjects dealt with now include more socially linked crime concerns, such as the role of restorative justice and victim support, ensuring that there is a better balance between these and transnational and organised crime topics.

The above is partially summarised from the valuable work of Matti Joutsen for HEUNI called: 'Four Transitions in the United Nations Crime Programme.'



The signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the TIJ and the UNODC, which recognises the TIJ as a UN-PNI member.

What do UN-PNI members do? Typically, they perform a wide variety of technical and practical services: conducting much needed research, for example, training local officials to bring their knowledge up to date, providing information to the public to enhance their awareness about emerging criminal issues and providing policy guidance to member states on request, among other initiatives.

Besides meeting with each other twice a year, UN-PNI members have permanent seats at the key events on the UN Crime Programme calendar, the CCPCJ and the UN Crime Congress.

The TIJ's Work as a UN-PNI

Previously, Thailand's participation in CCPCJ was predominantly focused on the arena for legal issues, involving court representatives, the Office of the Attorney-General (OAG) and the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs (MFA). However, after HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha realised the importance of the commission's role in criminal justice and presented the results of her Kamlangjai Project at the fifteenth session of the CCPCJ in 2006, Thailand began to engage in broader issues.

After its founding in 2011, the TIJ had been predominantly focused on implementing the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, typically referred to as 'the Bangkok Rules.' This exciting resolution – which was led, in part, by several of the TIJ's later founders – was ratified by the UN in 2010 as an official framework to promote the needs and rights of women and children in the criminal justice system.

Becoming the only UN-PNI member in Southeast Asia, however, allowed the TIJ to expand the scope of its work and open new doors. Typically, the Thai government would engage international criminal justice issues through the Ministry of Justice or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. But the TIJ provided an additional, formal point of contact with the UN and also a further vehicle for Thailand to lead and form partnerships on topics of both local and international significance. Moreover, the TIJ could offer research-led and practical support to Thailand's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs on policy decisions, help them represent Thailand at key international events, or – through increased capacity – assume more of a leadership position regionally.

The TIJ and Thailand are now poised to play a greater role in influencing both global international justice issues, make new connections with other member institutes and rise up as a regional leader in criminal justice. At the 14th UN Crime Congress in Kyoto, for example, the TIJ cooperated with other UN-PNIs in organising Workshops, which is another integral feature of each Congress that runs in parallel with the Plenary. The Congress Workshops provide UN-PNIs a platform to discuss knowledge and research on topics reflecting what the Member States are working on in the Plenary session. Of the four Workshops in the 14th Congress, the TIJ took part in Workshop 2, 'Reducing reoffending: identifying risks and developing solutions' and Workshop 4, 'Current crime trends, recent developments and emerging solutions, in particular new technologies as means for and tools against crime.'



Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak and the Thai delegation to the CCPCJ take a picture with the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the TIJ and the UNODC, which recognizes the TIJ as a UN-PNI member at the UN building in Vienna on May 24, 2016.

The TIJ also hosted three ancillary meetings under the topics of its interest including:

- 1. Integrating Sport into Youth Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Strategies**
- 2. A Decade of the Bangkok Rules: Advancements, Challenges and Opportunities**
- 3. Cross-sectoral Collaboration for Crime Prevention: Experience from ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ)**

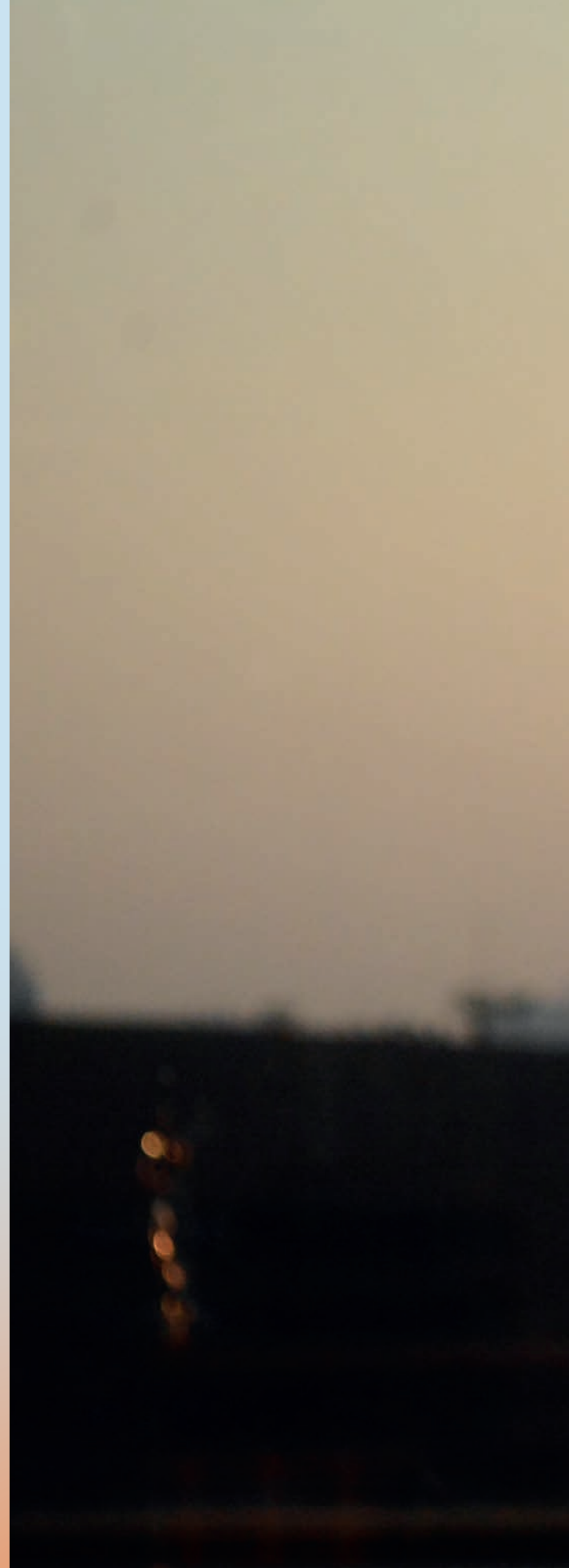
As a UN-PNI member, the TIJ has also cooperated with other member institutes to conduct research and recommend reforms that might enhance international standards and norms within Thailand, the region and

beyond. Such collaborations are usually informal. Members establish connections with others whom they see have similar organisational goals and expertise. For instance, the TIJ has joined hands with Japan's United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI) on topics such as reducing recidivism, current crime trends and the use of new technologies as a means for and against crime.

Since the TIJ joined the UN-PNI in 2016, the increase in its activities rather speak for itself. Whether through large international events, new regional events or more local campaigns, the TIJ has found itself with no shortage of ideas and issues to engage with. All of this work has been bolstered by its unique role as a UN-PNI and through the strong partnerships it has formed across the Thai government, the region and the world.

— Chapter 1 —

The Founding of the TIJ





Themis, the Greek goddess of justice, divine order and law is depicted here against the sunset at the TIJ office on Witthayu Road in Bangkok.

Inspired by the Bangkok Rules

The creation of the so-called Bangkok Rules, which originated through the work of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha, laid the groundwork for the establishment of the TIJ. Indeed, the TIJ was founded as a direct result of this human rights-based initiative, which featured international advocacy campaigns and capacity-building efforts within Thailand’s women’s prisons.

A cornerstone of the Thailand Institute of Justice’s work is – and always will be – alleviating the plight of vulnerable groups, both across Thai society and internationally. This mission can be traced back to events preceding the TIJ’s creation in 2011, to the period in the 2000s when a group of like-minded stakeholders began to try and right a perceived wrong: a Thai prison system insensitive to the needs and rights of women and children.

The history and philosophy of the TIJ is tightly bound up with this cause. Indeed, the TIJ was founded as a direct result of this expansive portfolio of human rights-based work, which ranged from charity and capacity-building efforts within Thai women’s prisons to a Thai delegation-led international advocacy campaign that resulted in the ratification of the Bangkok Rules – the first UN standards for the treatment of female offenders – in 2010. According to current the TIJ Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, the story of these interrelated developments and what came immediately after is, therefore, “a good proxy for understanding

what the TIJ is through its work, as it overlays with the development of the organisation.”

Back in the 2000s, Thailand’s corrections system faced a significant challenge: overcrowded prisons. But as well as having one of the largest prison populations and highest incarceration rates in the world, in those days, Thailand also paid insufficient attention to the specific needs of its female prison population. Women inmates, most of whom had fallen afoul of Thailand’s severe drug laws, were incarcerated within a prison regime built by men, for men. Young or expectant mothers and the elderly, among other vulnerable female groups, served out their sentences in a system ill-designed for them in terms of infrastructure, general management and sensitivity to their special needs or circumstances.

Thailand, it should be noted, was not alone in this situation. Many countries around the world were placing growing numbers of women into male-orientated penitentiary systems. Thanks to the work of academics



who conducted research into female prison culture, the profiles of female offenders and their pathways to crime, the body of knowledge about exactly why this was happening was growing – but there was still a lack of evidence-based consensus about how to treat female prisoners humanely.

Even more worryingly, there were no international standards laying out actionable, gender-sensitive norms for women's prisons. For decades, the de facto standards for female inmate management had been the 1955 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, or SMRs. However, these had been tailor-made, like the majority of prison infrastructure, for men at a time when female prison populations were much smaller. As UK-based NGO and TIJ partner Penal Reform International has stated, the SMR's few gender-sensitive provisions included requests

for separate facilities for women and men and that women prisoners be exclusively supervised and attended to by female officers. They also included rules concerning pre- and post-natal care and nursing of infants. However, in other areas impacting women's dignity and chances of reintegration – such as hygiene and personal care, reproductive care, women-centred substance abuse and mental health programmes and gender-appropriate education and training – they were deficient.

It was against this backdrop that various people within Thailand set out to remedy the situation domestically and began making tangible improvements to the lives of Thailand's female prisoners. In doing so, they set in train the events that would lead to the creation of the so-called Bangkok Rules – the first United Nations standards addressing female offender welfare – and serve as the catalyst for the TIJ's creation.

An incarcerated woman with her baby.

Pivotal to this was the grassroots charity work and careful international diplomacy of Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha, the eldest daughter of Thailand's reigning monarch, King Maha Vajiralongkorn. Throughout her law studies at Thammasat University, Sukhothai Thammathirat University and finally Cornell University, from which she received her Masters in 2002 and PhD in 2005, she displayed a keen interest in the question of fairness in Thailand's criminal justice system. This was reflected, for example, in her choice of doctoral dissertation while at Cornell Law School, an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of Thailand's mixed system of law, particularly regarding the rights of the accused, and also in her regular visits to meet Thailand's women prisoners.

An encounter with a young mother concerned for the welfare of her newborn baby at Bangkok Central Women's Correctional Institution in 2001 was especially inspiring. "I learned first-hand of the hardships faced by these women, and especially by their children, who are innocent, but often deprived of adequate family care and opportunities," she later recounted. Five years later, once she had completed her studies at Cornell and returned to Thailand to become a prosecutor, she decided to set up and self-fund a charity that would directly address some of the glaring health, welfare and training gaps in the Thai prison service.

Established on October 31, 2006, the Kamlangjai Project began by enlisting the Thai Red Cross College of Nursing to offer training courses to expectant mothers, new mothers and volunteer nannies at several prisons. Childcare centres stocked with milk, diapers and other baby supplies were also opened. These direct actions brought small yet significant improvements to the lives of

incarcerated mothers and their newborn children.

Efforts to address wider female inmate welfare, such as elderly prisoners' eye-care needs and shortages of basic necessities, were also soon underway. Meanwhile, the Kamlangjai Project also facilitated gender-sensitive vocational training courses, such as baking, basketry, wood carving and hairdressing. Key to these early successes were partnerships with charities and the private sector, from eye hospitals to entertainment figures, small farmers to large agribusinesses. Rather than being rolled out nationally in a scattershot fashion, each activity was also localised, designed to meet the cultural context of each prison and the needs of each target group within it.

The effects were two-fold. The Kamlangjai Project functioned as a policy testbed and launchpad that, in collaboration with the Thai corrections department, often put experimental ideas in the neglected field of women's corrections into practice. Some of these welfare, education and rehabilitation pilot projects were adopted as best practices; others faded away. In any case, they helped and inspired thousands of incarcerated women and raised awareness among corrections staff about both the gender gap in their practices and the potential of external collaboration.

Within the sphere of international diplomacy, the Kamlangjai Project also stimulated a multilateral push, spearheaded by Thailand, for a paradigm shift in how women's prisons and female offenders are managed. In early 2008, only two years after the project was founded, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presented an exhibition outlining the progress of the Kamlangjai Project on the sidelines of a United Nations meeting on crime prevention and criminal justice in Vienna. The feedback from those countries present was encouraging.





Left: The Kamlangjai Project's logo decorating the corridor of Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution.

Below: An incarcerated woman with her baby.



“We need to state loud and clear that gender sensitivity must constitute the rule rather than an exception in this discourse.... In many cases, women are a silent majority, who often are not able to fully access justice, compensation, rehabilitation and reintegration. But with adequate assistance and care by all sectors of the society, their human security can be rebuilt, and their dignity restored.”

Excerpt from Her Royal Highness Princess Bajrakitiyabha’s speech at the International Symposium on Victimology in Japan on August 23, 2009



While the Kamlangjai Project had been created to address the anachronistic gender gap in Thailand’s penal system, the positive reactions in Vienna indicated that this was, to varying degrees, a global phenomenon.

Shortly after, she launched a two-year advocacy campaign, known as ‘Enhancing the Lives of Female Inmates’, or ELFI. By this stage, she and other members of Thailand’s diplomatic service had a clear target in their sights: rallying international support for the development of the first set of UN standards for the treatment of women offenders.

It was a bold ambition, but steadily, meeting by meeting, speech by speech, the stars aligned. In February 2009, an expert roundtable meeting was held at Bangkok’s Golden Tulip Hotel. Instigated by the Thai Ministry of Justice in collaboration with the UNODC, and led by international prison reform consultant

Tomris Atabay, this meeting saw academics and corrections experts – from NGO staff to handpicked delegations from the USA, UK, Africa, Latin America and Japan – trying to introduce a gender dimension to the 1955 UN Standard Minimum Rules (SMRs) for the treatment of prisoners. Themes discussed – and sometimes passionately debated – spanned from general prison management to the needs of special groups (such as pregnant inmates and victims of violence), the importance of non-custodial measures, and the role of research into offences and criminal behaviour. The landmark outcome – 70 rules covering the needs and rights of incarcerated women and built with the realities of operational practice in mind – was titled ‘Draft United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders.’

In the preceding months, Her Royal Highness helped build a robust case for these draft



UN standards by travelling, alongside key members of the Thai Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Justice to international events and conferences. At these, she gave speeches that articulated how women are made vulnerable in the criminal justice system and underscored the cross-cutting nature of how that vulnerability could be mitigated. Most of all, these speeches embraced human rights arguments and floated the idea that female perpetrators of crimes are often victims themselves.

The cross-disciplinary consensus-building that formed the crux of the ELFI campaign quickly bore fruit and helped smooth the path of the draft rules to the UN General Assembly, which adopted them in December 2010. One instrumental player in the ELFI campaign and formation of the Bangkok Rules was Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee. An Advisor to the TIJ and former Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN,

Vongthep recalls, “When the Bangkok Rules were adopted, a lot of people who had been working with us said that they had never seen UN norms be developed and adopted this quickly: in only two years.”

In terms of their content, the Bangkok Rules were created through broad international consensus. However, much of the credit for their swift progress through the legislative machinery of the United Nations belonged to Thailand, especially the initiative and gathering power of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha who was also assisted by leaders from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice. Any sense of national pride proved short-lived, however; very quickly, attention turned from celebration to the hard task that lay ahead. As Wisit Wisitsora-at, the current Permanent Secretary of Thailand’s Ministry of Justice, puts it: “Success was not just having the Bangkok Rules. Success was having them implemented.”

Top: An exhibition from the Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates (ELFI) Project ‘Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting to Develop Supplementary Rules Specific to the Treatment of Women in Custodial and Non-custodial Settings,’ held in Bangkok, Thailand from November 3 to 26, 2009.

Opposite: HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha at the ASEAN Legal Forum (May 13, 2016) in China, where she presided over the MOU signing ceremony between the TIJ and China-ASEAN Legal Research Center.

The Bangkok Rules Drafting Process

The name the Bangkok Rules – the informal title given to the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders – reflects both the pivotal role Thailand played in their adoption and the city where they were drafted. This complex multilateral process began in 2008, when Thailand began advocating for the creation of the first United Nations standards aimed at addressing the specific characteristics and needs of women offenders and prisoners.

The first step took place at the 17th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, where a Thai delegation led by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presented an awareness-raising exhibition about the Kamlangjai Project: the charity she had founded in 2006 to provide support to women prisoners in Thailand, particularly pregnant women and children living with their mother in prison. This showcase was well-received by the international diplomatic corps in attendance, many of whom acknowledged that gender-sensitive prison care is also lacking in their own country.

Out of this exhibition then grew something bigger: a Thai-led campaign centering on advocacy and lobbying for a worldwide policy change in the treatment of women prisoners. Known as the Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates, or ELFI Project, this campaign initiated by the Thai Ministry of Justice aimed to propose supplementary rules that would enhance the existing standards – namely the 1955 UN Standard Minimum Rules on the Treatment of Prisoners (the SMRs) and the 1990 UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures, or Tokyo Rules – regarding the issues of women prisoners and their specific needs as well as the use of non-custodial measures for women offenders. To raise awareness about the issues involved and to seek international support for the global policy change, the ideas driving the ELFI campaign were, from 2008 onwards, presented at several international forums and conferences.

In addition to leading awareness-raising activities, Thailand also played a key role in the development of these new international guidelines. Between February 2 to 4, 2009, the Government of Thailand hosted the International Roundtable Experts Meeting in Bangkok with the express purpose of drafting a set of comprehensive and integrated ‘rules’ for the treatment of women prisoners and women offenders. Attended by experts on criminology from all around the world, representatives from NGOs and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the meeting combined the structure and framework of the SMRs with existing research and good practices related to women prisoners and offenders. Out of the meeting, a full draft of the rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders was completed.

In the months after this meeting, Thailand made progress with the ELFI project through sustained, targeted advocacy and the tabling of UN resolutions. Throughout 2009, it expanded support for the initiative by making presentations at several Regional Preparatory Meetings for the 12th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (UN Crime Congress). At the 18th session of the CCPCJ, held in Vienna in April 2009, it also proposed resolution 18/1, entitled ‘Supplementary Rules Specific to the Treatment of Women in Detention and in Custodial and Non-custodial Settings.’ Its subsequent adoption then led the commission to request the UNODC to convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting hosted by Thailand.

Held in Bangkok from November 23 to 26, 2009, this meeting built upon and refined the draft rules produced at the roundtable experts meeting in February with a view to submitting the outcome of its work to the forthcoming 12th UN Crime Congress. Representatives of over 25 countries attended the intergovernmental expert group meeting and helped review the draft United Nations rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders. After com-



Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, then Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice, leads a study visit for experts at the central prison in Udon Thani, Thailand.

One of the activities during the expert meeting was to develop supplementary rules specific to the treatment of women prisoners on February 5, 2009.

prehensive discussion and careful consideration, the meeting finally agreed to the final text of the draft rules. The agreed draft rules represented a culmination of best policies and practices on women prisoners that had been developed in various countries and by many international organisations.

As planned, the draft rules were presented at the 12th UN Crime Congress in Salvador, Brazil in April 2010. Amid strong support from various member states, they were recognised and welcomed in the official congress statement articulating the political commitment of UN member countries to crime prevention and criminal justice, known as the Salvador Declaration. Paragraph 50 of the declaration recommended ‘the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice consider them as a matter of priority for appropriate action.’ As momentum gathered at the 12th UN Crime Congress, Thailand presented a follow-up draft resolution to the 19th session of the CCPCJ in Vienna in May 2010. Titled ‘United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules),’ the draft resolution had a single purpose: to prompt the UN General Assembly to consider and formally adopt the draft rules. At the 19th session of the CCPCJ, this draft resolution (including the Draft

Rules as its annex) was approved with very few changes. Seven member states also agreed to co-sponsor the resolution: Indonesia, the Philippines, the United States, Canada, Venezuela, El Salvador and Cote d’Ivoire.

From June to July, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held its annual conference in New York. During its general segment, ECOSOC accepted the draft resolution and recommended that the resolution be considered for adoption by the upcoming 65th Session of the United Nations General Assembly. This opened the way for the final step. Lasting around three months, from September to December 2010, the 65th General Assembly was the last strategic link in the ELFI process, as this was the forum that would formally adopt the Bangkok Rules. The Third Committee adopted Thailand’s draft resolution on October 14, 2010. Finally, on December 21, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders and gave them their unofficial title, the Bangkok Rules, in acknowledgement of Thailand’s instrumental role.





The TIJ sign at the reception area of the TIJ office on Witthayu Road, Bangkok.

From the Bangkok Rules to the TIJ

The unique confluence of events and circumstances that shaped the original vision of the TIJ continue to be reflected in its mission and activities today. From the outset, the TIJ was seen as a promoter of change operating at the nexus of key bodies within the criminal justice system, both inside and outside Thailand.

For the Kingdom's Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, pride about Thailand's key role in the drafting, review and adoption of the Bangkok Rules quickly gave way to the realisation that the real work had just begun. Collectively, they were aware that the Bangkok Rules – a piece of soft law – did not guarantee that the situation on the ground in women's prisons would actually improve. An intensification of efforts – some kind of promotion or capacity-building – was needed. Equally critical was the question of Thailand's future role. Should it now focus on introducing and implementing the Bangkok Rules within the Kingdom? Or should it be aiming bigger, pushing for their uptake regionally as well as domestically?

Eventually, the combination of a receptive government administration led by then Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva and the advocacy of

reform-minded members of the Ministry of Justice led to the latter option being pursued as part of a larger vision. In 2011, Prof. Dr. Kit-tipong Kittayarak, who would later become the TIJ's Executive Director between 2015 to 2020, was serving as permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice. A Western-educated law scholar who had advised HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha when she was a doctoral student, he had long envisioned one day creating a criminal justice think-tank with a progressive, Southeast Asia-wide vision. After close consultation with the Thai government, it was decided that the opportunity afforded by the arrival of the Bangkok Rules should be used to create exactly that: a semi-autonomous public organisation promoting justice reform across Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states, which were inching towards closer economic integration at the time.



Founded by the government on June 13, 2011, the Thailand Institute of Justice started out with a broad, reform-minded remit that respectfully channeled Her Royal Highness's holistic thinking on criminal justice. With her full consultation and blessing, it commenced exploring wider enhancements to the justice system while at the same time proceeding at pace on promotion and implementation of the Bangkok Rules. Her Royal Highness assumed the role of Honorary Advisor of the TIJ, while its first Executive Director was the accomplished diplomat Adisak Panupong, a former ambassador to Singapore, Australia, Canada and Denmark, among other postings.

Much attention was given in these early years to developing and refining the TIJ's strategic framework and programme of work with the help of international experts. At an informal expert workshop held in 2012, for example, it was agreed that the TIJ should prioritise issues in which it has a clear 'comparative advantage,' this with a view to establishing international credibility and a clear track record for producing evidence-based research in a sustained manner. Other points of discussion included the importance of regular consultation with policymakers and stakeholders to ensure the TIJ provides them with timely evidence-based research that is


Ambassador Adisak Panupong and Dr. Nathee Chitsawang leads a study visit at the Office of the Supreme Court of Thailand on January 24, 2020.

relevant and understandable; and the need for a strong brand image, including a logo that underscores the TIJ's mission and key values. The first Chairman of the Board was the then Attorney General at the time, Chaikasem Nitisiri. He recalls: "Despite being a small organisation, the TIJ had set the ambitious goal of becoming a centre of knowledge needed to improve the criminal justice system in line with international standards with the initial focus to make positive changes in the treatment of female prisoners by promoting the implementation of the Bangkok Rules."

The stated overall vision, according to the TIJ's first annual report, was 'to promote the rule of law and be an internationally recognised research institute on criminal justice.' The key focuses were on women and children in the criminal justice system; the rule of law; crime and justice statistics; and crime and development. According to the same report, the TIJ's mission was 'to promote the rule of law and build trust in the criminal justice system through the development of effective and transparent institutions; to promote the implementation of the Bangkok Rules and relevant United Nations standards and norms at domestic and international levels; to conduct research and disseminate knowledge related to crime prevention and criminal justice in accordance to the United Nations standards and norms as a means to strengthen crime prevention and the criminal justice system in Thailand; and to build a national and international network with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes (UN-PNI), public sector and civil society with a focus on the ASEAN region.'

Still, a focus on the Bangkok Rules prevailed early on. Helping kickstart this process in 2011 were regional expert group meetings hosted

The Meaning of the Logo



No organisation is complete without a visual identity that conveys its character. In the case of the Thailand Institute of Justice's logo, the simple visual elements consist of an orange circle floating above two opposing grey lines invite three different interpretations – each with a symbolism that links to its principles. To some, it appears as a figure with open arms, a reference to the members of the public who are meant to be the main beneficiary of the justice sector. To others, it resembles a pair of hands holding up an orange circle, a reference to the helping hand that those working to further goodness and justice provide. The logo can also be seen as a road leading up to a bright horizon, signifying the organisation's desire to usher in a better future. Joined by a strong and bold typeface that signifies commitment, it resists easy categorisation – just like the organisation itself.

by the TIJ. Attendees, including representatives from regional UN-PNI and academics involved in drafting the Bangkok Rules, helped advise the nascent organisation on what the priority areas for their advancement should be. Surveys and analyses of Thailand's women prisons were conducted and capacity-building efforts for staff initiated. The gathered data and testimonials allowed the TIJ to benchmark where levels of Bangkok Rules understanding stood and to evaluate where gaps in implementation existed in Thailand and ASEAN member countries.

Gradually, in those exploratory years after the Bangkok Rules' adoption, it became clear that the paucity of regional research on women prisons and lack of training opportunities for prison staff were hobbling progress. While UN diplomats or academics working in the fields of criminology, penology or feminist theory were aware of the rules, many prison staff on the ground were not. As Chontit Chuenurah, a longstanding TIJ staff member who now serves as Director of the Office for the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (OBR), recalls: "Even five years after the Bangkok Rules had

The Bangkok Rules Training Programme

The leap from gender-sensitive prison management theory to practice that the Bangkok Rules call for is tackled head-on each year in the TIJ's training programme. Held annually in Bangkok, this two-week training course focuses on re-educating groups of around 30 senior correctional staff through prison study visits, practical examples and guest speakers – not merely disseminating key principles.

Refined since its 2016 launch, the course's twelve modules offer practical guidance on the context, rationale and application of each of the 70 Bangkok Rules. For example, Module 3 (Hygiene and Healthcare) goes far beyond merely detailing applicable rules and processes by offering an in-depth discussion of all the relevant themes: the whole prison approach to healthcare, the principles and components of health screenings on admission, the nature of gender-specific healthcare services, the need for medical confidentiality and the hygiene requirements of women. Other training modules take a similarly rigorous approach with the issue of safety, pregnant women, discipline and order, contact with the outside world, prisoner rehabilitation and preparation for release, among other subjects.

With each new iteration of the modules, new statistics or best practices from ASEAN members have been added. Because the gap in practices varies widely between different parts of the world, trainers have found that practitioners from the region relate better to local examples than those from further afield. Teaching empathy and understanding is also key. "What we try to introduce," explains Chontit Chuenu-rah, Director of Office for the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (OBR), "is the notion that most women

who come to prison are nonviolent and have only committed drug-related crimes. We try to make them understand these backgrounds and pathways, and to then identify their inmates' rehabilitative needs."

Also embedded in the training is a pragmatism that takes into account common challenges in the region, such as acute overcrowding and shortages of resources. Although couched in human rights terminology, the Bangkok Rules were created with the realities of operational practice in mind. Consequently, prison staff who understand the spirit and objectives of the rules are encouraged to prioritise the measures they can implement in their circumstances and be creative. This could be done by, for example, using certain spaces within the prison for multiple purposes or trying to forge new collaborations with the private sector. "One of the things I explain during the training is reality and reach," says Dr. Barbara Owen, an American sociologist who specialises in female prison culture and helped draft the Bangkok Rules. "We have to deal with reality, but we have to reach at the same time."

To get them thinking out of the box, each participant is encouraged to draft and share an Action Plan towards the end of their training. The goal they each come up with could be as simple as making sure there are more menstrual hygiene products available or as complex as redesigning a whole health care system or creating a women's services unit.

Regionally, the TIJ's Implementation of the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (IBR) programme has faced hurdles. According to Dr. Nathee Chitsawang, a former TIJ Deputy Executive Director and current advisor, the dichotomy between the operational promise of the Bangkok Rules and the opera-



Bangkok Rules : หลักการทั่วไป

หลักการไม่เลือกปฏิบัติ (principle of non-discrimination) คือหลักการสำคัญและเป็นรับใหญ่ของข้อกำหนดสหประชาชาติว่าด้วยการปฏิบัติต่อผู้ต้องขังหญิงและมาตรการที่มีใช้การคุมขังสำหรับผู้กระทำผิดหญิง (ข้อกำหนดกรุงเทพ) ทั้ง 70 ข้อ โดยหลักการไม่เลือกปฏิบัติเน้นย้ำว่า การคำนึงถึงความต้องการเฉพาะเชิงเพศภาวะและการดำเนินมาตรการบำบัดฟื้นฟูที่ตอบสนองกับลักษณะเฉพาะของผู้ต้องขังหญิงนั้น ไม่ถือเป็นการเลือกปฏิบัติ ทั้งนี้เนื่องจากลักษณะของเรือนจำและกักขังส่วนมากมักถูกสร้างขึ้นสำหรับผู้ชายเป็นหลักและมักไม่เชื่อต่อความเป็นอยู่ของผู้ต้องขังหญิง ซึ่งการเพิกเฉยต่อความแตกต่างและความต้องการเฉพาะเหล่านี้ทำให้ผู้ต้องขังหญิงไม่ได้รับโอกาสในการบำบัดฟื้นฟูอย่างเท่าเทียม

The welcome page of the TIJ's microsite that highlights the Bangkok Rules.

tional reality within Thailand has been pointed out by ASEAN members at times. “They said: ‘You’re telling us to do this and that, but what about female prisoners in your own country? Do you treat them in accordance with the Bangkok Rules?’”

Through this capacity-building drive, however, relationships with departments of corrections in several countries have been built and trust has grown. In recent years, Indonesia’s Tangerang Women’s Prison has made public its intention to achieve full compliance and reduce overcrowding, for example, while in 2019 the TIJ signed a memorandum of understanding to adapt Thailand’s Model Prison concept for Cambodia’s largest women’s prison. Both of these moves came about organically, as an indirect result of the programme, after alumni returned home emboldened and inspired by what they had learnt. With, as of mid-2020, a total of 38 senior Thai correctional staff and 77 from ASEAN member countries and further afield having completed the training, the hope is that these sorts of spinoffs and partnerships will only grow overtime.

“Each one is a seed that we’ve planted in the prison system,” says Dr. Barbara Owen.

Looking forward, the TIJ plans to complement this broad introductory training by offering dedicated courses tailored to the needs of prison staff on the ground. To achieve this, current TIJ Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen envisions the organisation reaching a point soon when, once awareness of the Bangkok Rules has reached a certain level, it stages the programme less frequently, or perhaps makes it publicly accessible online. This would enable it to dedicate more time to offering customised training that better equips staff with specific skills or helps them overcome pressing issues or shortcomings. “The hope is that we can work with local prison authorities in certain countries to translate the programme into specific training, which is based on the Bangkok Rules, yet even more useful for enacting change in their particular context,” he says.





been adopted it was clear that many prison staff still hadn't heard about them. There was a clear need to invest in capacity-building.”

To address this shortfall, work on developing a training curriculum for prison staff began in 2015. These were created using a combination of existing research data pertinent to the ASEAN region and the proven expertise of the likes of Tomris Atabay, a UNODC expert who helped draft the Bangkok Rules. To ensure that these training modules were tailored to the needs of ASEAN member countries, representatives from their respective departments of corrections were also invited to give feedback.

One year later, the TIJ's Bangkok Rules training programme, consisting of 12 modules and led by in-house experts and independent advisors, was launched in earnest. Held in Bangkok, this annual two-week exercise was designed to equip groups of around 30 senior correctional staff from across ASEAN with the skills and knowledge necessary to enact the rules effectively within their own context.

Meanwhile, since the programme's rollout, the TIJ has also conducted and commissioned academic research into incarcerated women's backgrounds and pathways to prison – called for by Rules 67 to 69 of the Bangkok Rules –

in various ASEAN countries (the Philippines, Indonesia, Cambodia and Thailand), as well as Kenya. This has helped shed light on the cumulative disadvantages – the structural and cultural discrimination, the social and economic realities – that lead some women to commit crime. More recently, studies have explored the reintegration needs and challenges of Thai women who return home after serving time for drug offences. Together, this body of research has resulted in the publication of many peer-reviewed academic journal articles and several research reports as well as numerous presentations to both academic and non-academic audiences.



Top: International experts talking with women inmates during the 2nd Bangkok Rules training session at the Ayutthaya Provincial Prison held from August 14 to 25, 2017.

Bottom: An activity for mental empowerment at the Ayutthaya Provincial Prison on July 4, 2019.

Opposite: Inmates engaging in activities as part of the Model Prison Project at the Ayutthaya Provincial Prison on July 2, 2019.

As the TIJ's expertise and experience has grown, the annual training has evolved to the point that it is now less about explaining the rationale behind each of the rules and its procedural implications and more about offering up practical skills and examples. For example, rather than purely explaining why an invasive body search could have a harmful effect on a female inmate, especially for those who have been sexually abused, prison staff are taught how to search properly.

Feeding into this more assured, pragmatic teaching style is another TIJ initiative: 'Model Prisons'. Introduced in 2015 by the TIJ and

Thai Department of Corrections, this voluntary programme invites prisons around the Kingdom to be evaluated for Bangkok Rules compliance using a questions-based checklist adapted from the Penal Reform International's 'Index of Implementation'. The one-year assessment timetable begins with a preliminary visit, followed by a roughly three-to four-month gap during which the facility is expected to enact improvements and collate relevant documentation. Finally, there is an assessment by a committee made up of experts from the TIJ, external agencies and the Department of Corrections.



Evaluating a Model Prison



Photo of inmates taken during the 2nd Bangkok Rules training study visit to the Ayutthaya Provincial Prison from August 14 to 25, 2017.

Shortly after the ‘Model Prisons’ programme – a voluntary scheme inviting prisons around the Kingdom to be evaluated for Bangkok Rules compliance – was introduced in 2015, the Thailand Institute of Justice and Thailand’s Department of Corrections (DOC) began preparing a practical assessment form. Used to ascertain whether Thai corrections facilities meet the standard of ‘Model Prison’, this form adapts the checklist-based assessment tool, or Index of Implementation, developed by UK-based TIJ partner Penal Reform International (PRI) to the domestic context.

Of the total of 552 questions comprising the PRI’s Index of Implementation, those related to prison policies and practices were selected to develop Thailand’s unique assessment form. The selected questions were then re-categorised into the following ten categories: prison policy; admission/registration; hygiene/health services; safety/security; communicating with those outside prison; classification and treatment of individual prisoners; special prisoners; pregnant, breastfeeding, and female prisoners; acquittal preparation; and prison development.



Dr. Nathee Chitsawang, Advisor of the TIJ and former Director General of the Department of Corrections, observing the Model Prison project at Chanthaburi Provincial Prison on April 25, 2019.

“There is a commitment within these facilities to eliminate discrimination to better understand and respond to women’s complex gendered needs and to support and prepare them for re-entry.”

Dr. Samantha Jeffries,
Senior Lecturer at
Griffith University’s
School of Criminology
and Criminal Justice

After being developed in consultation with TIJ and DOC members, prison wardens, corrections experts and inspectors as well as members of the various related government divisions and bureaus, the assessment form was then tested for real use in prisons and correctional institutions. Since then, the assessment has been revised several times and re-tested, resulting in the final version in use in prisons with female populations today.

In practice, the assessment form comprises 160 questions across the ten categories. All of the questions are closed-ended questions, meaning that the answer must be a ‘yes’ or a ‘no.’ However, there is a space to record other relevant details and qualitative insights, such as additional evidence and observations. Evidence provided can consist of orders, photographs, prison documents, notice boards and on-the-ground observations, while each category of question is intended for different respondents – prison policy questions for wardens, hygiene/health questions for nursing staff, and so forth. Final scores are tabulated using tables below the questions and then input into Microsoft Excel to calculate the final percentages.

As well as establishing whether a facility qualifies as a Model Prison, the assessment performs a similar function to the PRI’s Index of Implementation. Through the assessment process, prison staff gain a better understanding of the extent to which the Bangkok Rules are being implemented and see where gaps exist. As a result, the Model Prison project has, together with the Bangkok Rules training programme, fostered greater understanding of the Bangkok Rules and encouraged prison and correctional institutions to develop and implement policies and practices that closely align with them. Ultimately, prisoners themselves are the beneficiaries. As Dr. Samantha Jeffries, a Senior Lecturer at Griffith University’s School of Criminology and Criminal Justice who has worked closely with the TIJ, puts it: “Within these Model Prisons, due consideration is given to gender through the implementation of policies, practices and programming that are sensitive to women’s realities and experiences.”



Penal Reform International (PRI)

Given the TIJ's longstanding work on prison reform, including via the Bangkok Rules, it seems almost inevitable the institute would form a partnership with Penal Reform International (PRI). The global non-governmental organisation, with its headquarters in London, promotes criminal justice systems that uphold human rights and do no harm. It works to make these systems non-discriminatory and to protect the rights of disadvantaged and vulnerable persons in the system. The group also runs practical human rights programmes and supports reforms that make criminal justice fair and effective.



With their overlapping missions, the TIJ and PRI have worked together closely throughout the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, frequently collaborating, along with the UNODC, on issues related to the international guidelines that officially recognise the gender-specific, distinctive needs of women prisoners.

Like the TIJ, PRI advocates the greater use of meaningful non-custodial measures as well as rehabilitative approaches to imprisonment with an aim to reduce the number of inmates and increase their quality of life. The two bodies have participated together in many forums over the years. The TIJ and PRI have co-sponsored ancillary meetings at the UN Crime Congress, commemorated milestones in the implementation of the Bangkok Rules and created a toolbox, translated into multiple languages, containing practical resources to help put the Bangkok Rules into practice. The TIJ and PRI also jointly produce an annual Global Prison Trends report, which provides a comprehensive overview of trends in the use of imprisonment and specific prison management issues with a focus on crime prevention and criminal justice. The 2021 edition explored the impact of COVID-19 on prison systems around the world with a special focus on prisons in crises.

As of writing, 15 of the Kingdom's 143 prisons – from women's correctional institutes to large and small women's units within male prisons – have been designated 'Model Prisons'. They are located in many different regions of Thailand. Among the largest prisons to be converted into a Model Prison are Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institute, Nakhon Ratchasima Provincial Prison and Ayutthaya Provincial Prison.

The project's effects are both psychological and practical. On a mindset level, the Model Prison project helps encourage department of corrections staff both in and outside Thailand to adapt their own policies and practices. Additionally, Model Prisons show staff that the Bangkok Rules offer a certain amount of latitude – that, whatever the prison setting, they can be put into practice in spite of limitations such as overcrowding or lack of resources. More practically, staff from Model Prisons get access to wider networks and specialist advisory support as well as certain capacity-building incentives, such as study visits to other prisons both in Thailand and abroad.

Today, the TIJ department devoted to the Bangkok Rules is focused on refining training, forging new relationships and deepening research, all in the hope of making each prison in the ASEAN community a beacon of humane, gender-sensitive practices. But while giant strides towards widespread uptake of the Bangkok Rules have been taken, both regionally and domestically, over the past decade, there is still a long way to go before it can be claimed that success has been truly achieved. The drivers for the all-too common discrepancy between Bangkok Rules aspiration and reality stem from the intractable structural problems embedded in justice systems worldwide, namely their tendency to overcriminalise and their failure to enact lasting reforms that reduce prison populations.

The Rise of the Mandela Rules

The diplomatic success of the Bangkok Rules in 2010 did more than just galvanise global attention on female prisoners. They also helped to create critical momentum on the broader question of the treatment of all prisoners. Created amid the renewed international unity and cautious optimism of the post-World War II period, the 1955 UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) were tremendously valuable. They helped shape corrections laws, policies and practices in Member States all over the world. Yet for many stakeholders impacted by or working with them in the 21st century, they were increasingly antiquated both on paper and in practice. This was because, as Thailand’s Enhancing Lives of Female Inmates campaign had argued, the SMRs took no account of the many advancements in international human rights law and correctional science since 1955.

A multinational movement to revise the SMRs gained traction at the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Salvador, Brazil in April 2010. Here the congress’s endorsement of the Bangkok Rules – which were adopted by the UN General Assembly later that year – was accompanied by a declaration calling for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to consider convening an intergovernmental expert group on the revision of the SMRs.

This request set in motion a four-year drafting, revision and adoption process that culminated with the UN General Assembly adopting the updated rules in December 2015. These new SMRs were named the Mandela Rules, “to honour,” as the UN stated, “the legacy of the late President of South Africa,



“No one truly knows a nation until one has been inside its jails. A nation should not be judged by how it treats its highest citizens but its lowest ones.”

Nelson Mandela

Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela, who spent 27 years in prison in the course of his struggle for global human rights, equality, democracy and the promotion of a culture of peace.”

Today, the Mandela Rules – with their many evidence-based measures designed at minimising harm and maximising rehabilitation of the general prison population – are held up alongside the supplementary, female offender-focused Bangkok Rules and the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures, or Tokyo Rules, as the standards that all criminal justice systems should aspire to satisfy.

Life in a Model Prison

The Thailand Institute of Justice and Thai Department of Corrections encourage prisons to meaningfully adopt Bangkok Rules policies and practices through its Model Prisons programme, which was introduced in 2015. This voluntary programme invites prisons in the Kingdom to be evaluated using an ‘Index of Implementation’ developed by Penal Reform International. As of 2021, 15 Thai prisons – from women’s correctional institutes to large and small women’s units within male prisons – have been designated Model Prisons.

One of the earliest facilities to be assessed using the 154-indicator implementation checklist, created by a Thailand Institute of Justice and Department of Corrections committee, was Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institute. Since 2015, this high-security facility with over 2,000 female inmates has served as a yardstick for other prisons in the region.

A dedicated mother baby centre – which has a capacity for 23 prisoners and 12 babies and was purpose-built with the support of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha’s Kamlangjai Project in 2015 – offers a daily routine and a nursery environment comparable with those found outside prison. But more than just baby supplies and a clean and quiet space are provided. Processes involving pregnant inmates and mothers with newborns have become more clearly defined since the Bangkok Rules were introduced, with the instinctive approach to protocol of days gone by replaced by careful monitoring. Officers also receive regular capacity-building training from local public health professionals about child development and new and existing health issues for babies.

Thailand’s amended Penitentiary Act states that babies are permitted to stay with their incarcerated mothers until the age of

three. In reality, though, most are sent home to live with close family relatives or put into foster care when they turn one year old. According to the Bangkok Rules, however, a prison’s duty to facilitate a mother-child bond does not end once a child leaves it. Rules 28 and 52 state that ‘women prisoners shall be given the maximum possible opportunity and facilities to meet with their children,’ and that these visits should ‘take place in an environment that is conducive to a positive visiting experience’ and ‘allow open contact between mother and child.’

Before COVID-19 led to lockdowns in prisons across the Kingdom, Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institute satisfied these requirements through a special programme – known as ‘Kamlangjai: From Children to Mother’ – that allows children to meet their mothers for extended periods for around 10 days per year, including Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, Songkran and other public holidays. Conducted in a sofa seating area within the prison, these visits are offered in addition to the three open visits already permitted per year. Similarly, staff from foster homes can bring children to see their mothers on these days.

The prison also scores highly for its vocational training. Rule 46 of the Bangkok Rules states that ‘Prison authorities shall design and implement comprehensive pre- and post-release reintegration programmes which take into account the gender-specific needs of women.’ Chiang Mai Women’s Correctional Institute closely observes this rule with a collaboration-driven vocational training programme that strives to offer the over 2,000 inmates financial remuneration and practical skills. Through partnerships with Thailand’s Ministry of Justice, the Department of Corrections, the Kamlangjai Project, businesses and non-governmental organisations, inmates are employed as traditional Thai masseuses (both on-site and



Female inmates captured by Mr. Noppol Chuklin, an entrepreneur and key partner of the TIJ's hygiene street food project.

off-site), silk weavers, dressmakers (for a Danish fashion label), cooks and hairdressers. They are paid and work six hours a day, five days a week, in accordance with International Labour Organisation standards.

Mental healthcare at the facility has also changed for the better since the advent of the Bangkok Rules, which call for individualised, trauma-informed mental health programmes, and suicide and self-harm prevention strategies, among other measures. As at many Thai prisons, there is no qualified psychologist or psychiatrist on-site to help inmates reduce stress or ensure mental well-being, so activities are typically used as a form of support instead. On the same corridor as the prison library is a multipurpose 'Happy Centre' where pris-

oners suffering from stress or depression can engage in therapeutic daily activities. These range from dhamma teaching, meditation, yoga and mindfulness classes to art therapies such as watercolor painting and poetry.

While no Model Prison is a perfect prison, Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institute is well-versed at being resourceful with the budgets and infrastructure on hand, at creatively implementing the Bangkok Rules within certain constraints. It strives to offer its female inmates security, safety, hope and a real chance at long-term development.



Bangkok Rules Progress Report: 10 Years and Beyond

The TIJ has, in collaboration with many governmental and non-governmental partners, made impressive progress in implementing the prison reform programmes that first inspired its establishment. But as prisons remain overcrowded and new ideas, issues and questions emerge about their management, the TIJ has no shortage of challenges to address.

The high level of global awareness of, and engagement with, the Bangkok Rules was plain to see in December 2020, when the TIJ and 82 organisations around the world – from NGOs to universities and civil society groups – marked their tenth anniversary by signing a joint statement. However, this announcement, issued by Penal Reform International, was not a celebratory affair, but a terse call to action.

It stated: “As we approach the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules), we, the undersigned, express alarm at the increase in the global female prison population by around 100,000 since the adoption of the Rules – which aim to reduce the imprisonment of women – and the continuing discrimination and abuse experienced by women in criminal justice systems. We call on all governments to review their laws, policies

and practices with a view to fully implementing the UN Bangkok Rules, and work to ensure the rights of women that come into contact with the criminal justice system.”

At the same time, a similar reckoning was also taking place within the TIJ. Simply speaking, there are three dimensions to the issue of female offenders – Inside Prisons, Beyond Prisons and Besides Prisons – that the Bangkok Rules encompass and which the TIJ has, since its inception in 2011, sought to address. Inside prisons, the Bangkok Rules encourage a gender-sensitive management approach and a focus on preparing prisoners for life after release. They also deal with life beyond prisons by promoting offenders’ reintegration into their communities, calling for support to help them develop the personal strength and skills needed to face a new life. Lastly – and perhaps most importantly – they call for the use of alternatives to prison, such as non-custodial measures.



Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak telling the story about the beginning of the Bangkok Rules in front of the screen showing the atmosphere in the UN General Assembly. Titled 'Towards the 10th Year of the Bangkok Rules: Enhancing the Power of Social Partnership,' the event was held on December 18, 2020 at CentralWorld, Bangkok, Thailand.

Promoting Prisoner Reintegration Through Partnerships

How best to prepare prisoners for life on the outside? How to end the cycle of recidivism so many offenders find themselves trapped in? How to guide them towards steady, legitimate sources of financial income and true fulfilment? The TIJ's Office for the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders (OBR) is, alongside various private and public sector partners, grappling with these perennial questions within the Thai context.

Thai women prisoners – over 80 percent of them serving time for drug offences – face many needs and challenges when they reenter society. Often, they leave prison only to soon travel along the same pathways to prison – poverty, substance abuse, victimisation, addiction, mental health issues. Due to the overcrowding situation in Thai prisons, among other factors, many leave without having substantively benefited from rehabilitation opportunities. Factoring in to the high recidivism rates for female prisoners (14.5 percent, 26 percent and 33.6 percent within 1, 2 and 3 years after release respectively) are post-release barriers such as low self-esteem, stigmatisation, unemployment and lack of housing.

The Thai authorities have themselves tried to reduce the reoffending rate through various methods. For example, the Center for Assistance to Reintegration and Employment (CARE), a rehabilitation programme within the Thai Corrections Department, helps former inmates find jobs that are in line with their background and real living conditions outside prison. In another move, the Thai government in early 2020 introduced tax incentives to encourage businesses and social enterprises to hire former inmates.

Meanwhile, the TIJ, cognizant of the fact that most prisoners are of working age and that many want more vocational training and help finding jobs, has been exploring social partnerships that turn prison into a space for pre-release rehabilitation.

At one of the country's 'Model Prisons', Ayutthaya Provincial Prison, for example, the TIJ in 2019 collaborated with nine private sector groups to offer a reintegration programme entitled 'Model Prison Plus' to 34 female inmates. Totalling 250 hours spread across the three months before their release, the course saw over 50 experts – from community leaders to SME associations, human resources experts and money management advisors – offering coaching on mental empowerment, career guidance and business planning, among other topics. In stark contrast with the vocational training offered in most prisons, the 'Model Prison Plus' pilot was an holistic programme that aimed to change mindsets, dispense practical business advice, encourage financial literacy and offer attainable action plans that would give inmates a headstart upon release. Other pre-release pilot projects have revolved around factory or call centre work.

More recently, the TIJ has piloted a post-release project in collaboration with King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, the Kamlangjai Project, CARE and the Department of Corrections. Street Food Academy, as it is known, smooths the path towards successful reintegration for former prisoners by tooling them with both the skills and the equipment necessary to start a street food business. As street food is a resilient business in Thailand, even during disruptions such as COVID-19, and cooking or food industry experience is something that many prisoners already have before they come to prison, it was seen as an appropriate focus for the project.

The concept is simple: selected participants take a ten-module Street Food Academy Course covering food safety, business training and cooking skills. Upon completion, they are then given an environmentally friendly yet easily transportable street food cart tailored to their chosen culinary specialty. Both of these aspects of the academy have been designed and



A training session under the Street Food project held by the TIJ in collaboration with DTAC for released inmates on September 28, 2020. Here, the DTAC team is demonstrating how to use social media to promote sales and go live.

fine-tuned with the TIJ's input by King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, namely their faculties of food science and engineering. Instructors have come from private Thai companies such as Betagro, DTAC and Robinhood. As of writing, the first group of eight – made up of former male and female inmates from Ratchaburi and Nakhon Pathom provincial prisons – have already received their carts, and four out of 11 inmates of the second group in Bangkok are awaiting theirs. Due to delays caused by the pandemic, the TIJ's social innovation specialist, Thanachai Sundaravej, has created an upskill course, complete with classes by famous influencers, graphic designers and food delivery platforms, so that they can sell food online in the meantime.

The project started small because the TIJ wanted to make sure it first had the right approach, the right training modules and the right way of collaborating with partners. Plans are afoot to scale up Street Food Academy by creating another training hub in Chiang Mai province in the north. More hubs in the deep south may, if all goes to plan, follow – although the TIJ will not necessarily be at the centre of all this work. If a social enterprise wants to participate, or if the government wants to roll out the model in collaboration with the private sector, the hope is that they will adopt and implement it using the training modules already developed by the TIJ.



When it comes to the first two dimensions, Inside Prisons and Beyond Prisons – dimensions that entail working closely with correctional staff in Thailand and ASEAN – the TIJ has, in collaboration with many governmental and non-governmental partners, made impressive headway.

Despite some initial skepticism from prison staff, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha has, on her many visits to Thai women's prisons over the past decade, helped to encourage their buy-in by giving her thoughts on the utility and practical benefits of the Bangkok Rules. While the TIJ – a public organisation with no jurisdiction over prison policy – can only encourage compliance, the Thai government has made substantive efforts to absorb them. Most notably, the Thai Kingdom's 1936 Penitentiary Act was, in February 2017, amended so that it is 'more consistent with international standards.' It now includes specific clauses on pregnant prisoners and women prisoners with children, among other vulnerable groups.

Meanwhile, the TIJ's Bangkok Rules training programme has led to mindsets being changed, trust being gained and strong relationships with departments of corrections in several countries – including Cambodia and Indonesia – being forged. New initiatives have also been launched. Nowadays, more important than knowledge exchange is encouraging correctional staff to have ownership of the Bangkok Rules by creating projects or programmes in their own facilities.

Another development within prisons, particularly those in Thailand, is the evolution in working approach. After ten years, the TIJ's Bangkok Rules team is now focusing less and less on pure research and capacity-building and more on fostering cross-sector collaborations. This

has proven to be a particularly powerful tool when it comes to the provision of gender-sensitive mental healthcare, rehabilitation and pre- and post-release reintegration programmes called for by Rules 12 and 46 of the Bangkok Rules.

The TIJ's progress in this area was evident during the tenth anniversary period, when the Kamlangjai Project and TIJ co-hosted an event at which over 30 private, government and civil society organisations in Thailand pledged their commitment to help prisoners reintegrate into civilian life upon release. At a grassroots level, it is also apparent in pilot projects such as the Street Food Academy, an innovative micro-entrepreneurship programme for newly released female prisoners created in conjunction with King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, the Kamlangjai Project and the Department of Corrections, as well as the companies DTAC, PTT Public Company Limited, Robinhood and Betagro.

While the Bangkok Rules have brought tangible changes to many of ASEAN's women prisons – led to the institution of gender-sensitive procedures, improved daily life and future prospects for many of those incarcerated – these are, at best, modest achievements. Overall, implementation of the Bangkok Rules across ASEAN, as in all parts of the world, remains 'piecemeal and insufficient,' states Penal Reform International in its Global Prison Trends 2021 report. Moreover, female prison populations continue to rise, albeit at a slower pace than the first decade of the millennium. According to Dr. Catherine Heard, Director of the World Prison Research Programme, Institute for Crime & Justice Policy Research, this upward trend is particularly discernible in China, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand – Asian countries beset by wars on drugs,

income inequality and social marginalisation. In Thailand's case, welcome reductions in female prisoners achieved over the previous decade have reversed.

For the country most instrumental in the genesis of the Bangkok Rules, these hard truths hit particularly hard. They are, however, not new revelations. Within the TIJ, it has long been clear that the organisation's dual desires – to see the Bangkok Rules fully implemented inside the country and Thailand leading by example outside it – are wholly incompatible with the country's well-documented prison overcrowding issue. The reality is the Bangkok Rules cannot be fully implemented while Thailand still faces the overcrowding situation. For example, when the Bangkok Rules state that every prisoner deserves an individual assessment and that their programme should be individualised; in reality, it is not possible in the current situation.

The first ten years of Bangkok Rules advocacy, research and capacity-building, Chontit notes, focused too much on introducing rights-based policies and protocols within prison settings and too little on tackling the chronic, underlying problem. "Over the past ten years we have been working on short-term gains, quick wins in a setting where we can make change. The problems we face with overcrowding have to do with the criminal justice system: the sentencing policy, drug policy – it is a much broader, more difficult and challenging issue."

This issue is not exclusive to Thailand, or to female offenders. In many countries, stressed and swollen prison systems are sparking vociferous national debates about the use of alternatives to prisons – not just for women prisoners but for all types of prisoners. Some



The TIJ, in collaboration with the Kamlangjai Project and the Department of Corrections, organises the ‘Towards the 10th Year of the Bangkok Rules: Enhancing the Power of Social Partnership’ event at Central-World, Bangkok on December 18, 2020.

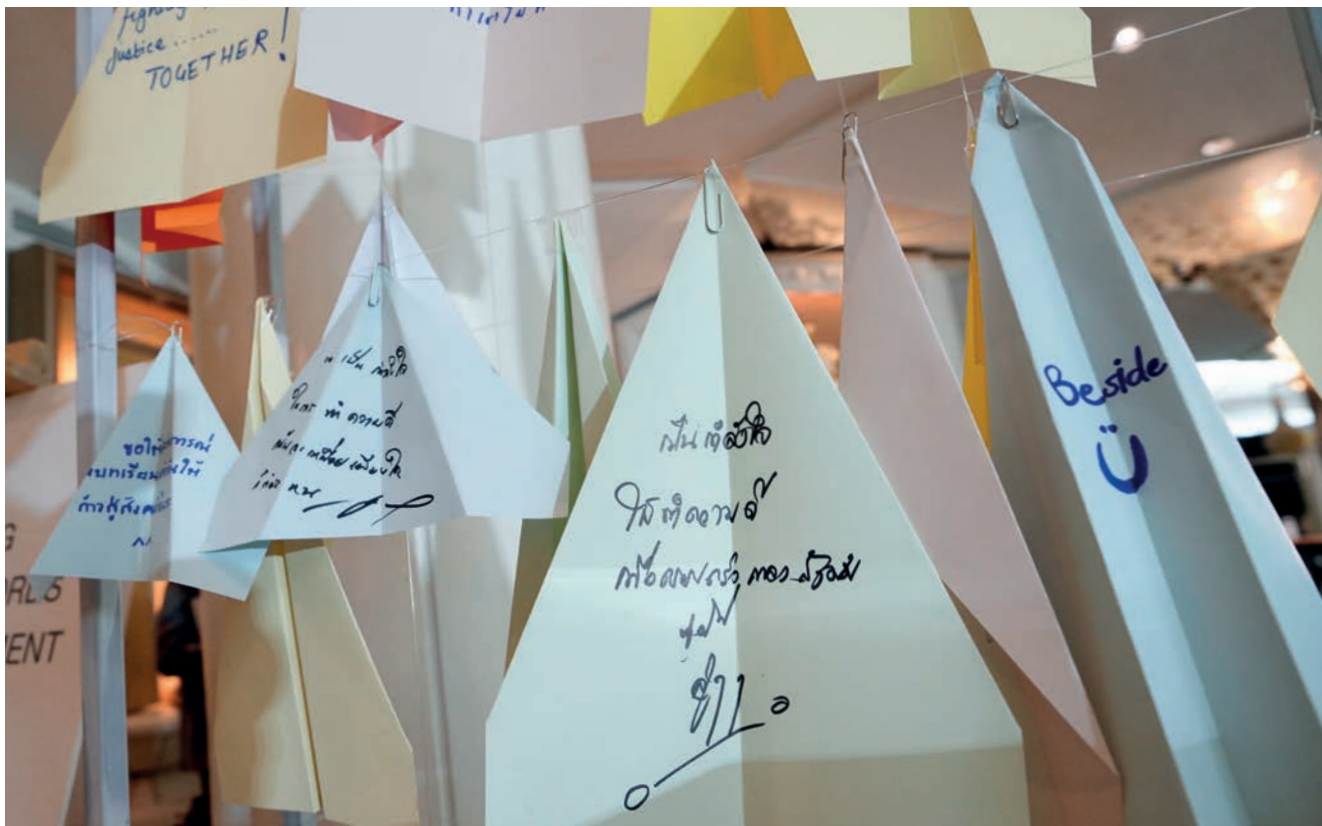
of the many intersecting questions being grappled with include: What are the most effective, realisable and scalable forms of non-custodial measures? What are the proven best practices for implementing them? How to reconcile the clear need for wider use of non-custodial measures with social mores demanding that justice be served through punishment?

As it looks forward to the next decade of Bangkok Rules promotion and implementation, the TIJ finds itself at the vanguard of these passionate debates, both domestically and internationally. In 2020, for example, two-TIJ funded reports were released: a Toolkit on Gender Responsive Non-custodial Measures and The Handbook on Restorative Justice

Programmes. The toolkit argues the case for non-custodial measures that are ‘gender responsive,’ that actively help to transform the gender norms, roles and inequalities that lead to discrimination against women in contact with the law. The handbook is premised on the notion that, in some criminal cases, a positive and conciliatory form of justice can complement, and perhaps even replace, the retributive approach. Within Thailand, these reports have, in tandem with events on the ground, fed into discussions at the very highest levels of government. Their arrival also coincided with a three-phase trial programme, initiated by Thailand’s Supreme Court in January 2020, to improve understanding among Thai judges about the proper application of alternatives to imprisonment.

For current TIJ Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, this emerging area of work – the ‘Besides Prisons’ dimension of the Bangkok Rules – is at once daunting and exciting. “It is a work in progress but holds a lot of promise for the TIJ in terms of engagement with the criminal justice system,” he says, adding that it could easily occupy the next decade. “It’s that difficult to promote.”

This is, in part, because it requires working with more than prisoners and corrections officers, demands engagement with different types of lawyers, many types of agencies, the courts of justice, and so forth. It requires changing deeply entrenched mindsets as well as reforming criminal justice practices and government policies. “Thai society as a whole



Left: Paper plane with uplifting messages to inmates written by attendees of the 8th anniversary of the Bangkok Rules. The paper planes signify the journey that the inmates will need to take – one that requires support from the ‘wind’ and surroundings.

Right: The Toolkit on Gender-responsive Non-custodial Measures released by the UNODC in March 2020.

views certain types of offences with fear, and this makes new thinking on issues such as drug policy difficult,” he says. The best tool for overcoming this, he believes, is empirical evidence. “We need to really take knowledge from different disciplines – public health, criminology, behavioural science, psychology, etc – and turn them into insights that will challenge the existing paradigm and public views on these issues. We must do it in a way that will generate momentum and support for policy changes to take place.”

The empirical research conducted to date by the OBR team has revealed glaring imperfections to the Bangkok Rules, not least their propensity to treat women as a homogenous group. They inspire practices and take into account human dignity, respect and non-dis-

crimination but further guidelines are needed for specific groups, such as the elderly or transgender women. Nonetheless, they are far from being obsolete. Among the TIJ partners, in fact, there is general agreement that the Bangkok Rules are, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and mass infections it has inflicted on prisons worldwide become more relevant and necessary than ever. The specific health and safety needs of women; the greater likelihood of mental health issues for women; the importance of alternatives to imprisonment for women who are caregivers, non-violent or first-time offenders – the Bangkok Rules recognised these and other issues long before COVID-19 made them impossible to ignore.

Today, the TIJ’s OBR team are focused on leveraging the heightened sense of urgency and renewed levels of concern about prison

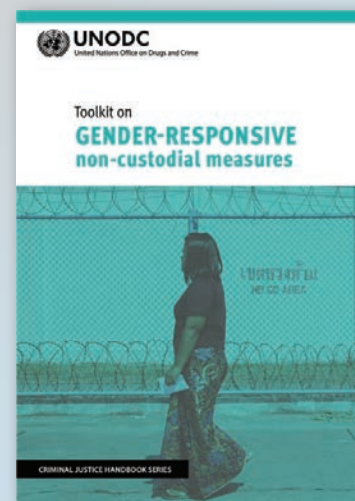
welfare across the region in the hope that progress will not be lost and the full promise of the Bangkok Rules will eventually be realised. As with the rest of the organisation, innovation and collaboration, not just research and advocacy, will be key to their success or failure. Ten years ago, the TIJ looked to solve traditional problems with traditional solutions and was focused on building data. Now, however, it can look at intractable problems such as gender inequality within justice systems or prison overcrowding from an economic perspective, a labor force perspective or an SDG perspective. “This is exciting,” says Chontit, “as it’s shifting our working approach away from just being an organisation working with different government sectors and making the issues at stake everybody’s issues.”

Promoting Non-custodial Measures

As part of its accelerating drive to promote the use of non-custodial measures, the TIJ recently funded publications that make the case for them through evidence-based arguments and actionable measures.

Released in April 2020, the Toolkit on Gender Responsive Non-custodial Measures guides criminal justice practitioners on how to ensure that women in contact with the law are not detained unnecessarily and that imprisonment is only used as a measure of last resort. This ‘least interventionist approach’ is necessary, its author Sabrina Mahtani argues, because justice systems can in certain situations be harmful to women. Moreover, the Sustainable Development Goals demand it. “SDG 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Girls) and SDG 16.3 (Equal Access to Justice for All) and the overarching objective of ‘leave no one behind’,” she writes, “will not be attained unless there is a transformative approach to the way that the criminal justice system responds to women and girls.”

Part 1 of the toolkit explores the key underlying drivers making women the fastest growing prison population: poverty, discrimination, violence and punitive legal responses, among others. It also considers the harmful impacts of imprisonment on women, their families and communities and why non-custodial measures as alternatives to pre-trial detention and imprisonment are important and should be prioritised. Part 2 covers the full breadth of non-custodial measures for women in contact with the law (including absolute or conditional discharge, verbal sanctions, arbitrated settlements, restitution to the victim or compensation orders, community service and gender-appropriate treatment programmes), with specific reference to examples of best practices at the various stages



“Now more than ever, with the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, there is a need to look towards non-custodial measures for women offenders to reduce the burden on the criminal justice system, maintain the health and safety of those in prison and ensure effective rehabilitation.”

TIJ public statement for launch of ‘Toolkit on Gender Responsive Non-custodial Measures’, April 2020

of the criminal justice system. Part 3 is about special categories of women who require additional considerations, such as survivors of gender-based violence, foreign national women who may be survivors of trafficking and exploitation, and women arrested for drug trafficking.

— Chapter 2 —

The TIJ's International Network





The United Nations office in Vienna, Austria.

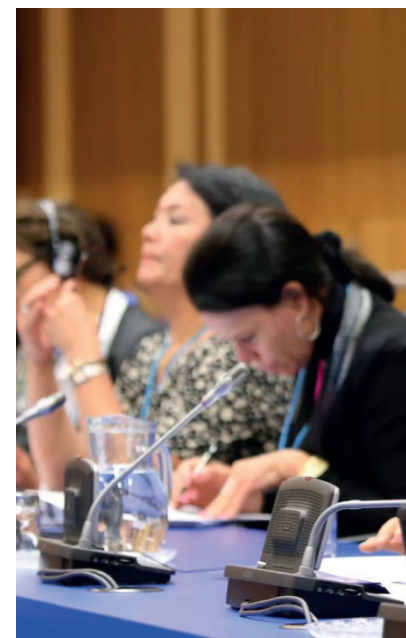
Since its beginning, the TIJ held a very international mindset, had international aspirations and drew guidance and advice from a range of Thai experts with backgrounds in global affairs, including diplomats from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Adisak Panupong, the TIJ's first Executive Director, for example, was an accomplished Thai diplomat with several high-profile ambassador postings overseas. Likewise, Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, a former Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN, brought his own expertise in regional and global issues to the advisory role that he continues to hold with the TIJ.

Further reflecting the TIJ's international openness, in September 2012, an informal meeting held in Bangkok to determine the nascent organisation's strategic framework and programme featured representatives of various intergovernmental organisations and international experts. During the multi-day meeting, attendees agreed that the TIJ would aim to serve not only Thailand, but also ASEAN and the global community in areas of research, training and capacity-building. They noted that justice institutes tended to be located in highly industrialised countries, and believed there would be clear added value in having an institute in a country such as Thailand. Further, they envisioned from the beginning opportunities for regional synergy among ASEAN's political and security community. Moreover, the United Nations, and in particular the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN-PNI and the UN regional offices were identified as important partners for the TIJ.

At a reception held during the International Human Rights Conference, which was hosted in Bangkok in June 2013, then Executive Director Adisak gave a speech that emphasised that the TIJ had been established "as a semi-private organisation in affiliation with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand to promote the development of justice systems in accordance with international standards and norms." The speech touched on many of the key relationships and topics that the TIJ would occupy itself with beyond the Bangkok Rules. "In addition to the focus on women prisoners and women offenders," Adisak said, "the TIJ is also very keen to engage in the discussion on the post-2015 development agenda with a view to mainstreaming the nexus between crime and development." He also commented on the importance of stronger collaboration between ASEAN and Asian countries and the TIJ's close working relationship with the UNODC.

"The TIJ focuses on expanding cooperation with a network of friends and partner organisations both domestic and abroad. The goal is to develop our potential as well as to gain international recognition. We aspire to be the centre of excellence in criminal justice."

Adisak Panupong,
the TIJ's first Executive
Director, in 2014





Top: The TIJ delegation poses for a photo during its trip to give a presentation at the UNGA's High-level lunch on Women, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and Post-2015 Development Agenda held in September 2015 in New York.

Bottom left: The TIJ delegation at the 25th session of the CCPCJ in May 2016 in Vienna, Austria.

Bottom right: The TIJ's supporting documents for the UNGA's High-level lunch in September 2015 in New York.

Making of the Model Strategies

In its early years, the TIJ worked quickly to deepen its existing relationships with international bodies by spearheading a major new initiative known as the ‘Model Strategies,’ which seeks to codify protections for another consistently vulnerable population: children.

Violence against children is a cross-cultural and cross-social class phenomenon that affects millions of youth in every region of the world. Children are susceptible to violence in a wide range of settings, including when they come in contact with the justice system.

Against this backdrop, the government of Thailand in cooperation with the TIJ hosted the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting in Bangkok in February 2014. With the support of the UNODC, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary General on Violence against Children, UNICEF, OHCHR (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights) and other non-governmental organisations, they developed a framework for what became known as the ‘Model Strategies.’

The framework is grounded in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments, as well as on several United Nations standards and norms in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Article 19 of the UN Convention on

the Rights of the Child, for example, states that nations shall take “appropriate measures” to protect children “from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.”

Just ten months after the Bangkok meeting, in December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly officially adopted the Model Strategies, whose full name is: ‘The United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.’ For HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha and the TIJ, and many others directly involved, the Model Strategies represented the welcome mainstreaming of a system-wide, rights-based approach to violence against children.

The international community, in general, finally had a comprehensive framework to develop and implement the necessary legal, policy and operational reforms to improve not only the effectiveness of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to violence against children,



HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presides over the Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on drafting the Model Strategies and practical measures on eliminating violence against children involved in crime and criminal justice from February 18 to 21, 2014.

but also to protect children against any violence that may result from their contact with the system itself, ensuring that whether they are victims, witnesses or offenders, children are treated in a child-sensitive manner, and that their best interests are taken into primary consideration at all stages of the justice process.

The Model Strategies propose a total of 17 strategies organised into three distinct groups:

- strategies to prevent and respond to violence against children in contact with the justice system;
- strategies to improve the ability and capacity of the criminal justice system to

respond to crimes of violence against children and to protect child victims effectively;

- general prevention strategies to address violence against children as part of broader child protection and crime prevention initiatives

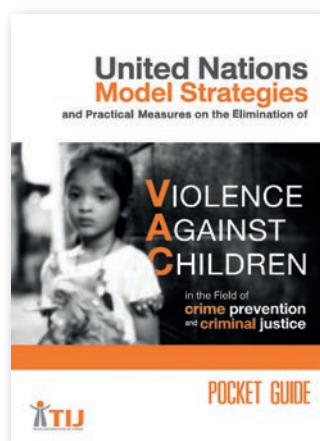
At the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in Doha, Qatar in April 2015, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha articulated in a speech that the adoption of the Model Strategies was merely “the point of departure.” To translate them into reality, she argued, the international community should now engage “in their wide dissemination, in fostering the political willingness to implement

them, and in reviewing legislation and building capacity where needed.” As with the Bangkok Rules, both the TIJ and Thailand’s Office of the Attorney General (OAG) have since played an important role in their regional dissemination.

In partnership with the UNODC, for example, the TIJ has produced a range of technical assistance tools – an ‘Introduction Booklet,’ ‘Checklist’ and ‘Pocket Guide’ – geared towards mobilising criminal justice and child protection professionals, among other stakeholders. These give guidance on how everyone from legislators and judges to prosecutors can make daily use of the Model Strategies, address violence against children in a more strategic and effective manner and identify their own reform and capacity-building agenda.

“I am convinced that this document will be a source of valuable practical guidance to all stakeholders involved in protecting children from violence across Thailand – be they legislators, policymakers, judges, prosecutors, law enforcement officers, detention facility officers, legal aid providers, child protection professionals or child rights advocates.”

Valerie Lebaux, Chief
of the UNODC's
Justice Section



The TIJ delegation and ex-juvenile offenders from the Bounce Be Good (BBG) club at the TIJ's exhibition on 'Investing in the Future: Revitalizing and Empowering Youth' during the 28th session of the CCPCJ on May 20, 2019 in Vienna, Austria.

In that spirit, the TIJ and the UNODC also arranged regional workshops for police, prosecutors, judges and social workers and disseminated the Model Strategies, which are broken down into 47 practical measures, through public channels and forums.

Since the UN adopted the Model Strategies in 2014, the TIJ has continued to promote and support their implementation domestically. In July 2021, in an effort to aid the Thai government in its adoption of this global policy, the TIJ and the Nitivajra Institute in Thailand's Office of the Attorney-General (OAG) created an official translation of the Model Strategies in Thai. The goal is to enable local organisations to devise plans that are in compliance with the Model Strategies.

Also, the Thai government and TIJ have spearheaded a campaign for a new set of United Nations guidelines that will, if adopted, offer those working with children evidence-based strategies for how to use sports as a tool for reducing the numbers of at-risk youths who commit crime, and for enhancing tertiary crime prevention for those already in conflict with the law.

To date, the Thai government has tabled a UN Resolution ('2019/16: 'Integrating Sports into

Youth Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Strategies') and the TIJ has convened a UN-mandated expert group meeting in Bangkok where stakeholders compiled best practices on this nascent subject. This effort has been spurred partly by the Doha Declaration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, both of which recognise the contributions of sports to the empowerment of young people and partly by the good practices of a sports charity for vulnerable Thai youth that was founded in 2016 by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha, Bounce Be Good (BBG). BBG afforded the TIJ an opportunity to work with new partners across the world such as the Qatar government and the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

In addition to performing this advocacy role, the TIJ is also working alongside the Thai government's Ministry of Social Development and Human Security and Office of the Attorney General (OAG) on a youth crime prevention pilot project in Rayong province. To try to improve the prospects of those children at a welfare protection centre, it is connecting staff there with its broad network of private sector leaders and professionals and assisting in the development of a recreational curriculum.

All Hands on Deck at the Doha Crime Congress

The 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice was the first major event the TIJ joined as an official entity. Through wide participation in the Doha Crime Congress, the TIJ introduced itself on the world stage as an impactful change-maker.

After successfully ushering an international instrument through to adoption at the UN – the Model Strategies in 2014 – the TIJ arrived at the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in April of 2015 with a growing international reputation as an effective and committed change-maker. At the previous Crime Congress – held in Salvador, Brazil in 2010 – the Bangkok Rules had been presented to the international community for the first time. By 2015, the TIJ could boast of an accomplished track record, and as such it assumed a more substantive support role as the latest Crime Congress got underway in Doha.

The Doha Crime Congress was the first major event the TIJ joined as an official entity. Previously, the organisation would send representatives as part of the Thai delegation, but in 2015 the group played a more important role, even as a relatively unknown entity. The TIJ aimed to

introduce itself on the world stage – and succeeded. It participated in every available event, including workshops, ancillary sessions, high-level events and exhibitions. Furthermore, TIJ representatives networked and held bilateral meetings with potential partners. The TIJ brought a large team, including young staff who would later become the driving force of the organisation.

At the Doha Crime Congress, with five years having passed since the UN's ratification of the Bangkok Rules, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha delivered a speech on further meeting the needs of women prisoners through effective and sustainable implementation of the United Nations standards and norms. In her address, Her Royal Highness said: "From Salvador to Doha, the Bangkok Rules journey has now brought them back to the Crime Congress – this time for a critical evaluation. We will see how the Bangkok Rules have contributed to the work of the prison



The TIJ delegation at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held from April 12 to 19, 2015 in Doha, Qatar.

administration in addressing the treatment and social reintegration of women prisoners and preventing their recidivism.” In her speech, Her Royal Highness also called for domestic laws and sentencing policies to emphasise rehabilitation and reintegration and the use of non-custodial measures and alternatives, saying that the imprisonment of women should only be considered “as a last resort.”

Further underscoring the TIJ’s growing status, the institute organised and co-organised four ancillary meetings during the Doha Crime Congress on women and children as victims, offenders and agents of crime prevention; improving the quality of crime and justice statistics; political aspects of crime prevention and their effects on reducing crime; and criminal justice performance measures. Moreover, the TIJ’s experts participated as speakers

and panellists at three other events related to female prisoners, violence against children and transnational crimes and justice.

A highlight of the Doha Crime Congress experience for the TIJ was its exhibition titled ‘Investing in the Rule of Law: Thailand, ASEAN and Beyond.’ With exhibitions forming an important part of the Congress programme, the TIJ mobilised all staff members to promote this special event, which focused on the rule of law as the key enabler of development in all aspects. The United Nations Secretary General at the time, H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, who gave an address to open the exhibition hall, stopped by and was given the printed materials from the TIJ’s exhibit.

Also noteworthy was the TIJ’s active role in the Doha Youth Forum, which was held in the days

leading up to the Crime Congress. This event featured more than 160 youth representatives from around the world. Thailand’s representatives included then-police cadet Tatiyarerg Chaisinlapa from the Royal Thai Police Academy and Jakarin Treedara, an international relations student at Chulalongkorn University. The two were selected to attend the forum as part of the ‘TIJ Young Ambassador’ project.

“Being chosen as one of the first two Rule of Law Youth Ambassadors is one of the most prestigious opportunities I have ever had,” recalled Jakarin, who went on to work as a project coordinator for the TIJ and later became an attaché in Thailand’s MFA. “The TIJ inspired my career and made me want to become a Thai diplomat.... The TIJ is where passionate people with the same ideology gather to promote change in society.”

Pleased To Meet You: TIJ's First Major Exhibition

The exhibition hall at the Crime Congress is one of the special components that differentiates it from the annual CCPCJ. With around five thousand participants attending each Crime Congress, the majority of them will at some point visit the more than 300 exhibits hosted there. Exhibitors include governments, independent organisations and private sector companies promoting products and services related to security and crime prevention. In general, it is an excellent way to communicate to a captive audience with a shared interest in criminal justice.

For the TIJ, the 13th UN Crime Congress was the first major event at which TIJ could introduce itself as a new organisation. Over seven days, through a stand at the exhibition, the TIJ gained visibility and was able to make a clear statement about who we are, what we believe, and how we position ourselves. In addition, the TIJ aimed for the design to stand out in order to represent TIJ's artistic taste, or 'TIJ-ness,' as the TIJ calls it. The theme the TIJ chose was 'Investing in the Rule of Law: Thailand, ASEAN and Beyond,' which was consistent with the theme of the Congress and in line with the work that the TIJ advocated on during that period. The content highlighted sustainable development, protection of women and children, trust in the justice system and the ASEAN economic community, as among the TIJ's key interests. Visitors were able to pick up publications and gifts, watch short introduction clips and talk to TIJ staff on topics of common interest.

The formative teamwork experience the TIJ team enjoyed in preparing and hosting the exhibition was as important as the exhibition itself. Sudarak Suvannanonda, as head of the Office of Knowledge Management, and her team were responsible



A visitor at the TIJ's exhibition during the 13th UN Crime Congress in Doha, Qatar.

for the task. The content and the design of the exhibition panel, introduction clips and the gifts for visitors were all done in-house by the TIJ staff. Every piece of panelling for the structures were carefully planned out and then shipped to Qatar to be assembled at the event, again all by the TIJ team. At the event itself, the TIJ staff took turns greeting and speaking with visitors. Visits by important leaders such as HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha and – briefly – H.E. Ban Ki-Moon, United Nations Secretary General, were significant moments of pride. In general, the collective effort and coordination between all units in the TIJ made the Doha Crime Congress exhibition one of the best working experiences shared by the TIJ's young staff during the early years.

Gaining Admission into the UN-PNI

The TIJ's international status was solidified when it realised its goal of becoming a UN-PNI in 2016. Since then, the TIJ has established itself as an active member of the network with a wide scope of activities.

All of these early initiatives helped to further bolster the TIJ's global standing and ultimately led to its admission in 2016 to the Institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (UN-PNI). The UN-PNI network comprises interregional and regional research institutes around the world and works closely with the UNODC, the secretariat of the CCPCJ, which administers the UN Crime Programme. This means the UN-PNI plays an important role in providing the UNODC with on-the-ground understanding of different regions of the world and fulfilling the UN Crime Programme agenda, whether through research, exchange of information, training or public education (see pages 10 to 15 of this book for additional details).

As early as 2012, when the TIJ's strategy was being developed, it saw many potential benefits in seeking out formal membership in the UN-PNI. Through the network, the TIJ could increase its global standing, gain new connections, broaden its research opportunities, strengthen its mandate and achieve

a unique status both in Thailand and Southeast Asia. Being part of the network would also further deepen the TIJ's relationship with the UNODC.

The TIJ moved more decisively toward the goal of becoming a UN-PNI in 2014 and was granted official UN-PNI status in May 2016. Prof. Dr. Kittipong, then the TIJ's Executive Director, and Yuri Fedotov, then the UNODC's Executive Director and Director General of the United Nations office in Vienna, signed a memorandum of understanding between the two organisations at the UN office in Vienna during the 25th session of the CCPCJ. The MOU officially recognised the TIJ as the 18th member of the UN-PNI network and, significantly, the first – and as of 2021, the only – UN-PNI member from Southeast Asia, a fact that motivated the institute to set new goals for itself as a regional leader on justice issues.

In announcing the TIJ's new status at the United Nations Conference Centre in Bangkok in an event hosted by the UNODC and presided over by HRH Princess Bajrakittiyabha, Jeremy Douglas, the UNODC Region-



Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, the previous Executive Director of the TIJ and Mr. Yuri Fedotov, the previous Executive Director of the UNODC, sign the MOU for the TIJ to become a UN-PNI member during the 25th session of the CCPCJ on May 24, 2016 at the United Nations Office in Vienna, Austria.

al Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, praised the organisation's "significant outreach and effort" on international issues and described the TIJ as "a regional leader in justice policy analysis and research."

That the TIJ was officially recognised as a UN-PNI just five years after its inception validated in many ways the institute's efforts and contributions to that point – and confirmed that it was moving in the right direction. However, the TIJ viewed its UN-PNI membership not only as a goal in itself but rather as the beginning of a new chapter. The institute immediately set out to assert itself even more boldly as a leader on justice issues, especially in regards to the promotion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and in particular Goal 16, which articulates the role that justice and the rule of law play in promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, where sustainable development can be ensured. The TIJ also recognised how being a UN-PNI member could help bolster the Thai

government's work in strengthening the regional justice community in Southeast Asia. As ASEAN's first UN-PNI, the TIJ understood that it would be in a position to influence policies and cooperation on crime prevention and to promote technical assistance programmes in the region. Its UN-PNI membership would also further allow Thailand to tap into a vast knowledge pool, including leading research from academic institutions in the network in order to enhance the capacity of criminal justice personnel and support regional justice system efforts in elevating them to meet international standards.

Reflecting on the TIJ's achievements as a UN-PNI member since 2016, Matti Joutsen, a former Director of HEUNI (the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, which is also a member of UN-PNI) and an Advisor to the TIJ, commented: "Most PNIs have sought a niche set of topics. The TIJ has been more daring – and successful – in engaging in a broad range of key crime and criminal justice issues, from

its original core of the Bangkok Rules, to issues such as restorative justice, women's access to justice, women as justice makers, trafficking in persons, transnational organised crime, community-based treatment, and crime prevention through sports."

In 2021, as the TIJ marked its tenth anniversary, it continued to pursue ways to engage more deeply with the UN-PNI network and was selected as the network's new coordinator. In his capacity as the Director of Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination, Kittipoom Neamhom addressed the UN-PNIs when he put forward the TIJ's candidacy for the role as UN-PNI coordinator, emphasising the TIJ's goal to further strengthen global cooperation: "As a new member, the TIJ has been blessed by working closely with some institutes during these years and we see an opportunity to engage more with the network and to learn more from other institutes."

Expanding Global Partnerships through MOUs

Since its formation, the TIJ, led by its first Executive Director Ambassador Adisak Panupong, established numerous relationships with worldwide partners. From UN bodies to universities, think tanks, and other institutions around the world, the relationships that the TIJ developed in its early years were codified through memorandums of understanding (MOU) describing the broad agreement between the two sides on how they planned to work together. To name a few, Ambassador Adisak established close cooperation through the signed MOUs with Mae Fah Luang Foundation and the Thai Office of the Narcotics Control Board. Among the international organisations that signed MOUs with the TIJ were Griffith University in Australia, which contains a widely respected criminal justice programme and Sweden's Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. After the arrival of the next Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, the scope of partnerships was further expanded to the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI), the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ) and, most recently, the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC), among others. These MOUs typically formalised an agreement to share knowledge and conduct collaborative research. Most importantly, they are symbolic of like-minded organisations agreeing to work together in the name of their common interest of improving criminal justice the world over.

List of MOUs

2013

- Office of the Narcotics Control Board
- Mae Fah Luang Foundation

2014

- Griffith University
- Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law
- UN Women Asia and the Pacific

2015

- Thai Public Broadcasting Service

2016

- Office of Knowledge Management and Development
- China-ASEAN Legal Research Center
- United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the

Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (UNAFEI)

- Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ)

2017

- Cornell Law School and Thai Bar under the Royal Patronage

2018

- International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR & CJP)

2019

- Directorate General of Prisons of Cambodia

2020

- UNODC Regional Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC)

A Growing Role in ASEAN and Beyond

Criminal justice issues across ASEAN can be complex as they often involve threats to national security, law and regulations, the rights of people and the states, jurisdiction and sovereignty. The TIJ has taken up the challenge by organising a major conference, regional meetings and other events.

When ASEAN established a blueprint for the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015, a flurry of initiatives was launched to promote the new idea of regional economic integration. With a combined market of US\$2.6 trillion and more than 622 million people, the AEC was conceived as the third largest economy in Asia and the seventh largest in the world. Member states throughout the region moved quickly to advance the concept.

With the region expected to become more interlinked than ever before, the TIJ began laying the groundwork to share with its neighbours the latest international standards and norms adopted by the UN. In recent decades, ASEAN has undergone rapid growth and economic transformation that has widened inequality, also within societies and between member countries. The fast movement of goods and human capital across borders and heightened connectivity enabled by new digital technology have both led to more opportunities for criminal networks to expand their illicit activities. The TIJ began offering to support the region in advancing

criminal justice responses to emerging threats with the potential to hinder ASEAN's development.

In 2016, only months after achieving UN-PNI member status, the TIJ hosted a regional version of the UN's quinquennial Crime Congress. The inaugural ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ) was held over three days in November 2016 in Bangkok with HRH Princess Bajarakitiyabha as a keynote speaker and panellist. Thailand's Justice Minister Paiboon Koomchaya presided over the opening ceremony. The more than 150 participants in attendance represented ASEAN member states, governments, experts, academia, the TIJ Youth Network and other UN-PNI members.

Prior to the conference, representatives from the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM) nominated by each ASEAN Member State as well as other invited experts and representatives from other relevant sectoral bodies participated in Consultative Group Meetings, a preparatory



Prof. Wisit Wisitsora-at, in the capacity of the chairperson, and Dr. Phiset Saardyen during the 1st ACCPCJ on November 9, 2016 in Bangkok.

body to the ACCPCJ, to determine the overall theme and agenda of the ACCPCJ. The key items agreed upon were tackling the emerging threats of wildlife and timber trafficking, improving crime prevention strategies aimed at children and youth in urban areas and promoting more effective offender rehabilitation and prisoner reform for vulnerable groups.

Criminal justice issues in ASEAN are often highly sensitive because they deal with threats to national security, law and regulations, the rights of the people and the states, jurisdiction and sovereignty. Instead of attempting to impose new standards on all ASEAN governments or criticising perceived flaws in the existing system, the TIJ instead sought to promote dialogue at the conference between neighbouring countries on topics of common interest. Other topics for discussion included

trafficking in persons, treatment of offenders, cybercrimes and the UN SDGs.

In an attempt to mainstream the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the work of ASEAN, the TIJ, in partnership with the Thai Ministry of Justice, promoted the ACCPCJ as a way to engage participants on cross-cutting issues under the pillars of political-security community, economic community and socio-cultural community.

In her keynote address, Her Royal Highness, who was attending in her capacity as the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador on the Rule of Law for Southeast Asia, remarked: “Sustainable development will never succeed without everyone’s equal access to justice and the building of comprehensive and responsible criminal justice institutions like the police, courts and prisons.”

The ACCPCJ was envisioned from the start as a regular forum – to be held every year or couple of years – to share best practices and experiences on common issues, enabling ASEAN and its states to devise well-informed policies and strategies for enhancing crime prevention and criminal justice institutions. In addition, the outcome and recommendations of the conference are submitted to ASLOM and circulated to relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN.

Soon after the first ACCPCJ, in 2017, the TIJ continued to strengthen its regional focus by releasing a report titled *Women as Justice Makers: Perspectives from Southeast Asia*, a study of gender equality in justice systems in ASEAN countries. The report found that although gender equality and the empowerment of women were recognised in international

instruments, structural inequalities still exist that keep many women in low-level and marginal roles in the justice system as a result of both overt and hidden discrimination. Considered a landmark study and the first of its kind in ASEAN, the report provided clear recommendations to practitioners and policymakers around the world. It was an example of the TIJ's efforts to produce evidence-based information to promote women's empowerment while also reflecting the organisation's determination to advocate for women as agents of change in the justice system.

A lack of data and information remains one of the largest obstacles when it comes to countering trafficking in persons in Asia. Partnering with the UNODC, the TIJ co-funded a joint international report conducted by a research team from the University of Vienna, published in 2017, titled *Trafficking in Persons from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to Thailand*. It explored human trafficking in the sub-region and emphasised the need for collective efforts in responding to the problem.

An estimated four million migrants live in Thailand, the report found, and 90 percent of them come from neighbouring countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion. Many migrants enter the country irregularly and remain in irregular situations, making them vulnerable to deception, coercion, violence and exploitation not only while travelling, but also once they have arrived at their destination. The vulnerabilities and risks are amplified for children.

The report aimed to address some of these gaps by including profiles of victims and traffickers, contemporary push and pull factors, routes taken by both regular and irregular migrants, fees paid to smugglers and traffickers and the behaviours and methods of traffickers and their networks.

The Regional Meetings on Crime and Justice Statistics

The TIJ played an active role in developing a community of crime statisticians in the Asia-Pacific region. Drawing upon its collaborations with the UNODC, UNESCAP and the Korean government, the TIJ co-organised the Regional Meeting on Crime and Justice Statistics, a first-of-its kind forum, held biennially from 2014 to 2018, which aimed to build a network of criminal justice personnel and statisticians in the field as well as improve both the quality of and access to data in the region. It also co-organised two comprehensive regional trainings on the crime victimisation survey and the implementation of the ICCS in 2017 as recommended by the second meeting. These activities helped to introduce TIJ's name far beyond ASEAN boundaries, as UNESCAP's mandate extends from Russia to the Pacific Islands. The success of this initiative led to the establishment of the new Centre of Excellence for Statistics on Crime and Criminal Justice in Asia and Pacific (CoE), a joint project between the UNODC and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) based in Korea in 2019, following a good practice from the UNODC-INEGI Centre of Excellence in Statistical Information on Government, Crime, Victimization and Justice (CoE) in Mexico. The Centre works to facilitate knowledge-sharing and technical assistance, advocates for better data production in response to the need for monitoring progress related to the SDGs and promotes, adopts and implements the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) and other related tools.



An expert from KICJ leading a discussion at the Regional Meeting on Crime Statistics and Victimization Surveys, held from December 1 to 3, 2014 in Bangkok.

“The ACCPCJ is very important. Even though it is not a policymaking body, it is a forum where all these different sectors can share their opinions, exchange knowledge and suggest solutions. This includes the youth group, which reflected their thoughts, concerns and what they expect from the government. All of these opinions and suggestions will be reported to ASLOM and relevant sectoral bodies.”

Sovannasam Un,
the Director of Legal
Services and
Agreement Directorate
in the ASEAN
Secretariat



Bilateral relations with neighbouring countries and key actors in different regions around the world comprise another significant part of the TIJ's work. In promoting the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, the TIJ provides technical assistance to any country that requests it. Over the years, the TIJ has orchestrated numerous training sessions for ASEAN correctional staff to increase their capacity in managing the gender-specific needs of women in prisons, including specialised programmes designed for correctional officers in Cambodia in 2019 and Indonesia in 2020. The success of the training programme led to a pilot project to implement the Bangkok Rules in the largest women's prison in Cambodia.

In February 2020, it was time for the 2nd ACCPCJ, which focused on cybercrime. The forum, held in Bangkok, again brought together ASE-

AN member states and relevant sectoral bodies, including the ASEAN Senior Law Officials Meeting (ASLOM), the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime (SOMTC), the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), the ASEAN Secretariat, and ASEAN Youth representatives.

“Cybercrime is a cross-cutting issue that affects both society and individuals. It has an impact through online banking fraud, hacking and cyber attacks on organisations, online sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking,” said Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, an Advisor to the TIJ and previous Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN. “ASEAN member states agreed that this issue requires international cooperation and multi-stakeholder collaboration to find strategies or to reach an agreement to tackle these types of crimes.”



Sovannasam Un of the ASEAN Secretariat pointed out during the forum that ASEAN was expected to be the fifth largest digital economy in the world by 2025, which would make it a potential target or location for criminal activity. He stressed that tackling cybercrime was not an issue strictly for countries' formal legal systems, but rather one that would require input from wider cross-sections of society.

With his strong reputation and personal connections among the legal community throughout ASEAN, Wisit Wisitsora-at, permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand and Thailand's representative for ASLOM, had been instrumental in helping the TIJ realise the ACCPCJ. In his closing remarks at the event,

Wisit reiterated that any single entity, whether ASLOM or ASEAN, would not be able to execute all recommendations due to the cross-cutting nature of the matter. As such, he highlighted the need to foster coordination within ASLOM as well as among relevant sectoral bodies of ASEAN.

Although the COVID-19 pandemic weakened regional collaboration in some respects, as countries urgently grappled with outbreaks inside their own borders, the TIJ said the challenge could ultimately shed light on some of the limitations of ASEAN, which could lead to conversations about how to cooperate more effectively in the future.

Top: Participants in the Youth Forum at the 2nd ACCPCJ from February 27 to 28, 2020.

Opposite: Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivavatee, the TIJ's Advisor and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Member States, and youth at the 2nd ACCPCJ's press conference at Swissotel Bangkok Ratchada on February 27, 2020.

The Kyoto Crime Congress Goes Virtual

Although the 14th UN Crime Congress, held in Kyoto, Japan, was held largely online due to the COVID-19 global health pandemic, the TIJ still played an active role by hosting three ancillary meetings and cooperating with partners on workshops.

By the time of the 14th UN Crime Congress, which was held primarily as an online Congress in March 2021 after being postponed from 2020 due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the TIJ was no longer a neophyte but a well-established member of the international criminal justice arena. Having produced respected research, hosted international events, gained admittance into the UN-PNI and strengthened its relationships with numerous relevant international agencies, think tanks and universities, the TIJ could attend the congress as a respected participant and assume a substantial role.

Back in 1970, the 4th UN Crime Congress was held in Kyoto. Fifty years later, the Crime Congress returned for the second time to Kyoto, in the form of the 14th UN Crime Congress. The TIJ participated in the event with official UN-PNI status which granted it a formal role along with other PNI members to organise the workshops that have been a feature of the Congresses since 1975. The TIJ worked with UNAFEI on organising Workshop

2 on reducing reoffence rates and joined several other PNIs in organising Workshop 4 on current crime trends and recent developments and emerging solutions, especially new technologies used in and against crimes.

Takeshi Seto, UNAFEI Director at the time, said: “As the newest PNI, the TIJ has made tremendous contributions in a short time. At the 14th UN Crime Congress, UNAFEI organised Workshop 2 on ‘Reducing reoffending – identifying risks and developing solutions’. The Congress was the first opportunity for the TIJ to participate as a PNI member. UNAFEI was quite grateful for the TIJ’s interest in co-organising this workshop with us. Our productive discussions improved the workshop. The TIJ always gives swift, constructive and thoughtful responses when consulted. Indeed, the TIJ contributed tremendously to the success of the workshop.”

At the event, the TIJ hosted three ancillary meetings on 1) integrating sport into youth crime prevention; 2) a look back at a decade of the



Top: Justice Minister Somsak Thepsuthin delivers an online statement during the opening of the 14th UN Crime Congress held from March 7 to 12, 2021 in Kyoto, Japan.

Bottom left: Assistant Vice-Minister Mr. Yoshimitsu Yamauchi at the Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the 14th UN Crime Congress (the Kyoto Congress) held from January 22 to 24, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Bottom right: The Regional Preparatory Meeting for Asia and the Pacific for the 14th UN Crime Congress (the Kyoto Congress) held from January 22 to 24, 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.



“The TIJ has long been an outstanding partner with UN Women in advancing gender equality and access to justice for all women and girls. The partnership has enabled environments and resources for a gender-responsive criminal justice system and policies....”

Mohammad Naciri,
the Regional Director
in the UN Women
Regional Office for
Asia and the Pacific



Bangkok Rules, discussing its achievements, challenges and opportunities; and 3) a session on cross-sectoral collaboration for crime prevention, highlighting experiences from the ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ).

The TIJ also contributed to other ancillary meetings hosted by partner organisations on prisoners' rights, rehabilitation and social reintegration of women prisoners, social inclusion and social welfare, global prison trends from 2021 and more. Furthermore, the TIJ organised a virtual exhibition and published papers and research on crime prevention, criminal justice and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The 14th UN Crime Congress was also preceded by a 'Youth Forum' at which young people from around the world discuss selected issues related to the Crime Congress. The government of Japan had reached out to the TIJ for advice

on this, following the successful presentation of the outcome of the Borderless Youth Forum in March 2019, during the TIJ's side event at the 28th session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, where TIJ invited youth networks to demonstrate to audiences how they work together online from different spots around the world.

In the adopted outcome document of the Congress or 'Kyoto Declaration,' comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice strategies to underpin social and economic development, strong rule of law and revitalised international cooperation and technical assistance were highlighted as essential to achieve the targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The TIJ's key interests were also reflected in the document, including promoting the rule of law and access to justice, mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems, reducing reoffending and youth crime prevention.

The 14th UN Crime Congress held in hybrid format amid COVID-19 restrictions from March 7 to 12, 2021.

List of Resolutions Tabled at Sessions of the CCPCJ

The Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) is the principal policymaking body of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. It holds regular annual sessions and intersessional meetings. Listed in chronological order are the resolutions that were initiated by the TIJ and tabled by the Thai Government:

CCPCJ Session 21

April 2012

- Strengthening the rule of law and the reform of criminal justice institutions, particularly in the areas related to the United Nations system-wide approach to fighting transnational organised crime and drug trafficking

CCPCJ Session 22

April 2013

- Model strategies and practical measures on the elimination of violence against children in crime prevention and justice (to convene a meeting of an open-ended expert group to draft a set of model strategies)
- Working towards a reform of the criminal justice system: fighting femicides

CCPCJ Session 23

May 2014

- The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the United Nations development agenda beyond 2015
- United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (to adopt the Model Strategies)

CCPCJ Session 24

May 2015

- Taking action against the gender-related killing of women and girls

CCPCJ Session 25

May 2016

- Mainstreaming holistic approaches in youth crime prevention

CCPCJ Session 26

May 2017

- Promoting and encouraging the implementation of alternatives to imprisonment as part of comprehensive crime prevention and criminal justice policies

CCPCJ Session 27

May 2018

- The rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice in the context of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals

CCPCJ Session 28

May 2019

- Integrating sports into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies

Partnering with UN Agencies

With so many shared agendas and many of the UN's regional offices located in Bangkok, it is not surprising that the TIJ and UN agencies have frequently cooperated on crime- and justice-related initiatives over the years.

The UNODC, in particular, has long been a strong partner to the TIJ, as the two sides share a similar vision for promoting the rule of law through essential and integrated development efforts, including through implementing the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16 (on Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions). Since 2011, the UNODC headquarters as well as its regional office have collaborated with the TIJ to spotlight many issues impacting the region. The two institutes were key promoters of the adoption of the Bangkok Rules and the Model Strategies on Violence against Children as well as the development of crime statistics in the Asia-Pacific region. Furthermore, the TIJ and the UNODC office in Vienna have regularly joined hands at the annual CCPCJ.

HRH Princess Bajrakittiyabha, a long-time supporter of the UNODC, was then appointed the UNODC Goodwill Ambassador on the Rule of Law for Southeast Asia in 2017 to promote the rule of law and development efforts towards the realisation of the 2030 Agenda. Most recently, the TIJ and the UNODC regional office have signed an agreement to address cybercrime. It has always been a productive and natural collaboration, featuring frequent contact and knowledge-sharing.

“The TIJ occupies a unique space in Thailand and has stepped into a unique space in Southeast Asia,” observed Jeremy Douglas, the regional representative for the UNODC on the occasion of the TIJ's 10th anniversary. “The region does not

have a long history of think tanks, and in only 10 years the TIJ has become a catalyst for discussions and the sharing of ideas on the rule of law and justice issues.”

Similar to the TIJ's relationship with the UNODC, the TIJ has also developed a longstanding and productive partnership with UN Women. Gender-based issues have long been an interest of Prof. Dr. Kittipong since his early years working with the Ministry of Justice. When the TIJ was invited by UN Women to take part in the global movement ‘HeForShe,’ he embraced it and was inspired to launch the conceptually similar ‘Speak Up Speak Out’ (SUSO) campaign.

UN Women launched ‘HeForShe’ in 2014, seeking to advance gender equality by encouraging and engaging men and boys to take action against negative gender stereotypes and behaviours. ‘Speak Up Speak Out’ workshops led by the TIJ share knowledge about how people of both genders can fight violence against women. “To galvanise momentum in advancing gender equality, there has to be greater involvement by men,” commented Prof. Dr. Kittipong. “Solidarity campaigns like these encourage the present generation to bring gender-equality issues to the discussion table.” The TIJ also produces communication materials that empower sexually abused women by informing them about their rights and where they can access assistance if they need it.

In 2019, the TIJ signed a formal agreement with UN Women to strengthen their partnership to help women and girls who have experienced abuse and violence secure legal protection and justice. The two parties also vowed to help women and girls who are vulnerable to exploitation and human trafficking as well as those who lack an understanding of their legal rights. The partnership focuses on joint activities based



Top: Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, then TIJ's Executive Director, and Mr. Jeremy Douglas, Regional Representative of the UNODC for Southeast Asia and the Pacific in front of the TIJ's mini-exhibition at the UN Convention Center in Bangkok during an event to officially announce the TIJ's status as a new member of the UN-PNI on June 29, 2016.

Bottom left: Participants from the SUSO Shortfilm Contest under the theme 'Women / Justice / Society' on June 24, 2017 at the Bangkok Art and Culture Center (BACC).

Bottom right: A toolbox with useful information for victims of sexual violence created by the TIJ in collaboration with UN Women. The toolbox is part of the 'Speak Up Speak Out' campaign to promote women's rights and equality in Thailand.



on four UN SDGs: Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being, Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 15: Life on Land and Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Their ultimate goal is to end violence against women and girls.

The TIJ's work often overlaps with multiple international, regional and domestic agencies on a single initiative. The institute's Crime and Development Programme is one such

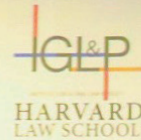
example. Key partners include the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the UNODC, the ASEAN Secretariat and others, all of whom work together to raise awareness about the interrelationship between crime and development. The Crime and Development Programme supports development-led responses to preventing crime, reducing reoffence rates and successful reintegration of offenders into society. It also promotes humane treatment of offenders.



Chapter 3

Sustainable Development and the Rule of Law

In Collaboration With



TIJ EXECUTIVE PROGRAM
THE RULE OF LAW &
DEVELOPMENT



A wall displaying the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the TIJ office on Witthayu Road in Bangkok.



THE GLOBAL GOALS

For Sustainable Development

1 NO POVERTY

2 ZERO HUNGER

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION

13 CLIMATE ACTION

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

15 LIFE ON LAND

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

THE GL
For Sustain

While the TIJ was founded with an initial focus on the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, it has, since its 2011 inception, supported and supplemented the Thai government as it seeks to engage more proactively in the main bodies of the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, namely the UN Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) and the UN Crime Congresses.

In 2013, this role led to the TIJ serving as a facilitator in one of the most important international dialogues of recent decades: the review of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the United Nations’ eight-goal blueprint for meeting the needs of the world’s poorest by 2015 – and the deliberations on the post-2015 Development Agenda to replace them.

Centering on discussions around the rule of law and justice, the TIJ’s involvement alongside the Thai government helped to advance the creation of what is today known as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: a comprehensive blueprint for the planet’s future comprising 17 interlinked Sustainable Development Goals, or SDGs. Indirectly, meanwhile, helping shape the SDGs helped shape the TIJ, giving the organisation an international framework through which it can better define, articulate, implement and evaluate its criminal justice and crime prevention vision for Thailand and ASEAN.

During the decade of the 2010s, the mutually reinforcing relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development was a much-discussed topic in the international community. It was widely acknowledged that a lack of law and order, conflicts and violence or structural inequalities were holding development efforts back in some countries, stymying progress on the MDGs. Many criminal justice practitioners argued that an essential shortcoming of the MDGs – which approached so-called traditional development issues using economic, environmental, health and education indicators – was the absence of any mention of the rule of law and their failure to identify any goals related to the justice system. They believed criminal justice and law enforcement stakeholders had been sidelined in the discussions surrounding, and formulation of, global development policy.

One of the principal experts to openly discuss this issue was Thailand’s HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha, who, between 2012 and 2014, served as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Vienna. In speeches she gave during her two-year tenure, Her Royal Highness often drew on her experiences and insights while

reflecting on the neglected nexus between sustainable development and crime.

Building upon Thailand’s sustained multilateral advocacy on this topic, the TIJ hosted a high-level international forum in November 2013. Held at Bangkok’s Siam Kempinski Hotel in collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the ‘Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law’ conference presented diverse high-level perspectives – those of world leaders, United Nations officials, civil society actors and academics – in the hope that consensus about how best to mainstream the rule of law, justice and security in the post-2015 development agenda could be reached.

At the event, HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha, speaking as Chairperson of the TIJ Special Advisory Board, outlined the organisation’s position. “I strongly believe that development that excludes the rule of law, crime prevention and criminal justice is far from being sustainable,” she stated. “How can we be truly sustainable when inequality continues to create social tensions? When large segments of the population are still barred from accessing justice?”

Drawing upon her experiences as a public prosecutor, she also pointed out that transnational organised crime, corruption, drug trafficking and conflicts are hindering development efforts around the world. “Clearly, gaps in the justice system and ineffective rule of law are at the heart of the problem,” she reflected. She was not alone in this belief. A similar sentiment was expressed in the debates, panel dialogues with academics and civil society leaders and statements given by representatives of 11 countries, including Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Prime Minister of Bhutan as well as then UN Secretary General Ban-Ki-Moon.

Much of the debate among attendees concerned whether the rule of law should be treated as an enabler of the SDGs or as a separate, cross-cutting goal. Another talking point were the dynamics of the rule of law and sustainable development within certain imperfect contexts, such as post-conflict or post-crisis societies, states that are receiving development funds or are not strong-functioning democracies, or where economic or gender inequality is rife. The question of metrics – of how best to measure the rule of law to allow for sustainable development targets and indicators – was also debated, as were the conditions necessary for the rule of law to take root, such as just laws, an independent judiciary and quality law enforcement, and the role that civil society and the private sector can play in achieving that.



Yuri Fedotov, previously an Executive Director of the UNODC, during the opening session at the Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law on November 15, 2013.

Though participants came from an array of different backgrounds and presented a plethora of ideas and viewpoints, the conference ended with broad agreement that the rule of law should be at the heart of the post-2015 development agenda. “Such welcome diversity, whether examining the issues under discussion from their socioeconomic, political or security perspectives, illustrates both the inherent importance and complexity that the rule of law and sustainable development command, as well as the magnitude of the challenge faced by the international community,” the TIJ concluded in its final report.

Two years later, the goal cogently and comprehensively argued for at the Bangkok Dialogue event was achieved with the adoption of the SDGs. Unlike the MDGs, the SDGs acknowledge that the rule of law is an intrinsic feature of sustainable development, namely in Goal 16, which deals specifically with peace, justice and strong institutions. In essence, this goal recognises that the rule of law is cross-cutting and instrumental to all nations – ‘essential for sustained and inclusive economic growth, sustainable development, the eradication of poverty and hunger and the

full realisation of all human rights and fundamental freedoms,’ as the UN resolution that the Thai government tabled back in April 2013 stated.

The creation of SDG 16 was a collaborative effort that spanned the United Nations’ 193 member states and a number of bodies. These included the UN-sponsored High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, and the Member state-led Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, to which the key highlights of the Bangkok Dialogue were presented.

Since the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted, the TIJ has deepened its engagement with the crime prevention and criminal justice issues at stake, taking into account this global agenda as the rational basis of all its activities, while forging ahead with a diverse range of people-centred and innovation-driven approaches and pilot projects. “The SDGs,” explains current Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, “offered a noble and comprehensive new framework with international credibility that we could tie our identity and organisational aspirations to.”

Measuring SDG 16 within the Thai Context

To accurately track and evaluate progress on SDG 16, the TIJ has dedicated itself to developing deeper data and statistics on crimes and other justice-related topics as well as compelling measurements to assess the performance of the criminal justice system itself.

With the arrival of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 came a change in tone and impetus among governments, corporations, civil society, charities and even individuals the world over. Idealistic yet practical, hopeful yet grounded in hard truths, the SDGs agreed upon by the international community laid out the issues and deprivations facing the world, from poverty to conflict, gender inequality to climate change, and gestured broadly towards tools and strategies for overcoming them. But tempering that optimism was a profound awareness that the tools through which progress on the SDG targets is assessed – namely data, statistics and indicators – need to be refined and improved.

This is an ongoing challenge for all 17 Sustainable Development Goals. However, tracking progress on SDG 16 – which consists of 12 targets and 24 indicators – is, given its cross-cutting nature, especially complex. Peace and inclusiveness; access to justice for all; effective, accountable and inclusive institutions: these SDG 16 targets are among the most important yet hard-to-measure pillars of modern societies. Moreover, in

addition to promoting abstract and closely interconnected concepts such as the rule of law and good governance, SDG 16 also calls for the reduction or elimination of many everyday threats, including all forms of violence, trafficking, child abuse and torture, corruption and organised crime.

Various official and unofficial mechanisms have been devised with the intention of quantitatively and periodically reviewing SDG progress, including SDG 16. Most notably, a high-level political forum on sustainable development is convened annually by the United Nations' Economic and Social Council, or ECOSOC. Each year, this forum assesses advancement on a number of the SDGs using official indicators established by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators.

The SDG 16 target most closely aligned with the core mission of the TIJ – 16.3: 'Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all' – is measured by the United Nations using two official indicators. The first indicator (16.3.1) is the proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their

Rule of Law as a Goal and Enabling Factor



A graphic displaying how the rule of law cuts across many of the SDGs.

victimisation, and the second (16.3.2) is the proportion of the overall prison population who are unsentenced detainees.

However, there are alternative yet complementary rule of law benchmarks that draw upon broader and richer non-governmental data. In particular, the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index offers a more holistic picture of the accessibility, affordability, impartiality and effectiveness of civil justice systems, and of the capacity of criminal justice systems to investigate and adjudicate criminal offences. It uses more than 130,000 household and expert surveys to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived in practical, everyday situations by the general public around the world. Performance is assessed using 44 indicators

across eight categories: constraints on government powers, absence of corruption, open government, fundamental rights, order and security, regulatory enforcement, civil justice and criminal justice.

All such benchmarks are open to debate and criticism, especially given that a lack of quality, disaggregated data across SDG 16's different targets and indicators is, according to the UN, impeding the hard task of tracking progress, both globally and within individual Member States. While common to many nations, this issue is especially acute in Thailand where criminal justice practitioners have long lacked reliable metrics that allow them to make concrete evaluations of performance or baseline measurements that allow them to

identify and address those vulnerable areas requiring urgent attention.

This is a problem the TIJ has been determined to resolve for some time, even before the adoption of the SDGs. The TIJ's own drive to become a more data-driven, systematic organisation began back in April 2017 with the creation of the Statistics Programme (STATS). The core mandate of this unit is to support relevant criminal justice organisations in their existing efforts to improve the quality of data, especially people-centric crime data that not only reflects the prevalence of crimes but also sheds light on the nature of such crimes and any associated risks that could inform effective prevention policies.

Thailand's SDG 16 Performance

If Sustainable Development Goal 16 is to be met, the global community has a lot of work to do. In its 2019 review, the United Nations high-level forum concluded that “renewed efforts are essential” if SDG 16 is to be achieved by 2030. “Advances in ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions and increasing access to justice are uneven and continue to deprive millions of their security, rights and opportunities and undermine the delivery of public services and broader economic development,” the report stated.

According to the World Justice Project's Rule of Law Index 2021, the issue has been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, with almost three-quarters of countries experiencing a decline in rule of law performance. Thailand is one of them. In the index, Thailand ranks 80th out of 139 countries – a decrease of two places since 2020. Looking at the figures, the Kingdom's overall rule of law score has fallen over two percent in the past year. It also scores below the global average across all eight issues/factor categories and ranks tenth out of 15 countries in the East Asia and Pacific region. Regulatory enforcement, civil justice, fundamental rights, corruption and criminal justice are, the index states, among the main issues affecting the rule of law in the country. The especially low score for criminal justice performance is due, in large part, to the Thai correctional system ranking 108th out of 139 countries for effectiveness at reducing criminal behaviour and the criminal justice system at large ranking 109th for impartiality.

The stark picture painted by the WJP's rule of law survey is also reflected in other independent benchmarks. According to Cambridge University Press' Sustainable Development Report

2021 – a global assessment designed to complement official SDG indicators and voluntary national reviews – Thailand's performance on SDG 16 falls in the ‘moderately improving’ category, despite ‘significant challenges.’ The Kingdom's mixed scorecard is being held back by low, falling scores in the corruption perception and press freedom indexes as well as crime-related factors.

For its part, the Thai government openly acknowledges that there are improvements that need to be made and challenges to be overcome before this pivotal, all-encompassing goal can be achieved. “Thailand must increase access to justice and encourage participation from all sectors including the public sector, the private sector and civil society,” it states in its latest report submitted to ECOSOC, Thailand's Voluntary National Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development 2021. “All parties at all levels should have a role in developing policies, laws and tracking and evaluation systems in the justice system.” More activities are also needed to significantly reduce all forms of violence and deaths from violence, it adds, “including the promotion of a safe environment, awareness-raising and the respect of law.”



The posters for the TIJ seminar series on criminal justice in 2015.

In pursuit of this goal, STATS supports and raises awareness about the various United Nations tools and data collection methods concerning crime and criminal justice statistics – in particular, the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS). TIJ has played a significant role in introducing and applying the ICCS, which is a comprehensive framework for classifying crimes developed by the UNODC in 2015. The TIJ believes the ICCS is beneficial for Thailand’s justice system because it offers shared reference points useful for social science research and surveys related to crime. The TIJ also supports national efforts to monitor targets of the SDGs in areas of public safety, trafficking, corruption and access to justice.

The TIJ has also spearheaded an effort to create performance indicators that can be internally applied to the key actors within the justice system itself such as local authorities,

police officers, prosecutors and judges. Adopting this approach can help the justice system align itself more closely with international best practices and raise its own standards. This effort began in 2015 with a series of six seminars focused on moving the Thai criminal justice system toward a more service-minded and human-rights-based approach. These seminars examined key challenges, such as the balance between judicial independence and accountability in Thailand, the need for police reform and victims’ access to justice. Citing one specific example, Professor David Pimentel, who was a consultant for the Rule of Law Support Unit at TIJ, noted in 2016 in a journal article how scrutiny of Thai judicial decisions is discouraged rather than encouraged as is common in the West. Indeed, criticism of the judiciary can be a criminal offence in Thailand. In a step toward encouraging more transparency and debate about the judiciary, the TIJ suggested all judg-

ments be systematically archived online so the public could view and assess them.

In creating its formal set of performance indicators to evaluate the performance of the Thai criminal justice system, the TIJ explored various tools formulated by international entities including the World Justice Project’s Rule of Law Index, finding them the most detailed and also the most applicable to the Thai context. As part of the Thai government’s National Committee on Criminal Justice Reform, the TIJ, in collaboration with the Office of Justice Affairs, ultimately submitted a set of more than 70 indicators, covering concepts such as financial efficiency, quality of service and public satisfaction rates to the Cabinet for approval. These indicators apply empirical research through the so-called ‘triangulation method’ to assess the justice system. Namely, they are based on (1) public surveys throughout Thailand, (2) in-depth interviews with academics,

“The possession of statistical data leads to better recognition of the occurrence and prevention of crimes and the protection of all affected persons. It also helps establish criminal policies and gauges the effectiveness of such policies.”

Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittiyarak, former Executive Director of the TIJ

practitioners and policymakers, and (3) documentary analysis. After the development phase of the indicators, it took another two years of comprehensive review at the stage of the National Committee before their submission to the Cabinet. Although these indicators have yet to be officially accepted into actual practice by the government, they still may be adopted in the future and remain an important part of the dialogue at the Ministry of Justice about how to make the Thai criminal justice system more responsive to victims and the public in general.

As part of its push to understand the public's interface with the criminal justice system, the TIJ has also conducted research on 'the costs of accessing criminal justice' to identify the time and money that individuals spend, as well as the opportunity costs lost in accessing the services whether as offenders or victims. It looked into the records of more than 4,800 criminal cases covering different offence types to evaluate how long each stage of the criminal proceedings actually took, as opposed to the time limit stipulated by the criminal procedure code. By gathering such data and applying a cost analysis model that was developed with the help of a survey of individuals who come into contact with the criminal justice system, it was possible to determine the cost and the burden that people have to bear when seeking justice. This research is intended to provide a clearer picture of why many people opt out of seeking justice. The results have been shared with the MOJ and institutes in the criminal justice system. The TIJ also plans to share it with the general public.

Another area of focus for the TIJ is policy advocacy in the region, as well as across regions. STATS works closely with the UNODC and UNESCAP as well as members of the UN-PNI, such as the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice and the National

Institute of Statistics and Geography of Mexico, on organising meetings for statisticians and criminal justice practitioners and following up on capacity-building and training.

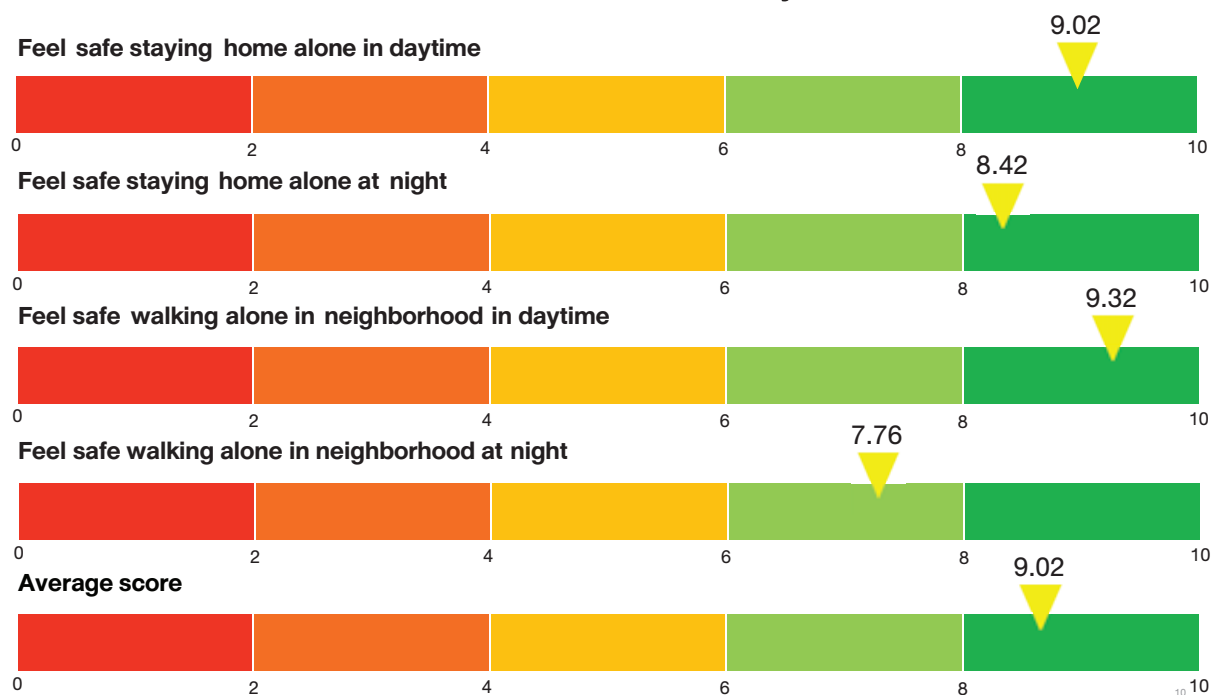
The TIJ has also continued to support domestic partners, especially the Center of Justice Statistics, Ministry of Justice, on creating data requirements for the monitoring of SDG implementations. For example, the TIJ developed a survey questionnaire, collected data and published reports relating to two SDG 16 target indicators relating to violent crime: fear of crime (16.1.4), and child sexual abuse (16.2.3).

For the former report, produced in 2018, 8,445 people from ten provinces across the country were asked whether they felt safe or unsafe when walking alone in the neighbourhood, or when staying alone in their house both in the daytime and at night. The survey set out to help domestic criminal justice practitioners establish baseline data about fear of crime – as required by SDG indicator 16.1.4 – and set standards for future periodic surveys, as well as to promote understanding and build cooperation with relevant agencies on the use of fear of crime data.

Regarding SDG 16.2.3 on child sexual abuse, the TIJ also saw that better data was needed to clearly elucidate the situation and inform policy decisions. Thus, the TIJ, in collaboration with Griffith University, has reviewed 15 relevant childhood victimisation survey instruments, focusing on the types and contexts of violence collected by different instruments, to design the best tool to measure it.

Since the year 2017, the TIJ has been collaborating with the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection (DJOP) under the Ministry of Justice to continuously conduct statistical surveys on violence against children and young persons in Thailand. During the

Fear of Crime Survey



Results from the 'Fear of Crime' survey presented at the 3rd Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics on October 29, 2019 in China.

period 2017 to 2018, the studies were conducted among the first group of children and young persons who entered the justice system under the supervision of the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection. The results of the studies revealed consistent data indicating that almost 60 percent of children and young persons who entered the justice system had experienced some kind of physical abuse before, and a higher percentage had suffered emotional abuse. Experiencing various forms of abuse from a very young age not only causes pain to children and young persons at the time of abuse, but it will also result in long-term physical and emotional effects as well. These surveys have spun off into another project to measure and take care of the psychological capital of the personnel of DJOP so that they can better meet the children's needs.

After the initial phase of surveying the children in contact with the system, the TIJ believes it

is ready to expand the survey to the general population, namely children in school and young adults. One part of the survey project was conducted in line with the indicators 16.2.3 of the SDGs relating to the proportion of female and male individuals between the ages of 18 to 29 years old who had experienced sexual violence before the age of 18. It also asked about other forms of violence in order to be consistent with the previous projects.

The data revealed a similar pattern of abuses experienced by this group, children in contact with the criminal justice system and children in school settings. It shed light on the magnitude of the problem, especially on the emotional abuse that was found in high frequency but usually go unnoticed. In addition, more than 10 percent of those surveyed reported being subjected to inappropriate actions of a sexual manner before the age of 18.

The TIJ hopes that the project will bring about a better understanding of the situation and the issue of violence and its effects. The data can give a clear reflection of the overall situation of the country, which will be beneficial for the development of policy decisions on the appropriate approach for the elimination of violence and crime prevention in Thailand.

Looking ahead, the goal is not only to make the TIJ one of the primary sources of crime and criminal justice data in Thailand and the region, but also to enhance performance assessment matrices and the quality of empirical evidence to bolster crime prevention efforts and access to justice. As the TIJ stated in 2017, "only with reliable information to answer that big question of what matters can governments begin to accurately assess, and the public begin to understand, the impacts that policies and practices have on the safety, stability and livelihood of our society."

The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS)



The Thai version of the International Crime Classification for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), translated by the TIJ.

The International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) is a comprehensive framework developed by the UNODC, and endorsed in 2015, for producing statistics on crime and criminal justice. Its primary unit of classification is the act or event that constitutes a criminal offence; the description of the criminal acts is based on behaviours, not on legal provisions.

The ICCS is a tool to understand crime extent and drivers and to improve quality of data on crime and criminal justice at the national level. It also supports national efforts to monitor targets of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in

areas of public security and safety, trafficking, corruption and access to justice.

The TIJ has played a significant role in initiating and adopting the ICCS in Thailand by translating the ICCS and disseminating information about it to relevant organisations and sectors. The TIJ believes the ICCS is beneficial for Thailand's justice system because it provides a standard for classifying categories of crime that is accessible to the layperson who does not have a legal background.

Describing the nature of the problem that the ICCS helps solve,



Prof. Wisit Wisitsora-at giving a special lecture on the International Crime Classification for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) at the ICCS Seminar on July 31, 2019 at the TIJ office.

“Data is a valuable asset. In an age where everyone is moving towards big data, it is undeniable that we, as the criminal justice system, have to do better. Promoting the ICCS as a standardised data collection tool would allow practitioners to understand data from different sources, whether from within the criminal justice agencies, private centres for victim support or legal advice, or research and surveys. The data from these external sources is equally, if not more, useful for policy decisions. I admire the TIJ for working hard to introduce the ICCS in Thailand and I am certain that the Ministry of Justice will benefit from it.”

Wisit Wisitsora-at, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice

Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak commented in 2019: “The ICCS serves as an ‘interlingua’ among organisations, where collected data can be used to create a larger data warehouse that organisations and people in the public sector can jointly use. Thailand’s problem today is that there is no central organisation for collecting data. Each sector merely collects data according to its own preferences. So, data collection is limited.”

Commenting on the virtues of the ICCS, Sudarak Suvannanonda, the Head of Knowledge Creation and Sharing at the TIJ who previously led the STATS unit, notes, “If all crime data were published using the ICCS definition, it would be more accessible to the general population. I imagine that if people knew there was a tool that could make them understand and better keep track of criminal justice performance, they would certainly demand that the government adopt such a tool.”

Another benefit of introducing the ICCS to Thailand is that it can help provide data on unreported crimes. For example, those victims who choose to seek help from shelters or human rights groups, but not press charges with the police, can have their case information documented and then potentially integrated or evaluated later with police data.

In addition to translating the ICCS, the TIJ is mapping the ICCS to Thai criminal law, a process that will take around four years. This review has uncovered flaws in existing Thai criminal laws, including redundancies, inconsistencies, unenforceability issues and obsolescence. Some flaws are minor, such as the fact there is no offence for controlling a water vehicle while intoxicated. Others are problematic at a policy level. For instance, most environmental laws in Thailand punish offenders for not following officers’ notices but not for the actual act of harming the environment. The TIJ is urging law professors to teach how ICCS compares to Thai laws and it drafts recommendations for the office of the council of state and points out problems for their further consideration. The TIJ also advocates for the implementation of ICCS by undertaking capacity-building activities and supporting organisations that want to use it.

Development-led Approach to Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

Development-led approaches to crime prevention and criminal justice make up a small but growing part of TIJ’s portfolio. This multi-sectoral approach consists of identifying the underlying structural factors affecting or impacting those at risk of committing crime or of becoming victims of crime then creating policy interventions or programmes in response.

With the advent of the SDGs in 2015 came an organisational shift at the TIJ towards a development-led approach aimed at addressing the root causes of crime and injustice. Most of the work today in motion at the TIJ – from its interventions targeted at the traditional criminal justice system and its practitioners through to its more innovative crime prevention efforts rooted in cross-sectoral collaborations – can be viewed through a development-led lens.

In 2018, Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, the then Executive Director, defined the development-led approach as “a framework that broadens the scope of criminal justice interventions beyond their traditional boundaries.” At the very minimum, a development-led approach should consist of identifying the underlying structural factors affecting or impacting those at risk of committing crime or of becoming victims of crime, then creating policy interventions or programmes in response.

Development-led crime prevention also takes into consideration how crime prevention and criminal justice are affected by development in

other areas such as the economy, employment opportunities, public health, education, poverty, demographics and so forth. Furthermore, it conversely examines how decisions made on crime prevention and criminal justice have an impact on those other areas of development.

This approach is, by definition, multidisciplinary, demanding partnerships between the criminal justice sector and other relevant sectors, and therefore grounded in the assumption that there is a direct link between criminal justice and sustainable development. This linkage “had been identified before,” Prof. Dr. Kittipong wrote, “but has recently regained prominence against the backdrop of the new global agenda on sustainable development, with the inclusion of justice, peace and institutions now recognised as part of the SDGs.”

Indeed, internationally, development-led seems to be a new vernacular that is catching on in the world of crime prevention and criminal justice. While the term has been introduced to the UN community largely by the TIJ, the development-led concept is not something new. Already a century and a half ago, criminologists were becoming increasingly



Participants in the 'International Conference on Alternative Development 2 (ICAD2),' co-organised by the TIJ, the Narcotics Control Board, Mae Fah Luang Foundation and Highland Research and Development Institute on a field visit to different alternative development project sites in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai, and Myanmar from November 18 to 24, 2015.

aware of how society (in the general sense) affects crime. The Belgian sociologist, Adolphe Quetelet (1786–1874), who was a trailblazer in applying statistics to the social sciences, was struck by how the number of criminal offences remained relatively stable from year to year, even though the individual offenders would be different. He was perhaps the first scientist to suggest that criminality is not something innate – people are not ‘born criminals’ – but something that may be caused by society itself.

Since Quetelet, many different theories have been offered to explain how society (and, indirectly, development) affects crime. Sociologists have argued, for example, that crime is caused by the ‘moral degeneration’ caused by capitalism, while others refer to the impact of bad parenting, poor role models, gangs, relative poverty or poor self-control. This ‘social

development’ approach to crime advocates that potential or actual offenders should be identified and provided with education, counselling, vocational guidance, health and mental health services or a more stable home environment, among other corrective measures. Thus the move to a ‘development-led crime prevention and criminal justice’ approach is a natural product of such thinking.

The word ‘development’ has had a different genesis, however, in connection with drug control, and appears in the phrase ‘alternative development.’ The UNODC defines ‘alternative development’ as follows:

a process to prevent and eliminate the illicit cultivation of plants containing narcotics and psychotropic substances through specifically designed rural development measures in the context

of sustained national growth and sustainable development efforts in countries taking action against drugs, recognising the particular socioeconomic characteristics of the target communities and groups, within the framework of a comprehensive and permanent solution to the problem of illicit drugs.

Basically, those who work with the UN Drug Programme understand alternative development as local (and national) level measures designed to encourage persons and communities involved in drug production and trafficking to switch to legitimate means of earning a living.

While the importance of development is recognised both in the crime field and in drug policy, the actual term development-led itself is new. In the UN context, new language and new concepts are usually debated for not being

King Bhumibol Adulyadej's Development Legacy

Thailand has a long history of projects that put people-centered thinking on the rule of law into action in pursuit of sustainable development. Indeed, several decades ago the Kingdom witnessed the rise of an 'alternative development' movement that is still hailed by international development and criminal justice practitioners today, on account of its success at preventing crime by empowering the once marginalised and disenfranchised.

In the late 1970s, His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej pioneered a project in northern Thailand to counter illicit crop cultivation by the hill tribe population, who had become increasingly dependent on exploitative figures in the opium trade for their income and livelihoods. Rather than try to enforce the law only, The Royal Project, as it was known, provided local communities with alternative crops to grow and sell in the market – an approach that proved successful. Gradually, a culture of lawfulness was instilled as the villagers came to see that obeying the law would benefit them in the long run.

This project was an early prototype in a development legacy that included philosophical guidance as well as grassroots projects. Communicated as a foil against greed, materialism and other social ills posed by both domestic challenges and global capitalism, this Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP), as it became known, encouraged balanced development attuned to the complexities posed by the local socio-economic situation and suggested the acquisition of knowledge and the cultivation of virtue as a surer path to both successful long-term development and happiness.

In 1988, another project in this vein, the Doi Tung Development Project, was established by King Bhumibol Adulyadej's

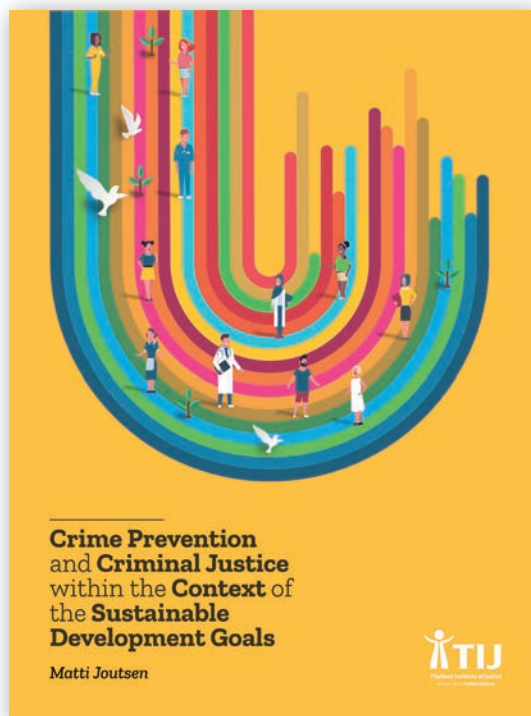
mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra. Noting the lessons of The Royal Project, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra recognised that illicit opium cultivation, drug and human trafficking and deforestation issues in the area were merely symptoms. The root causes of the problems were poverty, poor health and lack of education.

In what was hailed as one of the first alternative development programmes in Thailand, they developed a holistic and people-centric approach that focused on addressing the basic needs of residents and providing them with alternative livelihoods. Within years, the once marginalised had established a supply chain – made up of high-value crops such as coffee and macadamia nuts as well as handicrafts and processed foods – that was connected to the mainstream and reaped them an adequate income. Today, the DoiTung brand under which Doi Tung Development Project products are sold is internationally renowned.

Their seminal work has been recognised, in particular, by the UN Drug Programme, and has been well-documented in UN Drug Programme documents. However, looking ahead, the potential to apply Mae Fah Luang's success with alternative development to crime prevention is an area that can be much more developed, and one that the TIJ is keen to work on. After all, it was the Princess Mother who expressed concern that the communities growing opium poppy in the mountainous areas were also losing members, namely women, to trafficking in persons. Since women do most of the work in the opium fields, when the opium fields are destroyed by government officials, or the men killed by government officials, drug traffickers or the violence that is inherent in drug cultures, it is the women who suffer the most.



A book on H.M. the King Bhumibol Adulyadej's work on the rule of law and development, which was published and distributed in 2017.



Cover of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice within the Context of Sustainable Development Goals book published in September 2021.

‘accepted language.’ In general, it might be fair to say that the term is part of the TIJ’s advocacy work because it brings about recognition. However, irrespective of the name, this concept is also a core and guiding belief of the TIJ.

One of the criticisms of the concept of ‘development-led crime prevention and criminal justice’ is the concern that, by implying that crime prevention and criminal justice should be ‘led by development,’ decisions in the criminal justice system will not be based on the legal facts of the case but on some vague considerations of how those decisions would impact more largely on development. It is for this reason that the TIJ has emphasised in its recent publication *Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice within*

the Context of the Sustainable Development Goals by Matti Joutsen that often the decision that the police officer, prosecutor, judge or correctional officer must make is clearly determined by law. However, in many cases, the practitioner does possess some discretion over what the decision can be, and the law itself often specifically says that he or she should take into consideration the overall circumstances.

To put it more simply, resistance to the development-led approach often weighs the enforcement of the law and punishment against more consideration of the socioeconomic factors and circumstances related to the offender.

What the advent of the SDGs did was to provide the TIJ with a symbolic, target-based development framework that complemented its increasingly holistic crime prevention and criminal justice vision. SDG 16 in particular is built upon the recognition that having peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are all enabling factors for the achievement of the other goals – and that progress on the implementation of the other goals will help to prevent and respond to crime, and thus achieve Goal 16.

For current Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, criminal justice – the operation of the criminal justice system in the broadest sense – in the context of the SDGs means “taking into consideration how the decisions that criminal justice practitioners make could have an impact on the different aspects of the life of the victim, the offender and the community.” It also entails, he adds, “seeking to have all of those involved understand how these different aspects of life can be brought together in order to restore the victim to the situation in which she or he was before the offence, to reintegrate the offender

“The adoption of the SDGs by consensus provides a robust platform for seeking to redress the balance, shifting the discussion towards the importance of helping vulnerable individuals and communities in both rural and urban areas to empower themselves.”

Matti Joutsen and Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen in the TIJ Publication *Development-led Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice within the TIJ Programme of Work*

into society as a law-abiding and productive citizen and to strengthen the ability of the community to function.”

Examples of TIJ work in this vein include its advocating for gender-sensitive justice, most emphatically via its ongoing push for the gender-responsive treatment of female offend-



Top: A public hearing forum entitled 'Thailand's Drug Policy Revisited' held by the TIJ at Conrad Hotel on August 18, 2016. The forum was a platform for discussions about creating innovative and effective drug policies to solve drug problems in a sustainable manner.

Bottom: The 'Power of New Generation for Gender Equality' event held at the Royal Police Cadet Academy on March 7, 2016 at Sampran District, Nakhon Pathom. The event was co-organised by UN Women, the Embassy of Sweden, the Royal Police Cadet Academy and the TIJ to mark International Women's Day.



ers through the implementation of the UN's Bangkok Rules (see Chapter 1 for more details on the Bangkok Rules). This core work dating back to its founding in 2010 closely aligns with SDG 5, which calls for gender equality, as well as SDG 16.

Around 2016, the TIJ also raised the Portugal model as a case study for potential application in Thailand. Portugal enacted one of the most extensive drug law reforms in the world when it decriminalised low-level possession and use of all illicit drugs two decades ago. Results of the Portuguese experience demonstrate that drug decriminalisation – alongside a serious investment in treatment and harm reduction services – can significantly improve public safety and health. In Thailand, however, the decriminalisation of drugs faces an uphill battle

as methamphetamines, the most popular recreational drug, are associated with violent behaviour.

The TIJ has also produced research projects highlighting, for example, women as justice makers or regional good practices regarding gender-responsive criminal justice. More recently, the TIJ has redoubled efforts to promote the use of restorative justice, especially when it comes to petty, victimless or youth crimes. In June 2019, for example, the TIJ hosted a United Nations interregional expert group meeting that reviewed a revised draft handbook on restorative justice programmes, which was subsequently published in June 2020.

Development-led approaches to crime prevention make up a smaller, yet growing, part of TIJ's portfolio – and present a formidable challenge for the organisation due to their multi-sectoral complexity. In the view of current Executive Director Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, crime prevention within the context of the SDGs entails “bringing together the different aspects and functions of society, so that they help to strengthen the well-being of the individual, the community and the state so that people can live a life that is, to the greatest extent possible, free of crime.” Each function of society – from individual and community health to housing, education, employment, protection of the environment, and so forth – is important in its own right, he adds, but “also contributes to the prevention of crime and to the safety of our communities and our nation.”

Also key to the use of the rule of law as a tool for crime prevention is the instilling of a culture of lawfulness: a culture in which people are convinced that the rule of law offers the best, long-term chance of securing their rights and attaining their goals. Ultimately, at the heart of



A hot air balloon at the opening of the International Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD 2), held from November 18 to 24, 2015.

this human development approach to crime prevention is a desire to reduce socioeconomic disparities and ensure equal access to fundamental rights.

Today, the TIJ's expanding portfolio of development-led domestic programmes – spanning civil society, youth, governmental and private sector engagement and the incubation of innovative new ideas – owes much of its character and spirit to the TIJ's Rule of Law and Development programme (RoLD) which was launched in 2016. This TIJ-led initiative inspired by the holistic, all-encompassing nature of the SDGs (a fact reflected in RoLD's circular logo inspired by the SDGs' colour-wheel graphic) set out to create a deep awareness and sustained dialogue about the rule of law and crime prevention among the

wider Thai public. Offering new ways of looking at or approaching traditional justice issues as well as opportunities for collaborations and partnerships, RoLD alumni are a powerful tool against the 'silo mentality' the TIJ wants to disrupt.

While eclectic in their societal scope, all these partnerships relate directly to SDG 16 by seeking to cultivate a culture of lawfulness. They operate at the nexus of sustainable development and the rule of law by fostering knowledge about – not merely within – criminal justice systems and by making the law more relevant and relatable to people's lives. They also fall under the motivational banner of the two TIJ slogans adopted in recent years: 'Justice is Everyone's Matter' and 'Collaborative and Innovative Justice for all'.

The International Conference on Alternative Development 2

Due to its legacy of preventing illicit crop cultivation through the careful leveraging of social development and the rule of law, Thailand in the 2010s played a key role in the drafting and promoting of a framework that attempts to mainstream such practices in different contexts around the world – the United Nations Guiding Principles (UNGPs) on Alternative Development. The TIJ, in its capacity as an organisation that supports the Royal Thai Government by presenting best practices from Thailand in international fora, has worked to supplement and extend that role.

In 2011, Thailand hosted the first International Conference on Alternative Development (ICAD) in Chiang Mai and Chiang Rai. Here the precursors of the UNGPs, the International Guiding Principles on Alternative Development, were drafted. Then, in 2015, Thailand also hosted its follow-up, the International Conference on Alternative Development 2 (ICAD 2), in Bangkok, Chiang Rai and Myanmar. Over a week, 150 policymakers, experts, practitioners, members of international organisations and civil society representatives from around the world exchanged good practices and built understanding of Alternative Development and the recently agreed UNGPs.

Co-organised by the Office of the Narcotics Control Board in partnership with the TIJ, the Royal Thai Project Foundation, the Mae Fah Luang Foundation under Royal Patronage, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the conference was divided into two phases: field visits and high-level meetings. On trips to sites that were once used for illicit opium growing – Wa village (in Shan State, Myanmar), Doi Tung under the Mae Fah Luang Foundation development project and the Royal

Development Project in Chiang Mai's Nong Hoi District – attendees met local people who formerly grew, trafficked and even smoked opium but are today skilled labourers. Once marginalised, faced with job insecurity and a lack of access to justice, education, public health and infrastructure, they are now experts at producing potteries and textiles, coffee, macadamia, spices and other high-value economic plants.

During ICAD 2, the inherent linkages between the rule of law and alternative development were also discussed at a TIJ-hosted side event held in Bangkok. Keynote speeches from Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, former Executive Director of the TIJ, and HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha, whose late grandfather King Bhumibol Adulyadej pioneered Thailand's alternative development pilots, were accompanied by in-depth discussions about how the rule of law and alternative development are mutually reinforcing and how the SDGs are both intrinsically linked and complementary. Participants also discussed recommendations for improving monitoring and evaluation and for developing indicators to measure success of alternative development programmes as well as challenges commonly faced in their implementation.

The event marked the official introduction of the Mae Fah Luang Foundation to the UN Crime Programme, and, at the same time, strengthened its relations with the TIJ since all the core elements of both organisations, whether it be alternative development in drug policy, development-led crime prevention and criminal justice, the rule of law and royal virtues, can truly meld into one harmonious whole.

— Chapter 4 —

Fresh Approaches to Justice in Thailand





An exhibition entitled 'Investing in the Future: Revitalizing and Empowering Youth' at the 28th session of the CCPCJ, held from May 20 to 24, 2019 in Vienna, Austria.

When Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak became the Executive Director of the TIJ in 2015, he had just finished his tenure as Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Justice of Thailand. With decades of experience and intimate knowledge of the inner workings of criminal justice, Prof. Dr. Kittipong realised the TIJ could offer some new approaches and insights in the name of influencing the Thai justice system from the outside.

To improve access to the system, promote the rule of law instead of the rule by law, and to have the Thai justice system more clearly serve the public's interest, the TIJ began to pursue new non-traditional partnerships, methods and initiatives to help resolve longstanding issues.

This strategy reflected the TIJ's view that meaningful progress would only be possible if a wider range of actors and sectors, such as business leaders and youth, engaged in justice issues and saw the positive impacts new ideas and reforms could bring to the country. Therefore the TIJ began to cultivate like-minded partners, or 'change-agents' as it calls them. This push toward multi-stakeholder collaborations is captured in several of the TIJ's key working mantras of the last few years: those include the promotion of a 'justice mindset,' creating 'collaborative justice,' and, most potently, the idea that 'justice is everyone's matter.'

The TIJ's effort to expand its partnerships has also allowed the young organisation to strengthen its own mandate beyond the continued implementation of the Bangkok Rules and participation in key international events. Reflecting this shift in strategy, the TIJ has also become more dedicated to the concept of social impact, incubating and creating concrete, evidence-based solutions to traditional problems. Indeed, the TIJ has had much more to offer the domestic justice system beyond research and policymaking knowledge. With its respected reputation, strong connections, highly experienced leadership and progressive mindset, the TIJ is uniquely positioned to bring new thinking and approaches to the fore in Thailand.

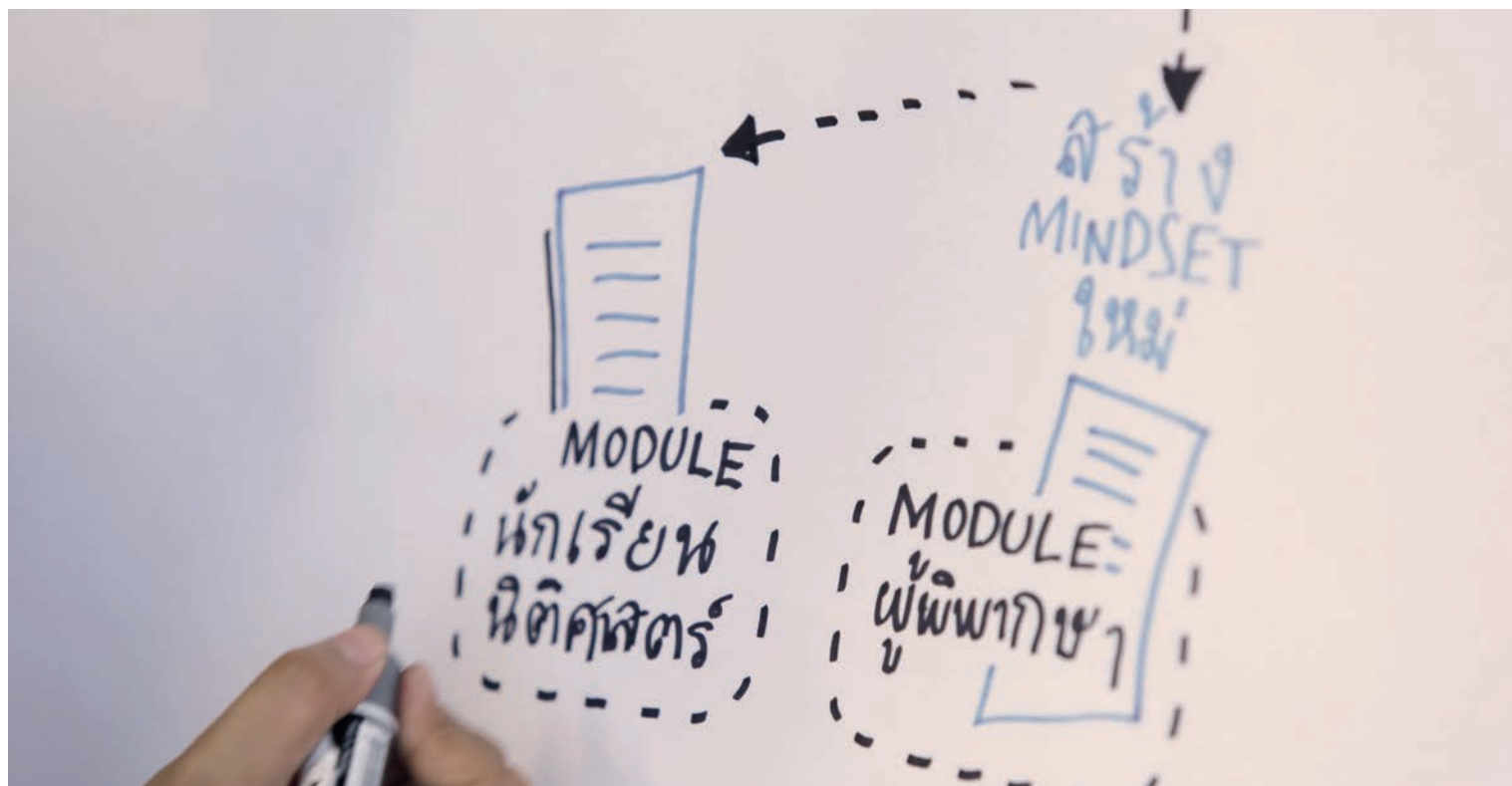




Top: The TIJ delivers a lecture on ‘Technology and Justice’ as part of its Senior Justice Executive Development Programme on March 3, 2021 at the JW Marriott, Bangkok.

Bottom right: Under the j-Ed programme, the TIJ Justice Innovation Unit teaches ‘Tools for Mindset.’

Opposite: Fun activities were held during a seminar entitled ‘Justice Inventor Network,’ on July 31, 2019 at the TIJ office.



Creating Collaborative Justice

Moving beyond its traditional research and knowledge-gathering approach, the TIJ has focused on bolstering its domestic mission by establishing RoLD – an outreach and networking programme focused on the importance of the rule of law – and by launching a youth forum that engages the next generation on justice issues.

The launch of the Rule of Law and Development programme (RoLD) marked a pivotal moment in TIJ’s shift in strategy when approaching justice issues. “In the first four or five years, the TIJ had been building up its international profile,” recalls Dr. Anuwan Vongpichet, who joined the TIJ in 2015 after acting as a policy analyst in the Office of the National Economic and Social Development Board. “Most of our efforts were related to initiatives with the UNODC or UN-PNI. But domestically we hadn’t been as focused. When I joined, the first thing we did was put a lot of effort into revising the strategy. We sought to become a promoter of change in criminal justice systems both in Thailand and ASEAN, providing a bridge between international standards and norms with local practices.”

To begin this process, Dr. Anuwan, whose PhD is in Development Administration, focused on creating the RoLD programme. A one-week intensive workshop for emerging leaders when it started in 2016, it has since grown into a six-month programme aimed at professionals from many different fields. The first of its kind in Thailand – and the

region – the RoLD programme now sees professionals from across the spectrum of society gather weekly – sometimes online, sometimes in person. Participants are encouraged to understand how justice and the rule of law apply across society and about ways in which the implementation of laws might be improved. This means, for example, that legalese is avoided and participants consider the rule of law through a broader lens of fairness, or in terms of their connection to day-to-day decisions and situations. The goal is to encourage engagement and ownership, but in a subtle way. “We want them to understand that justice belongs to them – that the rule of law is not simply the rule of lawyers,” Prof. Dr. Kittipong says.

Recalling his experience in the programme, Rittirong Chutapruittikorn, the dean of the School of Architecture at Bangkok University, commented, “It was an opportunity to meet people from various walks of life who came with the same aspiration: to create a society where all humans are recognised as equals. ‘Justice’ might still mean different things to us, but having a common goal brought us close together. The ties will not stop within the



Participants in the 'TIJ Workshop for Emerging Leaders' held on January 10, 2017.

TIJ or within the RoLD network, but will expand further and connect every sector of our society." Over the years, the RoLD programme has built a strong, 300-plus alumni network linked by a desire to help reduce conflict and inequality in Thailand and promote the rule of law.

In 2016, the TIJ also announced an offshoot of the RoLD programme that shared the same goals but would be conducted over shorter time periods and focus on young executives and leaders beyond Thailand. For these English-language programmes, the TIJ partnered with Harvard Law School's Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP). The inaugural TIJ-IGLP Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy, held in January 2017, sought to strengthen the next

generation of change-agents via seminars with global senior faculty from Harvard and other leading international academic institutions in the fields of law, governance and economic development.

Commenting on the project, Dr. David Kennedy, the Director of Harvard's IGLP, explained, "IGLP has been doing workshops and other educational programmes on global law and policymaking for 10 years in different countries. Here in Thailand, we found the TIJ to be the perfect partner. At the workshops, we put emerging leaders and policymakers together so that we could hear about their cutting-edge research, making the experience most fruitful."

Reflecting his shared vision with the TIJ, Kennedy noted how the rule of law around the world "is not a single recipe...the key is that the citizens in each society engage in legal power and know how to exercise their rights appropriately. The rule of law does not come from the top down. It needs to be embedded in people's understanding."

A second RoLD emerging leaders workshop in 2018 again brought together scholars, future policymakers and youth to promote the rule of law – but this time they did so specifically in the context of sustainable development. A total of 120 participants from 51 countries, including 50 faculty members from 20 world-leading universities in 16 countries, attended the workshops by invitation only and explored the full

“Planning the youth forum, we expected that what we were giving to the youth should inspire them to go out there and exercise their potential, but instead, during the forum, they inspired us. Their enthusiasm told us, the old people who have been here facing never-ending social problems, not to lose hope. It seems these passionate young souls hold the ability to change the perception, the dialogue about what is important, and the world itself, in an impressive and surprising way.”

Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, former Executive Director of the TIJ

Nicholas Booth, an Advisor on Justice and Human Rights from the UNDP Bangkok Regional Office, gives a speech on the ‘Rule of Law in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development’ at the RoLD 2019 event, held on March 21, 2019.



ramifications of the UN’s Sustainable Development Goal 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, which was launched in 2015 as part of the UN’s 2030 Post-Development Agenda. Attendees considered innovative approaches to research and policy in order to promote the rule of law and policy advocacy. Workshops sought to equip participants with a nuanced understanding of the links between the rule of law, policymaking and development discourses.

Expanding its network has enabled the TIJ to not only disseminate its values more widely, but to also test innovative ideas through cross-sectoral collaborations. To help mobilise the network to pilot these new solutions, a spinoff of the RoLD programme known as ‘RoLD in Action’ was created in 2017. Its diverse range of initiatives includes new social

reintegration partnerships to assist inmates, a project exploring the employability of vulnerable groups in the digital era and an attempt to promote financial and legal literacy through board games. At the end of each programme, participants are asked to devise potential projects. Some of these have received initial funding from the TIJ, such as projects aimed at loan sharking, information-based credit scoring, digital employability and promoting better communication across the growing generational divide.

Even through COVID-19, the RoLD programme continues. For example, the TIJ-IGLP International Virtual Workshop on the Rule of Law and Policy, held from June 7 to 10, 2021, featured opportunities to share practical policy initiatives, discuss approaches to complex socioeconomic problems and more, while attendees benefited

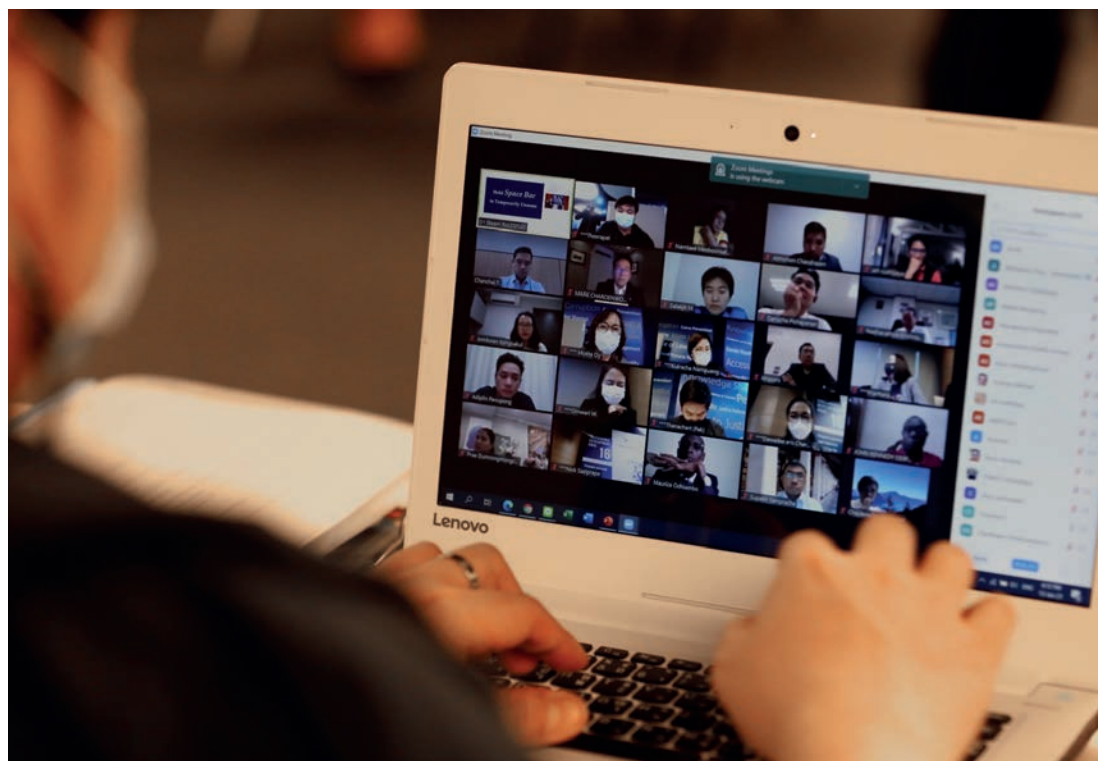
from peer-to-peer engagement and mentorship from experienced IGLP faculty members.

“The TIJ’s challenging, intensive programmes around the rule of law and development have been successful as a magnet to connect us to ‘non-justice’ influencers in Thailand as well as global academic partners,” noted Dr. Anuwan. “Building out a broad network for our organisation, and then investing in these partnerships, has only strengthened our credentials.”

Another initiative that has created new partnerships and non-traditional engagement from outside the criminal justice system is the TIJ’s Youth Forum. Launched in 2015, the forum brings together teenagers and young adults from various disciplines to participate in open dialogues on topics ranging from the rule of law to the culture of lawfulness, as well as diversity, inequality and gender. Participants in the TIJ’s Youth Forum were invited in 2015 to attend an inter-sessional conference the TIJ co-organised with the Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL), where they presented their resolutions during the closing.

In 2019, the TIJ’s Youth Forum went global, applying the latest digital communication technology through a ‘Design Across Borders’ virtual collaboration concept. Well before the COVID-19 pandemic popularised the video-conferencing platform known as Zoom, the TIJ already understood its benefits. The first Borderless Youth Forum, conducted in partnership with the UNODC, was held online using Zoom in March 2019 and attended by 162 youths from 14 countries, mostly in Asia.

The ‘Design Across Borders’ method of collaboration was developed by Professor Glenn Fajardo of Stanford University’s d. School. This method proposes unique ways for people to be creative together even when



The TIJ-IGLP Global Orientation virtual meeting entitled ‘Towards 2030: Looking Back to Step Forward on the Rule of Law and SDGs’ held on January 13, 2021.

they are divided by distance or social context. A key partner in developing the Borderless Youth Forum, Fajardo led discussions at the forum in 2019 from the TIJ’s Bangkok headquarters. ‘Design Across Borders’ is well-suited to address issues related to “criminals and victims,” he says, because of its focus on “human needs and developing empathy.”

At the 2019 Borderless Youth Forum, 162 participants from 10 countries across Asia-Pacific shared experiences, brainstormed ideas, consulted with experts and developed solutions for three justice-related issues: the reintegration of ex-prisoners into society; gender-based violence; and access to justice for vulnerable groups. By staging a global forum, rather than one narrowly focused on Thailand, the TIJ believed participants would

see how different countries often face the same challenges in their criminal justice systems – and that this understanding would foster creative new approaches to solving these problems.

“Young people are the hope of a better future for society. They are integral in building rule of law and sustainable development,” says Prof. Dr. Kittipong. “Now, technology allows us to reach across borders and build a sustainable network.”

Among the forum’s goals was for attendees to redefine what ‘justice’ means to them, to learn how to look at problems through different lenses, to improve their creative problem solving skills and to form a global network of like-minded people who want to address similar issues in their own justice systems.



Top: International youth representatives sharing their ideas and experiences during 'Redesigning Youth: A Showcase of the TIJ-UNODC Borderless Youth Forum,' a side event at the Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development hosted by UNESCAP on March 28, 2019 in Bangkok.

Bottom: A participant working at the 'Speak Up Speak Out' (SUSO)'s Workshop on 'Her Story Vol.3.'

Outcomes from the Borderless Youth Forum were then presented at the 6th Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development organised by UNESCAP in March 2019 and later at the 28th Session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ) in Vienna, Austria in May 2019. A second Borderless Youth Forum was held in October that year and included 138 participants from 52 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe. The TIJ received 300 to 400 applications from 18 to 25 year olds, suggesting high demand among young people to engage seriously with regional justice-related issues.

Both forums spotlighted the same topics – social reintegration, gender-based violence and access to justice for vulnerable groups – because they are often inadequately addressed and persistently problematic in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ex-prisoners and ex-offenders often face challenging paths back to being recognised as productive members of society. Social stigmas make it difficult for them to find employment and recidivism rates in Thailand are high. The Borderless Youth Forums considered ways to end this cycle and help ex-prisoners reintegrate and be accepted in society. The forums also discussed ways to protect other persistently vulnerable groups, including women, LGBT+ people, the poor, the disabled and refugees, all of whom face unique challenges. Reflecting on the Borderless Forum, Professor Glenn Fajardo suggested, "This is just the beginning. I think instead of it being a one-off conference that happens every year the TIJ can think about how we establish ongoing networks that can work together on a more regular basis that really revolutionises the way we build connections that lead to social change."

The Investigative Interview Technique

One of the new concepts that the TIJ is promoting to improve the administration of the criminal justice system in Thailand is the Investigative Interview Technique. The TIJ has partnered with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), a multidisciplinary research centre at the University of Oslo's Faculty of Law, to promote these investigative techniques, which focus on the respect of human rights and the presumption of innocence, understanding that they are the keys to conducting a fair criminal investigation.

In 2018, the Norwegian Police Academy led the first seminar in Bangkok for high-level representatives from the Royal Thai Police, the UNODC, Thailand's Department of Special Investigation, academics and members of civil society. At the heart of the training was the concept that confrontational interrogation methods used to physically or emotionally coerce confessions from suspects often lead to false information – and violate human rights.

The NCHR and Norwegian police promote a 'psychological' interview model designed to search more effectively for the truth while respecting suspects' rights. Investigative interviewing is a way of gaining information from suspects, witnesses and victims by ensuring that the person can talk as freely and undisturbed as possible. The key strategy is teaching detectives to identify the evidence and think of all other plausible alternative explanations in the case before the interview starts and then actively test them. If detectives cannot find information supporting the hypothesis of innocence, then the case against the guilt of the suspect is strengthened. The technique operates on the presumption of innocence in that it stimulates detectives' open-mindedness in looking for information confirming innocence first, rather than focusing

on getting a confession. Growing research has shown that this approach increases both the quantity and quality of the information.

After several activities were held in 2018 and 2019, the topic became even more relevant and topical after a Thai police officer was filmed suffocating a drug suspect to death during an interrogation in 2021. So, the TIJ decided to promote the Investigative Interview Technique again through a series of TIJ Forums.

"Partners like the TIJ are crucial to success when working in another country, culture and language.... The TIJ has been and will continue to be an outstanding partner to us in the work we do together on the fairness and efficiency of criminal investigations and interviewing," said Gisle Kvanvig of the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights and head of UNPOL (UN Police).



Dr. Asbjørn Rachlew, an expert from the Norwegian Center of Human Rights, Faculty of Law, Oslo University, in a video clip presenting an ideal investigative interview. As the TIJ's key partner, the Norwegian Center of Human Rights has collaborated on many activities, including the previous TIJ forum 'Way Out: New Pathway for Fact-finding' on October 14, 2021.

Applying New Concepts

To further engage and develop actionable ideas with a variety of partners outside the criminal justice system in the name of fresh solutions, the TIJ has experimented with approaches that apply new technology and methodologies under its ‘Project j’ umbrella.

Because many of the complex issues facing the Thai justice system can seem intractable and because the TIJ cannot change the law alone, during the second half of its first decade, the TIJ embraced innovative new methods to help solve longstanding criminal justice system problems. Moreover, the top-down or change-resistant ways bureaucracies operate or enduring cultural sensitivities can also make finding new perspectives and practical solutions essential.

Among the new approaches to its work that the TIJ has adopted are two cutting-edge concepts: ‘Design Thinking,’ a people-centered strategy that focuses on developing empathy with the end user (the victim, for example), and ‘Future Thinking,’ which takes into account the likely certainties and uncertainties of the scenarios one is designing solutions for. These strategies have not typically been applied to justice issues, but the TIJ identified their potential. In particular, the TIJ realised they could help identify how the public could be better served by the justice system. The public has typically seen the system as opaque and inaccessible. Furthermore, because criminal justice is administered by authority figures such as police, prosecutors and judges, the public – including victims

– may be apprehensive about the treatment they might receive or have doubts about the system’s fairness.

Adopting fresh strategies had another benefit. It would allow the TIJ to better target one of its new goals – to move beyond the sharing of research, knowledge and ideas and create measurable social impact. Enter ‘Project j.’ This TIJ platform, which contains three branches – jX (for justice experimentation), j-Ed (for new educational tools in the name of creating a justice mindset) and j-Content (for knowledge management and sharing) – was created to apply such new concepts and test the new ideas generated inside the TIJ office, at events or through networks such as that of the RoLD programme.

The platform is original, in part, because it can experiment, often through new technology, in ways that the more risk-averse bodies within the criminal justice system are unlikely to do. For example, jX, which aims to create solutions-based prototypes with potential for wider adoption, created the ‘My Sis’ chatbot, a social-media-based tool that empowers victims of gender-based violence. Launched in 2019, ‘MySis’ runs on Facebook

“The future of justice refers to scenarios in which we predict the effects of technology, social movements, economic trends and other drivers in our justice system as a whole. It is when we paint a clear picture (or several) of what might happen to the justice system in the long-term.”



Excerpt from The Futures Thinking Curriculum: A Foresight Approach to Justice, which was published by the TIJ in 2021

Left: The logo of MySis, a chatbot for helping victims of gender-based violence, especially domestic violence. It was initiated by the TIJ in partnership with the Cyber Crime Investigation Bureau.

Right: An informational leaflet promoting the MySis Chatbot application launched on December 9, 2020 in collaboration with the Netherlands Embassy, ChangeFusion, DTAC and the TIJ.

Messenger and provides victims with information about their legal rights, where to seek further assistance, how to file police reports and so forth. ‘My Sis’ uses predictive-model technology to help victims find answers to basic questions without having to visit a police station. Instead, law enforcement officials monitor the programme remotely. By mid-2021, the chatbot had been used around 4,000 times, with six cases officially filed with police. The concept is being expanded to include another app called MyAdviser, which provides information for officials and lawyers so they are better able to handle cases.

Overall, the ‘My Sis’ chatbot is one of the best current illustrations of the TIJ’s new strategy. Take a traditional problem – in this case, the reticence of victims to make reports as well as their lack of knowledge about how to find help – and use new partnerships and approaches to solve it. The idea for the ‘My Sis’ chatbot was born



in the RoLD network, and the programme was designed with input from a range of professionals, such as psychologists, social workers, law enforcement officials and others.

The TIJ sees the technology as something that could have a wider application in the future, perhaps as a corporate human resources tool to help address issues related to sexual harassment in the workplace. Ultimately, the TIJ’s goal through jX is to identify corporate sponsors or partners that see value in these sorts of prototypes and can help scale them up in real-world settings. The ‘My Sis’ chatbot, for example, was developed in partnership with the Netherlands Embassy in Thailand and the telecommunications enterprise DTAC.

To underscore its mantra that ‘justice is everyone’s matter’ and to demonstrate how the rule of law applies widely to the public, the TIJ has also tackled another traditional issue

‘Datathon’ Workshop

Data technology offers unique ways to help promote public participation in government. In July 2019, the TIJ partnered with the UNODC, the Anti-Corruption Organisation of Thailand (ACT), Open Data Thailand and other technology-focused and civic groups to host a workshop on how publicly available data could be leveraged to help root out corruption.

Joining the so-called ‘Datathon’ workshop were more than 60 participants from various backgrounds, including programme developers, data scientists and representatives from relevant government agencies, among others. Together, they created an open database that allowed public data from Thailand’s Supreme Court and National Anti-Corruption Commission to be read, extracted, classified and recorded. Participants systematically classified the information into a machine-readable format according to international open data standards. The idea was to produce a practical way for the public and media to more closely examine operations in the public and private sectors. The TIJ hoped the activity would further support the rule of law at the corporate, social and national levels.

“This activity is Thailand’s first step in using public information to promote transparency as well as to educate and empower people to stay up-to-date [on what the government is doing]. It allows people to ask good questions about society,” said Dr. Anuwat Wongpichet, the Deputy Director of the TIJ.



‘Datathon: Organising Data for Anti-Corruption,’ hosted by the TIJ on July 6, 2019.

that involves public participation, technology and social justice: the public’s lack of access to reliable and helpful crime statistics. Indeed, government data in Thailand is generally not shared with the public but rather only communicated internally with other government units.

To tackle this issue, the TIJ has spent many years conducting research to raise the standard of Thailand’s crime statistics to an international level. As part of Project j, it has formed the so-called ‘Yak Data (Big Data)’ project, a foray into empowering the Thai public to gain useful insights from data-driven, intelligent mapping research.

Police departments were one of their first partners for this project. Since police typically use physical maps on office walls to construct larger pictures of the locations of crimes and accidents, the TIJ, through jX, is working with them to instead transfer that information online into a digital format that could more easily and efficiently be analysed and leveraged in productive ways. The TIJ started working with Thonglor district police in Bangkok and law enforcement officials in Chachoengsao province in 2021 to begin the data transfer process. In the meantime, the ‘Yak Data’ team was also promoting a map showing ‘fear of crime’ in individual communities. Ultimately this map of perceived high-crime areas – and the map showing where crime actually occurs – will be overlapped to indicate where law enforcement resources could be increased or decreased and to allow residents to make informed decisions about the risks in their communities.

This type of work shows how a small, nimble organisation like the TIJ is able to experiment with solutions to justice issues, leveraging its unique partnerships with government agencies – and the country’s formal justice system – while



“We believe it is the government’s responsibility to provide access to relevant data and information to citizens, while citizens should engage and learn more about technology to hold their government accountable.”

Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittiyarak at a roundtable discussion on technology in 2018

offering a more interdisciplinary approach. In the case of ‘Yak Data,’ the TIJ can continue its longstanding work on crime statistics through a more hands-on engagement with local police, with the goal of creating an enduring digital innovation. These types of cross-sectoral relationships also have the potential to grow in unexpected directions. For instance, after working with the Thonglor police, the TIJ offered to help them adopt international standards for collecting crime data in the future.

Another segment of Project j, known as j-Ed, is focused on incubating new educational tools in the name of creating a justice mindset among students. At this stage, j-Ed has developed initiatives with relevant student clubs at many local universities, providing student-members more real-world experiences, such as field vis-

its that can expand their understanding of the country’s justice system beyond a theoretical level and allow them to experience its on-the-ground implications.

For example, in one j-Ed initiative, the TIJ partnered with the vice dean at Chulalongkorn University’s School of Integrated Innovation to create a mandatory course for the curriculum titled ‘Rethinking Justice for Innovators.’ The vice dean, it should be noted, is also a RoLD programme alumnus. Again, while the projects are diverse, the goal is the same: Move the Thai criminal justice system forward by creating more awareness around issues, developing a new generation of change agents, and brainstorming fresh approaches that do not rely on actions of the criminal justice system alone.

‘Datathon: Organising Data for Anti-Corruption,’ hosted by the TIJ on July 6, 2019.

Staying Relevant

From cybercrime to transnational crime, the criminal justice system must keep up with constant change. The TIJ actively engages with emerging issues and knowledge to support its own work and those of its partners.

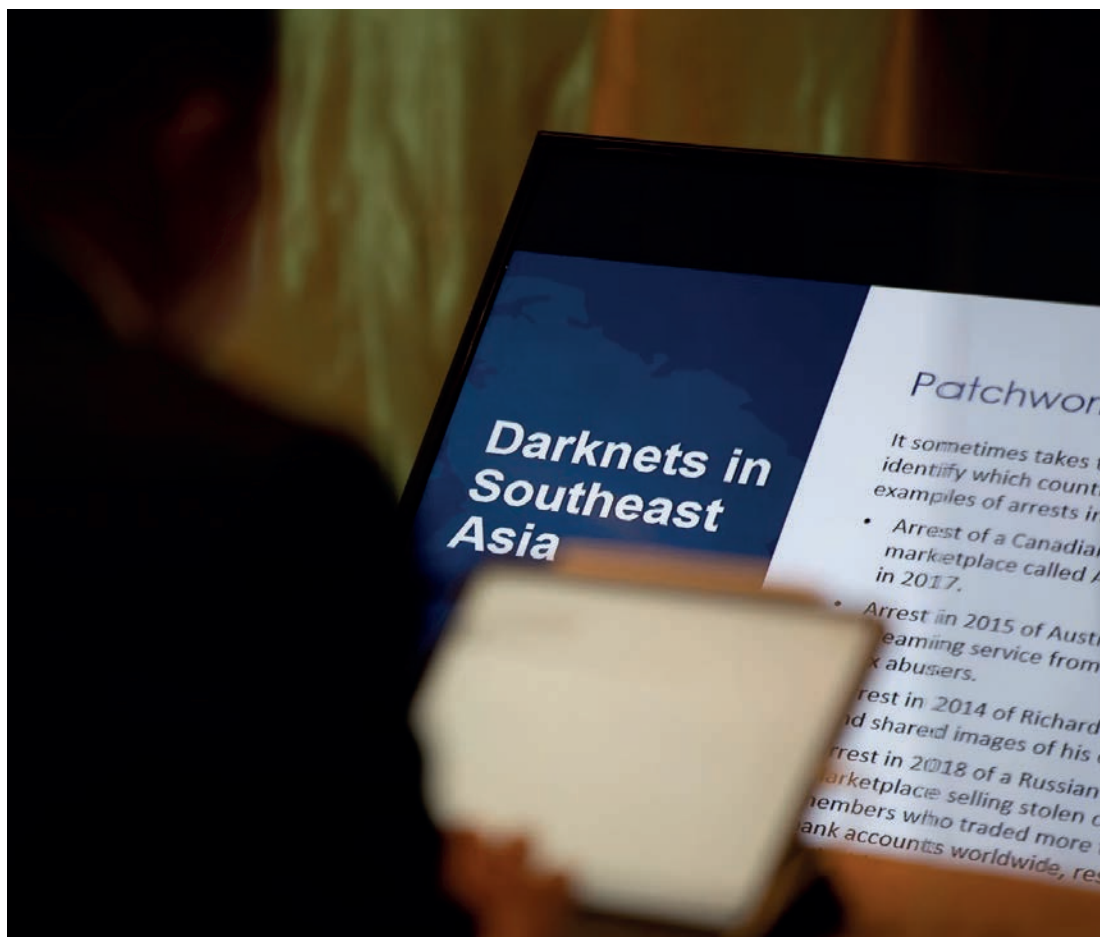
In addition to its ongoing work on the Project j initiatives, the TIJ consistently tries to broaden its knowledge and experience and actively engages in other forms of community outreach, participating in public forums, seminars and roundtables as well as conducting opinion surveys, writing editorials and more. Often this varied work shines a spotlight on an emerging criminal justice issue or a topic that has traditionally been overlooked in Thailand or may even be new to the TIJ itself. The goal is for the TIJ to always remain relevant, stay at the forefront of criminal justice issues and also plant seeds that may bear fruit in the future, if not immediately.

Cybercrime, for example, has become an increasingly pressing subject in the region and globally. In ASEAN alone, cybercrime accounted for more than \$120 million in losses annually by 2018, prompting the TIJ to encourage the Thai government to do more to raise public awareness about the problem – and to start devising solutions. The TIJ has

participated in many forums, including with the UNODC, to address the increase in cybercrime as well as the cryptocurrencies that often accompany online criminal actions, particularly in transnational cases.

Since the mid-2010s, these anonymous, untraceable, decentralised digital coins have been increasingly used as vehicles for money laundering, terrorism financing and illicit ransom payments, and also to pay for child pornography, malware, narcotics, weapons and human trafficking via the ‘dark web,’ where computer server locations are often unknown.

In collaboration with the UNODC, the TIJ organised a seminar that brought together legal experts, law enforcement officers and lawmakers to share knowledge, perspectives and ideas about how justice institutions could utilise technology to prevent illicit activities and crimes in the digital age.



A presentation by the UNODC titled 'UNODC – Thailand National Cybercrime Roundtable Discussion,' held from March 23 to 25, 2021 in Bangkok. Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen was invited to make a statement during the opening session.

Believing that cybercrimes, aided by the anonymous nature of cryptocurrency transactions, would become a more problematic issue in the future, the TIJ encouraged the Thai government to increase its capacity to deal with the threat, such as by raising public awareness. Flash forward to 2021, and the TIJ's concerns now seem prophetic. The COVID-19 pandemic forced all activities to go virtual and sparked an upward trend of crimes in cyberspace, including phishing and online fraud. Digital coins have gone mainstream, and publicly reported instances of corporate and government hacking frequently make front-page news – with ransoms often demanded in cryptocurrency. Indeed, as financial technology continues to evolve, the TIJ sees a

growing need to raise awareness about the rule of law as it pertains to these issues.

Technological advancement and globalisation have helped facilitate these types of crimes by increasing opportunities to commit crimes and by offering offenders access to countless potential victims. In an editorial written for the *Bangkok Post*, Prof. Dr. Kittipong pointed out that women and children “suffer disproportionately the most from new emerging crimes.”

“While increased usage of information and communication technology can lead to a heightened risk of infringement on the privacy and safety of all users, children are at particular

risk, as they often do not fully understand the threats related to these technologies, particularly when it comes to the sharing of personal information, photos or videos,” Prof. Dr. Kittipong wrote.

With regards to disruptive but non-criminal commercial technologies, Prof. Dr. Kittipong has stressed that “the government first needs to understand the changes that are going to happen, while ensuring fairness for affected parties, before answering the question of how to reap benefits from these new technologies.” One approach the TIJ has embraced is the creation of ‘regulatory sandboxes’ in which new technology can be tested in a controlled envi-

‘TIJ Just Right Channel’ on YouTube



As part of its attempt to spread its messages to a wider audience, the TIJ also launched a channel on the video-sharing platform YouTube in 2015. Hosting a vast library of content highlighting the institute’s initiatives over the years as well as playlists that curate different information and TIJ campaigns by topic, the ‘TIJ Just Right Channel’ contains videos on the Bangkok Rules, the TIJ Public Forum, the RoLD Virtual Forum and the Youth Forum, among many others.

The ‘TIJ Just Right Channel,’ which contains content mostly in Thai but also in English, is designed to educate and inform the public both about the TIJ’s ongoing work as well as broader justice issues impacting Thailand. The channel has nearly 36,000 subscribers and almost 8 million total video views as of November 2021.

A series of professionally produced videos on the channel titled ‘The World Behind the Wall’ looks at issues in Thailand’s prison system, sharing stories of female inmates and chronicling their challenges. By shining a spotlight on a particularly vulnerable segment of the population, the TIJ hopes to generate awareness and spark discussions about ways to improve the country’s criminal justice system. The videos in this series have been especially popular, drawing millions of total views on their own.

ronment to manage risks while learning about pros and cons.

Another way the TIJ stays engaged is to use its statistics knowledge to survey public opinion on issues that have captured public attention. In 2020, for example, the organisation conducted a survey on a controversial criminal case making headlines in the media. In 2012, Vorayuth ‘Boss’ Yoovidhya, the grandson of billionaire Red Bull co-founder Chaleo Yoovidhya, allegedly struck and killed a Bangkok police officer with his Ferrari during a speeding incident before fleeing the scene. After a series of legal delays, the statute of limitations expired on key charges, and all charges against Vorayuth were, at one point, dropped in July 2020. To the public, the case underscored a belief that those with power or money in Thailand are effectively ‘above justice’ and will not be held accountable for criminal actions.

To more accurately measure the public’s reaction to the case, the TIJ contacted more than 4,000 people across all age groups. In September 2020, the TIJ revealed the results of its survey showing that people suspected ‘meddling’ in the case. Only 25 percent of respondents said they thought judicial reform in Thailand was possible. Among other highlights: nearly 75 percent of respondents said the case would cause people to scrutinise Thailand’s judicial system more closely, and 91 percent said there should be channels for the public to monitor the progress and outcomes of legal cases of interest, even in the absence of direct involvement in such cases.

A year later, the TIJ conducted another public opinion survey – this time about after a headline-making incident in which a police officer was filmed suffocating a drug suspect to death during an interrogation at his police



เห็นว่า **ต้องเร่งปรับปรุง**
กระบวนการสอบสวน
คดีอาญาในทุกมิติ

ประเด็นสำคัญ 3 ลำดับแรก

- 1** ควรปรับปรุงกลไกการตรวจสอบการปฏิบัติงานของตำรวจ ในการค้นหาความจริงในชั้นสอบสวน
- 2** ควรส่งเสริมให้บทบาทของพนักงานสอบสวนเป็นวิชาชีพเฉพาะ และเป็นอิสระจากสายบังคับบัญชาปกติ
- 3** ควรสร้างกระบวนการที่ให้ภาคส่วนต่างๆ มีส่วนร่วม ในการกำกับดูแลงานตำรวจ

station. The event also caught the TIJ's attention, in part, because it related to its cooperation with the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR), a multidisciplinary research centre at the University of Oslo's Faculty of Law, which promotes interview techniques that respect human rights principles. The TIJ again conducted a public survey, this time contacting more than 5,000 people for their opinions on the case.

These types of polls help give the public a voice, allow the TIJ to stay connected to major events and to use its statistics expertise to create measurable insights and evidence into the public's view of the country's justice system.

Whether it is by conducting a public survey, modernizing crime statistics, holding a forum for youth or educating already accomplished leaders, all of the TIJ's endeavours in recent years show that it sincerely wishes to be at the forefront of change. It is constantly willing to create new ideas, tackle hard subjects and to look ahead. Using its unique positioning to access both international and domestic agendas and up-to-date knowledge and approaches, the TIJ can recommend solutions that may be otherwise beyond the scope or mandate of other bodies in Thailand. With its progressive principles and clear mission as a constant guide, the key question that remains is: how successful will the TIJ be?

The TIJ's poll on trust in the justice system, conducted from September 2 to 5, 2021, highlighted the need to improve all aspects of the investigative process. 94 percent of people agreed that the investigative process in criminal cases needs to be improved in all aspects, from the monitoring of investigations to the way they are structured.

— Chapter 5 —

The Next 10 Years





The TIJ staff at work at the TIJ office on Witthayu Road in Bangkok.

As the TIJ heads into its second decade, it can look back and claim legitimate successes, while acknowledging that much work remains to be done. The challenges facing the criminal justice system and wider society are only growing more complex. Any true reform of the criminal justice system in Thailand also remains a work in progress. However, after 10 years, the TIJ itself is on firm footing and stands ready to help, with a well established international profile, a clearly defined purpose, steady leadership, reliable and engaged partners and an experienced team.

In the coming years, the organisation will no doubt face new and continuing challenges related to emerging technologies, social movements, political conflicts and the era-defining COVID-19 pandemic, all of which have spotlighted vulnerabilities and widening inequalities in society and the fragility of the systems people often take for granted.

“As the TIJ navigates through our eleventh year of operations amid such uncertainty, our ability to carry out the underlying mission of improving justice everywhere hinges more and more on our resilience to change,” says Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen, who became the TIJ’s new Executive Director in February 2021, taking over the top leadership position from Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak.

“We need to strengthen our foundation from within, expand partnerships based on knowledge and produce empirical evidence and innovative solutions. We need to make our work count, with an impact especially in the domestic arena,” Dr. Phiset adds.

Dr. Phiset brings a multidisciplinary background to his new role at the TIJ. He first joined the organisation in 2014 and initially served as Director of External Relations and Policy Coordination. This position saw him actively engaged in the TIJ’s international work. Before that, he held several management positions in Thailand’s Ministry of Justice. He has a PhD in chemistry from New York University and a bachelor’s degree in bioengineering from Tokyo Institute of Technology in Japan. He later earned a bachelor of law degree from Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University in Thailand.

As Executive Director of the TIJ, Dr. Phiset has identified several key objectives for the coming years, including a strong focus on capacity building in Thailand’s criminal justice system. “This is something that will provide credibility for the TIJ in the long run,” he says, “so it will be worthwhile to invest a lot of effort in it. We should fulfill our mandate to bring international standards and norms, best practices and practical

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Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen,
current Executive Director
of the TIJ

knowledge to Thailand.” The TIJ will seek to achieve this in part by leveraging the organisation’s existing relationships with prosecutors, judges and officials in the Ministry of Justice as well with RoLD fellows outside the ministry.

Dr. Phiset also aims to recalibrate the monitoring components of the TIJ’s projects in order to demonstrate their impact and show how they are producing real benefits in people’s lives. This evidence-based approach is linked to the TIJ’s broader goal of serving as an incubator for ideas that could be deployed in Thailand’s justice system. If the organisation can show proof of a concept’s viability, it will be easier to convince others that its recommendations are sound.

“For the next 10 years, our key concern lies in not what more to do, but rather how to do what we do more effectively,” Dr. Phiset says.



The TIJ's Executive Directors since 2011 to the present-day attend a legal aid workshop at the Rayong Child Welfare Protection Center on March 13, 2021.

Domestic Focus

The TIJ is strengthening its efforts to improve the capacity, knowledge, practices and policies of Thailand’s criminal justice system. At the heart of this push are the newly established TIJ Justice Innovation Unit and the TIJ Academy, which will be located at the TIJ’s new headquarters in Bangkok.

On the domestic front, the TIJ acknowledges that it must carefully navigate unique headwinds related to Thailand’s often-unstable and polarised political climate. Amid frequent political crises, the TIJ is determined to remain an impartial and neutral observer dedicated to long-term policy solutions, Dr. Phiset says, adding that it is not the role of the TIJ to act like an activist group or openly agitate on sensitive topics. Rather, as an organisation dedicated to the principles of human rights and the rule of law, Dr. Phiset sees the TIJ as serving a more productive and sustainable role by presenting reasoned and rational arguments for reform and acting as a bridge builder.

“There is a distinct challenge with increased polarisation in society, different views and generation gaps. It is not easy, but we think we’re in a position to do something constructive through our work with respect to the rule of law, the culture of lawfulness and sustainable development,” he added. “We need to cultivate our capacity to listen to vastly different viewpoints and provide a safe space for meaningful and peaceful dialogue.”

At the heart of the TIJ’s stronger domestic focus will be the TIJ Justice Innovation Unit, which began as a smaller-scale initiative in 2018 and became an official department in 2021.

The TIJ Justice Innovation Unit’s main focus is to create innovative approaches and partnerships to respond to the TIJ’s key areas of engagement such as combating gender-based violence, enhancing the lives of at-risk youth and empowering civic engagement in the justice system through data and technology.

“Many of the changes that need to be made in Thailand’s justice system cannot be done from the inside out. The TIJ, rather than trying to provide immediate solutions, hopes it can offer some ‘pre-solutions,’ prototypes or test ideas through our innovation unit,” Dr. Phiset explains.

For example, when it comes to the perennial issue of overcrowding in Thai prisons, the TIJ knows it needs to convince not only officials inside the justice system, but also Thai society more broadly of the importance of considering different viewpoints.



“Thai society as a whole views certain types of offences, such as drug crimes, with fear. This makes ‘new thinking’ more difficult. The government doesn’t want to try a new approach since the public prefers harsh punishments. We should try to approach change in a sensible and careful way,” Dr. Phiset said. “This could involve challenging the existing paradigm of public views by providing knowledge from experts across disciplines, including public health, criminology, behavioural science, and psychology, among others. Otherwise we are in a vicious circle where there is continually high demand for tough action without any practical solutions. And you’re left with overcrowded prisons.”

Another new unit, the TIJ Academy will be responsible for engaging Thai criminal justice

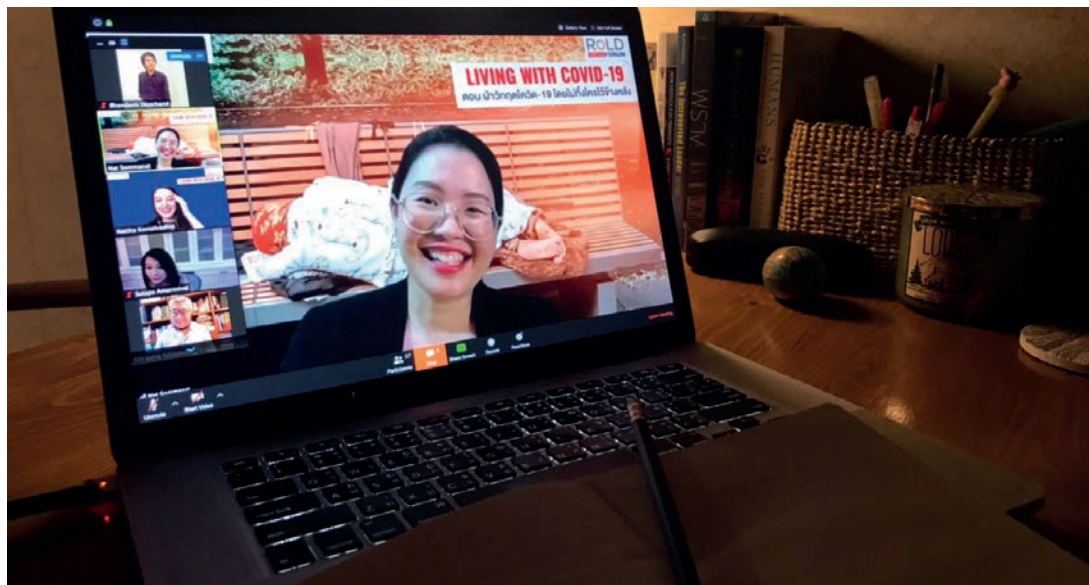
professionals through capacity-building programmes and activities on the implementation of related international standards and norms, good practices and the knowledge and skills that the organisation has gained through its first 10 years of operations.

Officially established in 2021, the TIJ Academy is dedicated to provide the best learning experiences for justice policymakers on today’s crime prevention and criminal justice issues in accordance with the latest developments at the global and regional levels. The courses offered by the TIJ Academy in its beginning years will focus primarily on the key criminal justice challenges of Thailand. Participants are invited to learn how to create solutions with meaningful impact on society.

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The TIJ, together with the Office of the Attorney General, held a seminar for 70 senior attorneys on ‘Technology and Justice’ on August 25, 2020 at the JW Marriott Hotel in Bangkok.



The TIJ's virtual forum 'Living with COVID' on May 2, 2020.

The TIJ Academy also offers specialised training projects for practitioners in TIJ's areas of interest. Among the first priorities included training on restorative justice and cybercrime, cybersecurity and digital transformation for Thai justice practitioners. Official launches are expected to take place in the beginning of 2022.

Beyond undertaking capacity-building projects for the justice professionals, the TIJ Academy recognises the importance of reinvigorating the rule of law and justice education for the network of policymakers, partner organisations, students and the wider public. This will involve, among other actions, working with partners to translate the relevant international instruments and guidelines on crime prevention and criminal justice into Thai and the dissemination of knowledge through diverse accessible mediums. In the coming years, the TIJ Academy hopes to improve accessibility to their learning materials as well as customise their resources to different groups of users.

Both the TIJ Academy and the Justice Innovation Unit are also aligned with the TIJ's

broader attempts to shift the focus of Thailand's justice system from a top-down, authority-based model toward a more people-centred strategy that focuses on serving the public's interest.

Domestically, the TIJ will also continue to promote and support its youth initiatives. The organisation has long encouraged cross-generational dialogue through collaborative projects with universities and other activities, knowing that younger generations hold the power to change the future.

The RoLD emerging leaders programme continued in the COVID-19 era. Global webinar series in 2020 and 2021 highlighted the latest developments, impacts and challenges amid the pandemic, including in areas of social justice, poverty and inequality, criminal justice reform, education and the future of work, and global governance and multilateralism. Regional experts also led sessions on innovative problem-solving tools to design long-term solutions to four major regional challenges, including access to justice,

gender-based violence, corruption and social reintegration for ex-prisoners. Meanwhile, a 2021 RoLD in Action project explored the root causes of the current generational conflicts dividing Thai society and families, and suggested a 'guidebook' be created to facilitate more successful cross-generation communication.

"The COVID-19 outbreak is apparent evidence of how pre-existing challenges within vulnerable and marginalised sectors of our societies are further exacerbated by structural inequality, extreme poverty and domestic violence. This not only calls for the creation of rule of law that is tangible in its outcomes, which can be monitored and measured, but also offers an opportunity for individuals from all sectors to take part in this process. It is as crucial as ever today for leaders to become more resilient and responsive in face of ever-changing circumstances," Prof. Dr. Kittipong said.

Opening to the Public: The TIJ's New Office



The new TIJ building next to the Ministry of Justice is located on Chaengwattana Road, Bangkok.

In 2022, the TIJ is planning to cut the ribbon on a brand-new, five-story, 20,000-sqm office building on Chaengwattana Road, near Thailand's Ministry of Justice. The new office will replace the Wireless Road location where the TIJ had been headquartered since 2013, and it will make its debut following more than eight years of planning.

From the start, the TIJ wanted to design its new office space in a way that would make it both open to the public and friendly to the environment. Located near a future station for the MRT Pink Line, the office embraces Universal Design principles for accessibility and will be recognised at 'Gold Level' according to the Green Building Standard.

In addition to housing the main office area, a significant proportion of the space will be dedicated to the public, with ser-

vices provided to the TIJ's partners and the community. Reflecting the TIJ's people-centred strategy, the TIJ office will facilitate public participation in justice issues. A unit within the TIJ, the Knowledge Creation and Sharing Unit, will aim to raise the TIJ's profile among the general public and serve as a place for people to easily access knowledge about Thailand's criminal justice system and the rule of law in daily life. A dedicated space will feature year-round exhibitions, public areas and co-working spaces with a welcoming atmosphere. Monthly activities about justice issues and the rule of law in Thailand (segmented for different age groups, as well as by topics) will be held. Finally, the new office will feature a modern library where people can access not only books (on general topics and justice issues specifically), but also multimedia and human resources – TIJ staff will also be made available to discuss justice topics with visitors.

Regional and International Work

The TIJ’s partnerships with United Nations agencies, ASEAN governments and like-minded criminal justice-focused NGOs are set to deepen further as they collectively pursue the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With one decade of experience, the TIJ is increasing its own leadership role on international issues.

The TIJ’s regional and international profile is one of its clear strengths. Throughout the criminal justice world, the TIJ is recognised not only as an active participant in international forums, but as a leader in researching and suggesting new policies. Over the past decade, the organisation has also forged productive relationships with many high-profile international organisations, including the UNODC, UN Women, UNICEF and UNDP, in addition to academic partners such as Harvard Law School’s Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) and Radboud University in the Netherlands. Under Dr. Phiset’s leadership, the TIJ will continue to nurture and grow these relationships to strengthen the rule of law and sustainable development globally, while also looking for opportunities to collaborate with new international partners.

“When we partner closely with certain institutes we derive many tremendous benefits, but it also can stifle thinking and creativity in a way if we become too comfortable or complacent. It’s always beneficial, I think, to expose the TIJ to new ideas, new people and new ways of thinking,” said Dr. Phiset.

Looking ahead, the TIJ expects to tackle issues related to the Kyoto Declaration, which offers guidelines on issues such as transnational crime, justice for vulnerable groups, alternative approaches to crime prevention and reducing recidivism rates.

In Southeast Asia, the TIJ will continue to promote dialogue between neighboring countries on topics of overlapping interest, including human trafficking, treatment of prisoners and cybercrime. Furthermore, the TIJ will seek to mainstream the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development into the work of ASEAN. In partnership with Thailand’s Ministry of Justice, the TIJ will continue to push forward the ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ) as a forum to engage policymakers, practitioners, academia, civil society and the private sector to advance cross-cutting issues related to political security, economy and sociocultural communities. This forum is used to share best practices and experiences, enabling ASEAN and its member states to formulate well-informed policies and strategies for enhancing crime prevention and criminal justice institutions.



“It’s always beneficial, I think, to expose the TIJ to new ideas, new people and new ways of thinking.”

Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen,
Executive Director
of the TIJ

The TIJ will also continue to host specialised, bespoke training related to Bangkok Rules. These efforts will likely be regional rather than international in focus and tailored more to individual prisons to meet their specific needs. Meanwhile, the TIJ will continue to promote non-custodial measures for offenders, seeking instead to find innovative and collaborative approaches. The organisation will also further efforts toward its Model Strategies for preventing violence against children and youth crime prevention through sports.

If the early years of the TIJ were defined, first and foremost, by its mission to implement the Bangkok Rules, it is clear that the TIJ has moved well beyond that early mandate. While still driven by the same values that inspired it to lead the Bangkok Rules, the TIJ has found

that there is no shortage of important issues to tackle. The TIJ will pursue a leading role in strengthening regional and global cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice through exchange of information, research, training and public education. In 2021, the TIJ is acting for the first time as UN-PNI coordinator, a role it will hold jointly with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Sweden.

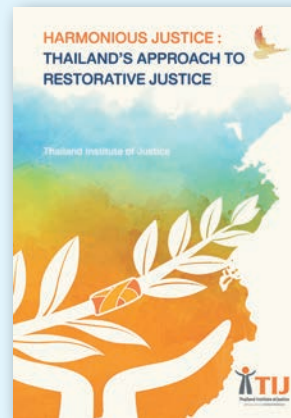
The TIJ continues to stand, both inside and outside of Thailand, at the forefront of change in the world of criminal justice. Whether through fresh research, dialogue, policy advocacy, capacity building or more direct collaborations with its government, civil society, private sector or international partners, the TIJ is poised to continue to positively impact the justice matters that touch on the lives of everyone.

The RoLD 2020 ‘Resilient Leader’ sessions, held online due to COVID-19.

Justice of the Past and the Future?

What if crimes could be resolved without the adversarial dynamics of prosecutors and defense attorneys in a courtroom? What if the victim could meet with the offender and accept an apology or an offender in a victimless crime could repent rather than go to court? Restorative justice challenges the conventional norms of justice as a form of retribution or punishment by suggesting alternative and complementary methods. This approach has many benefits, according to the TIJ and other proponents. As victims and offenders often know each other, in less serious criminal cases, a mediated discussion may help both move forward. Restorative justice can also alleviate burdens on the system. Processing more criminal cases in this way could mean less expenses incurred and resources used by the state.

One of the key options is explored with more depth in another TIJ-funded publication. First published in 2006, the updated second edition of the UNODC's *The Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes* incorporates the new thinking driving renewed engagement with this age-old approach: the mediated resolution between victim and offender on matters arising from a crime. Surveying restorative justice from multiple angles, it shifts from a simple overview of its underlying principles, objectives and benefits (empowerment and reparation for the victim, reduced imprisonment and reoffending rates, improved social cohesion, etc.) to a nuanced examination of how it can be employed at all stages of the criminal justice process, replete with reference to best practices and lessons learnt. The controversial question of whether restorative justice can be used in response to serious crimes, such as domestic violence, violence against children and hate crimes, is also discussed, as are proven methods for effective programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



Harmonious Justice: Thailand's Approach to Restorative Justice and Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes - Second Edition 2020 was launched on September 15, 2021.

While it sounds novel, restorative justice actually has past precedent in Thailand. In the Ayutthaya period several hundred years ago, an 'apologising ceremony,' overseen by community elders or the head of the family, was a meaningful, informal part of the justice system. Villages have often deferred to the mediation and decisions of headmen to settle disputes. The 1997 constitution of Thailand included space for restorative justice.

So what is the biggest obstacle to restorative justice taking off in Thailand? In short 'buy-in.' While restorative justice is currently most common in the juvenile system and in schools, which see the virtue of allowing children to repent for their acts, rather than severely punishing them, more practitioners throughout the criminal justice system need to view it as a legitimate alternative that can satisfy both the societal demand for justice and the rights and needs of victims and offenders alike.



Top: An Expert Group Meeting to review research on 'Harmonious Justice: Thailand's Approach to Restorative Justice,' held on December 22, 2020 in Bangkok.

Bottom: Panelists at the National Symposium on Restorative Justice held on June 20, 2019 in Bangkok.



To create this buy-in, the TIJ is hoping to show police, prosecutors and the courts that they can consider restorative justice as a complementary approach, especially when it comes to petty or victimless crimes. To achieve that, the TIJ is creating a curriculum and training sessions based on restorative justice and is conducting knowledge-sharing seminars and field trips

to villages with relevant bodies. The TIJ also wants to prove that restorative justice works. To that end, it is conducting research and gathering data, and hopes to one day put in place a formal system that will help monitor and evaluate the results of this potential future model of justice for Thailand.

Satellite TIJ events, ranging from symposiums to webinars at which the themes and best practices raised were explored and expanded upon by partners from around the world, were also held. Given the mid-pandemic release of both the toolkit and the handbook, these events were permeated by a sense of urgency, as speakers were keen to stress the heightened gravity of the situation. Among them was Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak, the former Executive Director of the Thailand Institute of Justice. "In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the dangers of prison overcrowding are clear and present," he said at the June 2020 webinar marking the handbook's release. "If this has already triggered a policy rethink in many countries towards non-custodial measures, I feel that restorative justice, too, should be further promoted more widely."

TIMELINE OF THE TIJ'S MILESTONES

2010

DECEMBER

- The UN General Assembly adopts the United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders, or the 'Bangkok Rules.'

2011

JUNE

- The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) is established by the Thai government.

2012

MAY

- The first board of directors for the TIJ is appointed. Ambassador Adisak Panupong becomes the first Executive Director.

SEPTEMBER

- The TIJ hosts an 'Informal Expert Workshop to Develop the Strategic Framework and Work Programme of the TIJ.'

2013

FEBRUARY

- TIJ and Qatari delegates meet in Thailand for the preparation of the Doha Crime Congress.

MARCH

- The TIJ signs an 86MOU with the Office of the Narcotics Control Board, the first MOU with a Thai agency.

JUNE

- The TIJ and the UNODC together co-hosts an expert meeting on the development of model action plan/protocol for the criminal justice system and violence against women and girls.

OCTOBER

- The TIJ hosts the first Asia Crime Prevention Foundation (ACPF) Seminar on 'Business in Thailand: Legal System and Practices and their Future Prospects' on behalf of ACPF Thailand and Japan.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ hosts the 'Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law' to support international dialogue on the development of the new Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) in Bangkok, Thailand.

2014

FEBRUARY

- The TIJ hosts a side event in the 8th Session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG-SDGs) in New York to present the outcome of the 'Bangkok Dialogue on the Rule of Law'.
- The TIJ hosts the open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting to develop a draft set of Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

MARCH

- The TIJ and the International Penal and Penitentiary Foundation (IPPF) co-host a colloquium on 'Women in

Prison: The Bangkok Rules and Beyond’ at the Shangri-La Hotel, Bangkok.

OCTOBER

- The TIJ signs an MOU with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI), its first MOU with an international agency.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ joins hands with UN Women on the ‘HeForShe’ campaign to advance gender equality and the ‘Speak Up Speak Out’ campaign to raise awareness about sexual violence.

DECEMBER

- The UN General Assembly adopts the United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, or the ‘Model Strategies.’
- The TIJ partners with KICJ, the UNODC and ESCAP to host the first Regional Meeting on Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics in Bangkok, Thailand.

2015

JANUARY

- The TIJ launches the Rule of Law Seminar Series to campaign for the development of a common set of Criminal Justice Performance Indicators.

FEBRUARY

- Prof. Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak is appointed the second Executive Director of the TIJ.

APRIL

- The TIJ attends the 13th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Doha, Qatar, the first UN Crime Congress attended by the TIJ.

JUNE

- The TIJ collaborates with the Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL) to organise the ‘AsianSIL Inter-Sessional Regional Conference 2015’ on ‘The Rule of Law and Development Nexus: A New Deal for Asia?’
- The first TIJ Youth Forum on Justice and the Rule of Law is launched in parallel with the Conference.
- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presides over the TIJ Board of Directors Meeting in the capacity of the Chairperson of the Special Advisory Board at the Office of Attorney General building.

OCTOBER

- The TIJ attends a high-level side event on women, crime prevention, criminal justice, and post-2015 development issues at the 70th session of the UNGA in New York.
- TIJ welcomes Mr. Yamashita Terutoshi, Former Director of UNAFEI, as its first visiting expert.
- The TIJ and the Thai Department of Corrections launch the ‘Model Prisons’ project, with the Chiang Mai Women Correctional Institute becoming one of the first prisons certified as being in compliance with the Bangkok Rules.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ attends the ‘International Conference on Alternative Development 2 (ICAD2).’ The conference was divided into two parts, including a field visit to different alternative development project sites in Chiang Rai, Chiang Mai and Myanmar and a High-level Conference in Bangkok.

DECEMBER

- The UN General Assembly adopts the Nelson Mandela Rules, an update of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs) adopted in 1955.

2016**JANUARY**

- The TIJ and the UNODC jointly launches the Project on Countering Human Trafficking.

MARCH

- TIJ co-hosts the seminar on ‘Developing Standards on Community-based Treatment in ASEAN: Focusing on Treatment for Drug Use/Dependence Offenders’ with the Department of Probation and UNAFEI.

MAY

- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presides over the MOU signing ceremony between the TIJ and China-ASEAN Legal Research Center in Beijing, China.
- The TIJ becomes a member of the UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network (UN-PNI).
- The TIJ attends the First Meeting of the Technical Advisory Group on the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purpose (TAG-ICCS) organised by the Statistics and Surveys Section, Division for Policy Analysis and Public Affairs, the UNODC in Vienna.

AUGUST

- The TIJ holds its first Training on the Management of Women Prisoners for Senior Correctional Staff in the ASEAN Region, or the Bangkok Rules Training in Bangkok, Thailand.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ hosts the first ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (ACCPCJ) in Bangkok, Thailand.

2017**JANUARY**

- The first TIJ Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy is held in collaboration with the Harvard Law School’s Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP) in Bangkok, Thailand.
- The TIJ organises the first TIJ Public Forum on the Rule of Law and Sustainable Development.
- The TIJ signs its first Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) of tri-parties with the Thai Bar Association and Cornell Law School on behalf of Cornell University.

FEBRUARY

- Thailand’s 1936 Penitentiary Act is amended to include specific clauses on pregnant prisoners, women prisoners with children and other vulnerable groups.
- The TIJ launches the Rule of Law and Development (RoLD) programme amongst leaders from different disciplines to encourage engagement and ownership on the improvement of law implementation.
- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha is appointed Goodwill Ambassador for the UNODC on the Rule of Law for Southeast Asia to raise the profile of, and support for, development efforts that address the impact of crime on society and that contribute to justice reform.
- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha presides over the TIJ Public Forum on the Rule of Law and Sustainable at the United Nations office in Bangkok.

MARCH

- The TIJ receives the first visit of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha at the TIJ office.

MARCH – APRIL

- The TIJ collaborates with the Department of Juvenile Observation and Protection to conduct the first violence against children survey.

MAY

- TIJ first collaborates with Penal Reform International (PRI) to produce the annual Global Prison Trends report.

AUGUST

- The TIJ and the UNODC launches the Report on Trafficking in Persons from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Myanmar to Thailand.

DECEMBER

- The Regional Training Course on the Implementation of the International Classification of Crime for Statistical Purposes (ICCS) is jointly organised by the UNODC, the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the TIJ and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT) in Daejeon, South Korea.

2018**JANUARY**

- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha attends the regional colloquium empowering vulnerable communities for sustainable development and crime prevention in Chiang Rai after leading a field visit at the Chiang Mai Women's Correctional Institution and the Doi Tung Development Project.

MARCH – MAY

- The TIJ conducts a survey among more than 8,000 individuals across Thailand on the fear of crime.

APRIL

- HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha visits ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta and joins a study visit at Tangerang Women's Prison.

SEPTEMBER

- The TIJ collaborates with Griffith University to publish a survey on Victimisation Experiences Among Young People in Custody.

2019**JANUARY**

- The TIJ, in collaboration with the Rule of Law and Development Fellows (RoLD Fellows), the Department of Special Investigation (DSI), the Norwegian Centre for Human Right, and the Norwegian Police University College conduct a three-day workshop titled 'From Interrogation to Investigative Interviewing' for stakeholders in the justice system in Bangkok.

FEBRUARY

- The TIJ announces a restructuring to establish its new office on Chaengwattana Road, near Thailand's Ministry of Justice (MOJ) in 2022.

MARCH

- The TIJ launches its first online Borderless Youth Forum in partnership with the UNODC.

JUNE

- The TIJ holds the National Symposium on Restorative Justice to promote this concept to domestic audiences.

JULY

- The TIJ launches the ICCS event 'The need for standardised crime classification for data integration and the future of the Thai criminal justice system.'

AUGUST

- The TIJ signs the MOU with the Directorate General of Prisons of Cambodia for the Pilot Project on the Implementation of the Bangkok Rules in Cambodia.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ hosts a panel discussion on ‘Integrating Sports into Youth Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Strategies,’ promoting the concept to domestic audiences.

DECEMBER

- The TIJ, in partnership with the Directorate General of Prisons of Cambodia, hosts training sessions for prison staff in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.
- The TIJ and the UNODC hosts the United Nations Expert Group Meeting on ‘Integrating Sport into Youth Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Strategies.’

2020**APRIL – MAY**

- The TIJ launches the RoLD Virtual Forum series ‘Living with COVID-19.’

MAY – JUNE

- The TIJ and the UNODC organise a Global Webinar Series on ‘Gender-responsive Criminal Justice and Prison Reform’ to promote gender-responsive approaches, both in reducing the spread of COVID-19 in prisons and in relation to longer-term reform efforts.

AUGUST

- The TIJ conducts its first online poll amongst 4,000 Thais on the controversial criminal case of Red Bull’s grandson’s alleged hit-and-run incident.

SEPTEMBER

- The TIJ launches the Street Food Academy Project, a micro-entrepreneurship programme for newly released female prisoners.

NOVEMBER

- The TIJ signs an agreement with the UNODC Regional

Office for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, pledging to work with stakeholders in Thailand to address cybercrime and seek a long-term government response to the issue.

- The TIJ holds its first online training programme for prison staff in Indonesia.

DECEMBER

- The TIJ holds an event titled ‘Towards the 10th Year of the Bangkok Rules: Enhancing the Power of Social Partnership’ to celebrate the marking of the 10th anniversary of the Bangkok Rules.

2021**FEBRUARY**

- Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen is appointed Executive Director of TIJ.

MARCH

- The TIJ virtually attends the 14th UN Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, held in Kyoto, Japan and hosts three ancillary meetings.

MAY

- The TIJ co-hosts the 18th National Symposium of Justice Administration with the Office of Justice Affairs.

JUNE

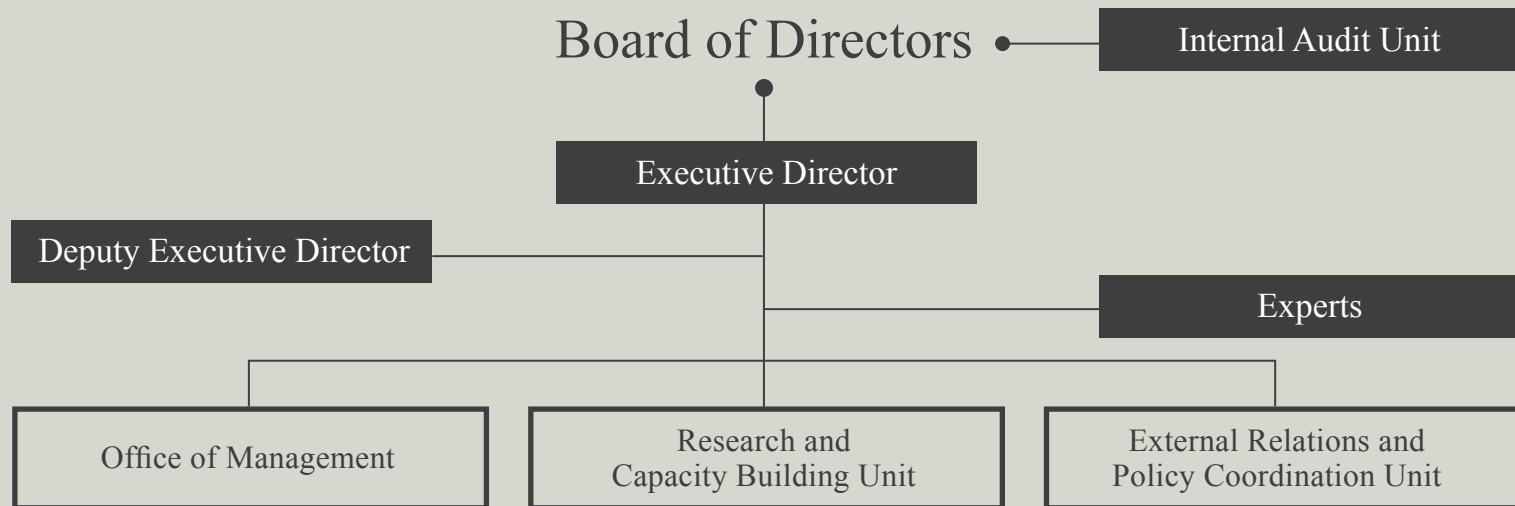
- The TIJ celebrates its 10th anniversary.
- The TIJ is appointed as the UN-PNI coordinator along with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute (RWI).

2022

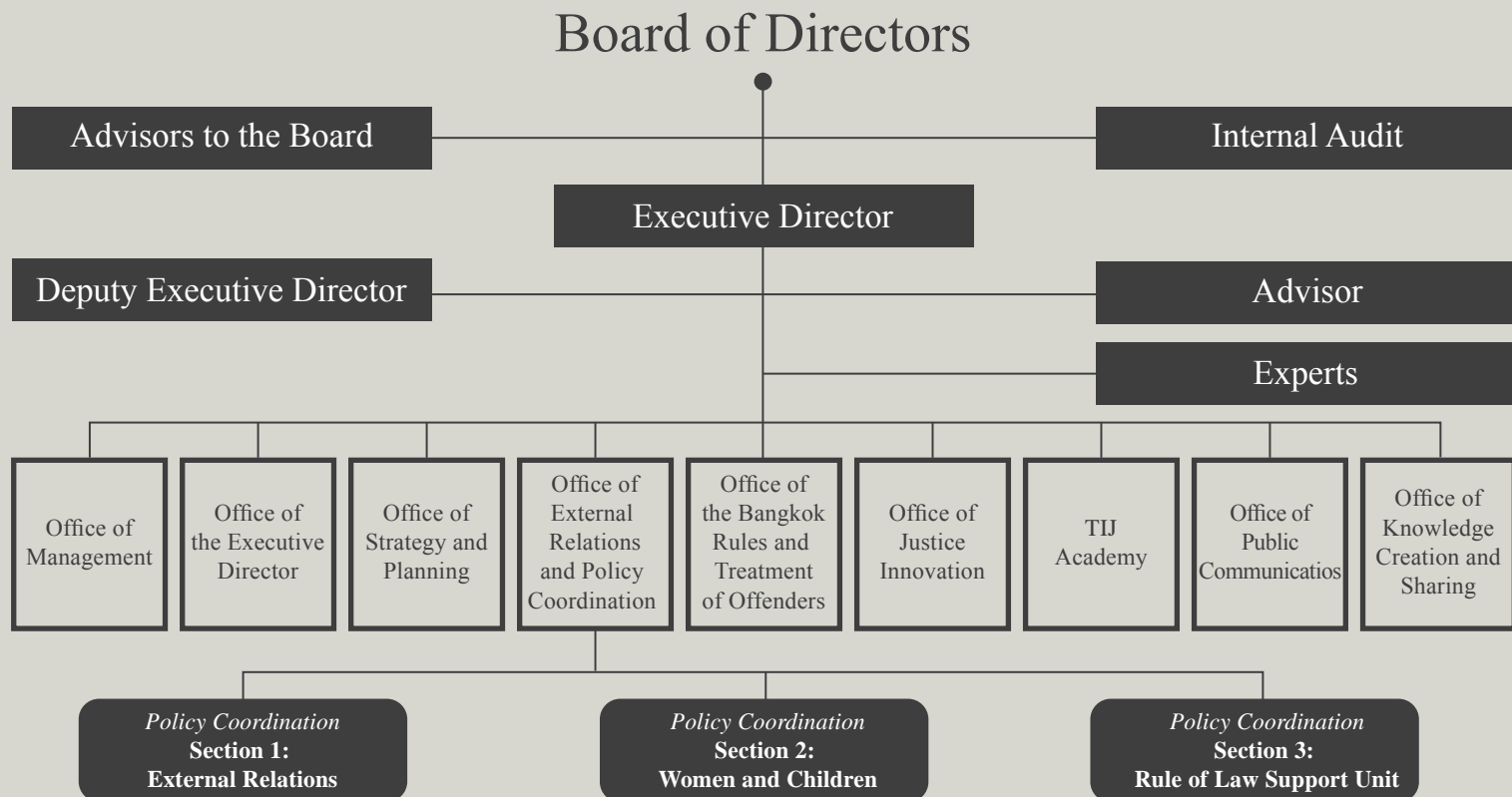
- The TIJ’s new office on Chaengwattana Road is set to open to the public.

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

YEAR 2012



YEAR 2021



THE TIJ TEAM

CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Professor Dr. Surasak Likasiwatanakul
2018 - present

Pol. Sub. Lt. Pongniwat Yuthapanboriparn
2016 - 2017 (Acting)

Trakul Winitnaiyapak
2014 - 2015 (Acting)

Professor Chaikasem Nitisiri
2013

CURRENT MANAGEMENT

Dr. Phiset Sa-ardyen
Executive Director

Dr. Anuwan Vongpichet
Deputy Executive Director
Acting Director of the Office of Justice Innovation

Chontit Chuenurah
Director of the Office for the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders

Kamonrat Chulasukont
Director of the Office of Strategy and Planning

Kittipoom Neamhom
Director of the Office of External Relations and Policy Coordination

Mutita Lertluksanaporn
Director of the Office of the Executive Director

Panot Sangtubtim
Director of the Office of Management

Sommanat Juaseekoon
Director of the TIJ Academy

Pawana Dhamlaxmee
Head of Internal Audit

Sataporn Pongpipatwatana
Head of Public Communications

Sudarak Suvannanonda
Head of Knowledge Creation and Sharing

ADVISORS

Ambassador Adisak Panupong
Former Executive Director
Oct 2012 - Dec 2014

Professor Dr. Kittipong Kittayarak
Former Executive Director
Feb 2015 - Feb 2021

Dr. Nathee Chitsawang

Mr. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee

CURRENT STAFF

Amornrat Vongvivat
Anocha Bunrassamee
Anyamin Thanapipatsopa
Arissara Limpachayaporn
Atcharapran Thongmee
Atirun Kaewnoonual
Chanadda Chanboon
Chompunoot Thongsuchot
Chonnakan Phetploy
Chutikarn Walla
Chutiya Tipboon
Fareda Aukpathsakun
Jariyaporn Oonpim
Jarunee Tuptimthong
Jutathip Yuenyong
Juthanard Oncham

Juthathat Kugasemrat
Kanravee Kittayarak
Korranat Buranakij
Krittaya Archakul
Kulracha Thanasivanun
Kunnika Muntuy
Narit Nuamsiri
Nattachai Pattanapanitchai
Nichapa Limsiritong
Onrujee Onwan
Ornpawee Uanirun
Panpisut Trithipayarak
Parichat Simma
Parnthep Chobsajja
Patompong Wongsawan
Phurilarp Limmontree
Pimchanok Naiyananont
Pittaya Puttaramatawarakun
Piyachat Sumrejkanjanakij
Piyawadee Khumdet
Pongrath Srirangpairoj
Poowadon Chai-in
Pracharag Boonprakob
Rachaya Jinoros
Rapeepat Banjobsamai
Ratchawan Rattanaprakaykaew
Ratwanlaya Pramojanee
Rungnapa Srichantra
Salila Narataruksa
Siriporn Mounghkhw
Suangrada Rojanawichian
Supamas Lertpattanathaworn
Supapit Maneenak
Suparat Sawetamal
Taksaporn Klongkarnphanich
Thankanok Chandransu
Thanachai Sundaravej
Thanachart Pimsawat
Thanaporn Techaritpitak
Thanyaporn Khunnathumpon
Trairat Chaengthaisong
Ukrit Sornprohm
Usanee Auengjongjet
Wanvilas Nittayasuthi
Wanwisa Pengudom
Wasoontara Sapsaman
Yaninee Ittiarecha
Yodsawadi Thipphayamongkoludom

FORMER STAFF

Aaron Johnson
 Achiraya Robrat
 Aimporn Maijun
 Ainsley Stinson
 Allison McClelland
 Amy Rinehart
 Anila Phonlap
 Apinya Phanthusat
 Apisara Tongpokha
 Arachapon Nimitkulpon
 Araya Arayawuth
 Atcha Songjaroen
 Athita Komindr
 Aunchalee Pananil
 Benjamin Chin
 Bhandavis Depchand
 Bowornluk Thongmark
 Bunika Chuchan
 Busayapa Srisompong
 Bussapan Chatabud
 Chalida Muangphet
 Chanadda Jitvanichphaibool
 Chantana Hinkaew
 Chernporn Ruangsawasdi
 Chertalay Suwanpanich
 Chotima Ampunpram
 Dusnee Tantijindaporn
 Elena Lopardi
 Emilie Prache
 Federica Piovesana
 Inta Duaychote
 Jakarin Treedara
 Janegabriel Holloway
 Janjira Srihanbark
 Jarernsak Posin
 Jasmin Lutzi
 Jidapa Meepien
 Jirapat Poonsuwan
 Jirapat Pornprompratan
 Jonathan Bernaerts
 Kanjanachat Mingmongkol
 Khamnuan Kheuntha
 Konpisit Suppaviton
 Krisadang Klaijinda
 Krit Anekudomchok
 Kullanart Sirimongkol
 Kunranid Rattanakusakul
 Magali Lapouge
 Matti Joutsen
 Melanie Oliver
 Methawadee Behnjharachajarunandha
 Min Jee Park
 Mink Sawasdeepon
 Molati Tapdacha
 Monruedee Jansuttiapan
 Mueanprae Watthanachote
 Nachayos Mothina
 Napas Visithsiri
 Napassawan Wutthironnakorn
 Napatsorn Iamsuranan
 Narathip Chamnansri
 Nath Wimonpeerapattana
 Natt Netivara
 Nattawut Worakhanta
 Natthavadi Samphaophoca
 Natthida Lorsuwan
 Nitipong Boonyaleepun
 Noppawan Muangviroj
 Nualsupak Phunsap
 Nutdanai Khawsumlee
 Nuttaya Neungjamnong
 Pallika Taksapaiboon
 Panhathai Srisamut
 Panita Saardruang
 Pannarat Yuphae
 Paphonpat Chaisirivikrom
 Paroot Mekkrayang
 Pattara Kamnun
 Pattarin Lugtong
 Pattra Pupraseart
 Pavitra Sakulchaimongkol
 Pawaraj Naviganuparp
 Penpan Jindanil
 Phakamat Arusawas
 Phimprang Punyasmita
 Phongthon Thanyasiri
 Phunchawaree Puapunsri
 Pimonluk Suvongsindh
 Pimpatsorn Natipodhi
 Pitchanat Thanasut
 Pitchanun Klinhom
 Piyawan Sriampai
 Ploypitcha Uerfuer
 Pluet Chancharoen
 Pokrapee Jindain
 Pornnapha Phumeethong
 Possawat Sepa
 Prarthana Jagannatha Rao
 Premica Chevitsophon
 Punjaporn Nampairote
 Punthip Klaitong
 Putthitorn Pongjareon
 Raviporn Sansoen
 Richard Priem
 Rin Masan
 Ruchiphattarin Jomkhum
 Sampas Chananiyom
 Santanee Ditsayabut
 Sarapat Siripreechapong
 Sawinee Sachdev
 Sippakorn Chongchuwanch
 Siranat Boonthai
 Settakarn Hongsiri
 Sirinuch Srimuang
 Sirinun Phothisatean
 Sita Sumrit
 Sitanan Poomanee
 Siwaporn Jamikorn
 Soramon Urapeepatanapong
 Suchada Jangrassa
 Supailin Suppoonpol
 Supitsara Pattarasinmano
 Suvichar Neamniam
 Tanuchpong Tongnuanjan
 Tatiya Pattayawat
 Thanaporn Longcharoen
 Thanautcha Chanthapratheep
 Thannicha Lermtong
 Tharuetawan Vstrenthen anaphat
 Uruya Krisanachinda
 Usa Lerdsrisuntad
 Vipon Kititassanasorachai
 Wachiraya Manasilp
 Wallop Nakbua
 Wanna Suksriboonnamphai
 Wannakarn Opassatien
 Wasana Kaewdang
 Wasu Visalaporn
 Watcharaporn Pharaprom
 Werachon Chanpated
 Wipawee Radsapa
 Wisoot Chanthadansuwan
 Witit Chompoo
 Yossawan Boriboonthana

GLOSSARY

2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development: A collection of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Global Goals, the 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

A21 Foundation: A global non-profit, non-governmental organisation that works to fight human trafficking, including sexual exploitation and trafficking, forced slave labour, bonded labour, involuntary domestic servitude, and child soldiery.

ACCPCJ: ACCPCJ stands for the ASEAN Conference on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. First initiated and convened by the TIJ in 2016, it is styled as a regional version of the United Nations' quinquennial Crime Congress. The ACCPCJ engages ASEAN policymakers, practitioners, academia, civil society and the private sector to advance cross-cutting issues related to crime prevention and criminal justice through sharing best practices and experiences.

AEC: AEC stands for ASEAN Economic Community. The realisation of the ASEAN region's goal of economic integration. It envisions ASEAN as a single market and production base and a highly competitive region with equitable economic development, fully integrated into the global economy.

AIC: AIC stands for the Australian Institute of Criminology and is Australia's national research and knowledge centre on crime and criminal justice. It is part of the UN-PNI.

Alternative development: An approach aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities that

lead to involvement in illicit crop cultivation and ultimately eliminating such cultivation. A sequential process, the approach recognises the particular socioeconomic characteristics of target communities and groups in solving the problem of illicit drugs. In Thailand, alternative development first starts with offering the local population legitimate livelihoods and necessary services before eradicating the illicit crops and assisting farmers to grow licit crops. Former offenders are supported to be integrated as productive members of society.

ASEAN: ASEAN stands for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and is a regional organisation comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational and sociocultural integration between its members and other countries in Asia. It was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).

ASEAN Economic Community (AEC): See AEC.

Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC): See AIC.

Bangkok Rules: The Bangkok Rules, whose full name is the 'United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders,' is the first international instrument to provide specific and detailed guidelines on responding to the gender-specific needs of women in the criminal justice system, as well as of the children of such women. The Bangkok Rules were adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 21 December, 2010.

Bangkok Rules Training Programme:

A two-week training programme with twelve modules that offers guidance on the context, rationale, and application of each of the 70 Bangkok Rules. First developed in 2016, the programme is held annually in Bangkok for senior correctional staff through prison study visits, practical examples and guest speakers.

Basel: Basel stands for the Basel Institute on Governance and is an independent, non-profit organisation working around the world to strengthen governance and counter corruption and other financial crimes. Headquartered in

Basel, Switzerland, the institute works with the International Centre for Asset Recovery (ICAR) to help partner countries recover stolen assets from abroad. The institute is associated with the University of Basel and is part of the UN-PNI.

Borderless Youth Forum: An international forum to facilitate meaningful and empowered youth engagement in strengthening justice. It was first launched by the TIJ and the UNODC from 2 to 3 March, 2019.

CARE: CARE stands for the f for Assistance to Reintegration and Employment and is a rehabilitation programme within the Thai Department of Corrections that helps former inmates find jobs that are in line with their background and real living conditions outside prison. It was established on 15 February, 2018.

CCLS: CCLS stands for the College for Criminal Law Science and is an academic research body in the People's Republic of China that aims to promote the further development of criminal law science. Associated with Beijing Normal University, it is part of the UN-PNI.

CCPCJ: CCPCJ stands for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and is the United Nations' main policymaking body in the field of crime prevention and justice. CCPCJ meets annually as a forum for exchanging expertise, experience, and information in order to develop national and international strategies, and to identify priorities for combating crime.

Center for Assistance to Reintegration and Employment (CARE): See CARE

College for Criminal Law Science (CCLS): See CCLS.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ): See CCPCJ.

Convention on the Rights of the Child:

An international human rights treaty adopted in 1989 which sets out the civil, political, economic, social, health and cultural rights of children. The treaty is relevant to the Model Strategies set out to prevent and respond to violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

CPG: CPG stands for the German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy

and Good Governance and is an academic institute and think tank as well as a provider of advisory services and facilitator with a focus on areas such as constitutional law and human rights, security and peace studies, and governance and compliance. The institute is a joint cooperation between three universities—Thammasat University, Frankfurt University and Münster University.

Cryptocurrency: A digital currency that can be used to buy goods and services, but uses an online ledger with strong cryptography to secure online transactions.

Cybercrime: The use of a computer as an instrument to further illegal ends, such as committing fraud, trafficking in child pornography and intellectual property, stealing identities or violating privacy. It is also known as computer crime.

Department of Corrections (Thailand): An agency of the Thai Ministry of Justice whose mission is to keep prisoners in custody and rehabilitate them. Its headquarters are in Nonthaburi province, Thailand.

Department of Special Investigation (DSI) (Thailand):
See DSI.

Design thinking: A process for creative problem solving that encourages participants or organisations to focus on the people they are solving the problem for, or so-called end users.

Doha Crime Congress: The thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice held in Doha, Qatar from 12 to 19 April, 2015. The TIJ attended and held four ancillary meetings during this event.

Doi Tung Development Project: A project established by King Bhumibol Adulyadej's mother, Her Royal Highness Princess Srinagarindra on January 16, 1987 with the objective of undertaking the rehabilitation of degraded forest areas extending over an area of 93,515 rai or 149.62 square kilometres. The project helped shift hill tribe people from cultivating opium poppies to other crops. Still operating today, the project is considered a successful early example of alternative development.

DSI: DSI stands for the Department of Special

Investigation, an agency of the Thai Ministry of Justice whose mission is to efficiently prevent, suppress, and investigate crimes, and to fairly proceed with special cases. It was founded in 2002.

ECOSOC: ECOSOC stands for the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Established in 1945, it is one of the six principal organs of the UN responsible for advancing the three dimensions of sustainable development—economic, social and environmental.

ECPAT International: ECPAT stands for 'End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism.' ECPAT International is a global network of civil society organisations that works to end the sexual exploitation of children.

ELFI: ELFI stands for Enhancing the Lives of Female Inmates. It is an advocacy programme founded under the initiative of HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha and the Thai Ministry of Justice in order to propose a new set of rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders as a supplement to the 1955 Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. ELFI preceded what would later become the Bangkok Rules.

Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy Workshop: A workshop hosted by the TIJ and the Institute for Global Law & Policy (IGLP) at Harvard Law School for young professionals to think about the linkages between the rule of law and policy making processes in the economic, political and social development at local, regional, and international levels. The workshop is part of the TIJ's RoLD programme. It is also called the TIJ-IGLP Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy.

Enhancing the Lives of Female Inmates (ELFI): See ELFI.

ESCAP: ESCAP stands for the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. It serves as the United Nations' regional hub promoting cooperation among countries to achieve inclusive and sustainable development in Asia and the Pacific.

European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations (HEUNI): See HEUNI.

Future thinking: An approach to strategic design that considers what is likely to change and what is likely to stay the same in the future as a means to create better strategic planning.

German-Southeast Asian Center of Excellence for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPG): See CPG.

Goal 16: Goal 16 of the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is to 'promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all, and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.'

Group of 77 (G-77): A coalition of 134 developing countries, designed to promote its members' collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.

Handbook on Restorative Justice Programmes: A 2020 report funded by the TIJ that is premised on the notion that, in some criminal cases, a positive and conciliatory form of justice can complement, and perhaps even replace, the retributive approach.

Hard law: Legal obligations that are binding on the parties involved and which can be legally enforced before a court.

HEUNI: HEUNI, whose full name is the European Institute for Crime Prevention and Control, affiliated with the United Nations, is a regional institute that aims to advance human and rational crime prevention and criminal justice policies and systems in Europe. Headquartered in Helsinki, Finland, HEUNI functions under the Finnish Ministry of Justice and is part of the UN-PNI.

IBR: IBR stands for Implementation of the Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders, a department under the TIJ that focused in the organisation's early years on advocating for the execution of the Bangkok Rules.

ICAR: Also called the International Centre for Asset Recovery, ICAR is a specialist centre at the Basel Institute of Governance that helps partner countries recover stolen assets from abroad. The Basel Institute of Governance is part of the UN-PNI.

ICCLR & CJP: ICCLR & CJP is an

independent, non-profit institute that aims to promote the rule of law, human rights, democracy and good governance by contributing to local, national and international efforts to support law reform initiatives and to improve the administration of criminal justice. Headquartered in Vancouver, Canada, it is part of the UN-PNI.

ICCS: ICCS stands for the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes. It is a tool for classifying categories of criminal offences and justice officials at every rank. TIJ's statistics programme (STATS) actively promotes the use of ICCS in the Thai criminal justice system.

ICPC: ICPC stands for the International Centre for the Prevention of Crime and is an international forum for national governments, local authorities, public agencies, specialised institutions and non-government organisations to exchange experience, emerging knowledge and policies and programmes in crime prevention and community safety. Headquartered in Montreal, Canada, it is part of the UN-PNI.

IGLP: IGLP stands for the Institute for Global Law and Policy. It is a collaborative faculty effort at Harvard Law School whose objective is to nurture innovative approaches to global policy in the face of urgent global challenges.

ILANUD: ILANUD stands for the Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and is an institute that promotes crime prevention and criminal justice in Latin American and Caribbean countries. Headquartered in San José, Costa Rica, it is part of the UN-PNI.

Institute for Global Law and Policy (IGLP): See IGLP.

Institute of Security Studies (ISS): See ISS.

International Centre for the Prevention of Crime (ICPC): See ICPC.

International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR & CJP): See ICCLR & CJP.

International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS): See ICCS

International Scientific and Professional

Advisory Council (ISPAC): See ISPAC.

ISPAC: ISPAC stands for the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. Its mission is to enhance the contributions of non-governmental organisations, academic institutions and other entities in assisting the international community in crime prevention and criminal justice.

ISS: ISS stands for the Institute of Security Studies and is a regional human security policy think-tank with an exclusive focus on Africa. With offices in Addis Ababa, Cape Town, Nairobi and Pretoria (the head office), ISS is part of the UN-PNI.

j Content: j Content stands for justice content. It is a branch under the Project j programme, a TIJ platform created to facilitate experimentation and test new ideas. j Content specifically tests out new ways for knowledge management and sharing.

j-Ed: j-Ed stands for justice education initiatives. It is a branch under the Project j programme, a TIJ platform created to facilitate experimentation and test new ideas. j-Ed specifically tests out justice-related education initiatives.

jX: jX stands for justice experimentation. It is a branch under the Project j programme, a TIJ platform created to facilitate experimentation and test new ideas. jX aims to create solutions-based prototypes with potential for wider adoption. An example of a jX project is the 'My Sis' chatbot, a social-media-based tool launched in 2019 that empowers victims of gender-based violence.

Kamlangjai Project: A project founded by HRH Princess Bajrakitiyabha of Thailand in 2015 that provides assistance to female and pregnant inmates as well as their children, and fosters their reintegration into society. For instance, the programme allows children to meet their mothers for around 10 days per year and offers vocational training to female offenders. 'Kamlangjai' means 'encouragement' in Thai.

KICJ: KICJ stands for the Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice and is the only national crime and criminal justice research agency in

the Republic of Korea. Headquartered in Seoul, South Korea, it is part of the UN-PNI.

Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice (KICJ): See KICJ.

Kyoto Crime Congress: The fourteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice. It was a hybrid conference held in Kyoto, Japan from 7 to 12 March, 2021, with most of the participants attending online. Due to COVID-19, it was postponed a year later from its original dates.

Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders (ILANUD): See ILANUD.

MDGs: MDGs stand for Millennium Development Goals. They are the United Nations' eight-goal blueprint for meeting the needs of the world's poorest by 2015. It was replaced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015.

MFA (Thailand): MFA stands for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Thailand and is the principal governmental department in charge of foreign relations for Thailand. The MFA is charged with formulating and executing policies for Thailand as well as managing and maintaining Thai diplomatic missions around the globe.

Millennium Development Goals (MDGs): See MDGs.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) (Thailand): See MFA.

Ministry of Justice (MOJ) (Thailand): See MOJ.

Ministry of Social Development and Human Security (MSDHS): See MSDHS.

Model Prisons: A voluntary programme established in 2015 by the TIJ and the Thai Department of Corrections that invites prisons in Thailand to be evaluated by standards developed by Penal Reform International (PRI). After evaluation, the prisons are expected to enact improvements and collate relevant documentation. Currently, 15 of Thailand's 143 prisons are recognised as 'Model Prisons.'

Model Strategies: A set of 17 strategies

adopted by the UN in 2014 developed to prevent and respond to violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Its full name is the ‘United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.’

MOJ: MOJ stands for the Ministry of Justice of Thailand and is the principal governmental department in charge of the criminal justice system for Thailand. The MOJ is responsible for running prisons, aiding the Royal Thai Police and managing the government’s drug and narcotic control policies, among other areas.

MSDHS: MSDHS stands for Thailand’s Ministry of Social Development and Human Security. It is responsible for promoting quality human and social development through research and social welfare.

Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS): See NAUSS.

NCA: NCA stands for the National Crime Agency (NCA), a national law enforcement agency in the United Kingdom that fights against serious and organised crime. It was founded in 2013.

National Crime Agency (NCA) (United Kingdom): See NCA.

National Institute of Justice (NIJ): See NIJ.

National Statistical Office (NSO) (Thailand): See NSO.

NAUSS: NAUSS stands for the Naif Arab University for Security Sciences and is an intergovernmental institution operating under the aegis of the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior that provides research on security issues and offers postgraduate degrees and short-term training. Headquartered in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, it is part of the UN-PNI.

NCHR: NCHR stands for the Norwegian Centre for Human Rights. It is a multidisciplinary human rights research centre at the University of Oslo’s Faculty of Law. TIJ has partnered with NCHR on various projects.

Nelson Mandela Rules: A set of 122 rules adopted by the UN General Assembly on 17 December, 2015 that covers all aspects of prison

management and outline the agreed minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners, both pre-trial and convicted. They are supplemented by the Bangkok Rules on women prisoners. Previously, the Mandela Rules were known as the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (SMRs).

NIJ: NIJ stands for the National Institute of Justice and is a research, development, and evaluation agency of the United States Department of Justice. Headquartered in Washington D.C., USA, the institute’s mission is to advance scientific research, development and evaluation to enhance the administration of justice and public safety. It is part of the UN-PNI.

Non-custodial sentence: An alternative to a prison sentence, such as a fine or community service.

Norwegian Centre for Human Rights (NCHR): A multidisciplinary human rights research centre at the University of Oslo’s Faculty of Law. The TIJ has partnered with NCHR on various projects.

NSO: NSO stands for the National Statistical Office of Thailand. It is Thailand’s official statistics surveyor. It is an agency of the Ministry of Digital Economy and Society. One of its tasks is a nationwide census conducted every 10 years, the latest in 2010.

OBR: OBR stands for the Office of Bangkok Rules and Treatment of Offenders and is a department of the TIJ that works specifically to promote gender-sensitive criminal justice and rights-based treatment of offenders in line with international standards and norms. These include advocating for the implementation of the Bangkok Rules, the Nelson Mandela Rules, non-custodial measures, and the reintegration of offenders. Three main activities of the OBR include research, capacity-building and policy advocacy.

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): See OHCHR.

Office of Justice Innovation: A department established under TIJ in 2021 whose main focus is to create innovative approaches and partnerships to respond to the TIJ’s key areas of engagement such as combating gender-based violence, enhancing the lives of at-risk youth,

and empowering civic engagement in the justice system through data and technology.

OHCHR: OHCHR stands for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and is also known as UN Human Rights. It is the leading UN entity on human rights. It is committed to the promotion and protection of the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Penal Reform International (PRI): See PRI.

PNI: PNI, which stands for ‘Programme Network Institutes,’ is a network of institutes around the world developed to assist the international community in strengthening cooperation in the crucial area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Overseen by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the network provides a variety of services, including exchange of information, research, training and public education. PNI’s full name is the ‘United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network Institutes’ and can also be abbreviated as ‘UN-PNI.’

PRI: PRI stands for Penal Reform International and is a non-governmental institute founded in London, England working globally to promote criminal justice systems that uphold human rights for all and do no harm.

Project j: A TIJ platform created to facilitate experimentation and test new ideas inside the TIJ office, events or through networks such as the RoLD programme. It is significant because it can test out ideas the more risk-averse and more traditional bodies within the criminal justice system would likely not pursue. The ‘j’ in ‘Project j’ stands for ‘justice.’ Project j later became the Office of Justice Innovation.

Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law (RWI): See RWI.

Ratification: The action of signing or giving formal consent to a treaty, contract or agreement, making it officially valid.

Recidivism: A person’s relapse into criminal behaviour, often after the person receives sanctions or undergoes intervention such as imprisonment for a previous crime. The TIJ works to reduce recidivism rates amongst offenders.

Restorative justice: An approach to justice in which one of the responses to a crime is to organise a meeting between the victim and the offender, sometimes with representatives of the wider community.

RoLD in Action: Established in 2019, RoLD in Action is a spin-off from the RoLD programme, aimed at seeing ideas born from the RoLD programme developed into fully realised initiatives.

RoLD Programme: RoLD stands for the Rule of Law and Development Programme. Founded by the TIJ in 2016, it is now a six-month programme aimed at encouraging and educating leaders in many different fields to understand and think about how justice and the rule of law apply across society and ways in which the implementation of laws might be improved. Participants consider the rule of law through a broader lens of fairness, in terms of their connection to day-to-day decisions and situations.

Royal Project: An initiative of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand founded in 1969 to solve the problems of deforestation, poverty and opium production by promoting alternative crops.

Royal Thai Police (RTP): See RTP.

RTP: RTP stands for Royal Thai Police. It is the national police force of Thailand.

Rule of law: The mechanism, process, institution, practice or norm that supports the equality of all citizens before the law, secures a nonarbitrary form of government, and more generally prevents the arbitrary use of power.

Rule of Law and Development (RoLD) in Action: See RoLD in Action.

Rule of Law and Development (RoLD) Programme: See RoLD Programme.

RWI: RWI stands for the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law and is an independent academic institution that promotes universal respect for human rights and humanitarian law by means of research, academic education, dissemination and institutional development. Headquartered in Lund, Sweden, it is part of the UN-PNI.

SEP: SEP stands for Sufficiency Economy

Philosophy, a theory that encapsulates the sustainable development approach of His Majesty the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand. The theory espouses the application of moderation, reasonableness and prudence, along with knowledge and virtue, so that development and growth balance social, environmental and economic concerns.

SDGs: SDGs stands for Sustainable Development Goals, a collection of 17 global goals adopted by the United Nations in 2015 as a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure that by 2030 all people enjoy peace and prosperity. Also known as the Global Goals, the 17 SDGs are integrated—they recognise that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

SII: SII stands for the Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights and is an Italian not-for-profit foundation dedicated to education, training and research in the fields of international and comparative criminal justice and human rights. Headquartered in Siracusa, Italy, it is part of the UN-PNI.

Siracusa International Institute for Criminal Justice and Human Rights (SII): See SII.

SMRs: SMRs stands for Standard Minimum Rules, a set of soft laws that provide guidelines for international and domestic law for the treatment of citizens in prisons and other forms of custody. Adopted by the First UN Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders in 1955, the rules have now been revised and are now known as the Nelson Mandela rules as of 17 December, 2015.

Soft law: Agreements, principles and declarations that are not legally binding, usually found in the international sphere. An example are the UN General Assembly resolutions.

Standard Minimum Rules (SMRs): See SMRs.

STATS: The TIJ's statistics programme whose core mandate is to support relevant criminal justice organisations to improve the quality of data, such as the prevalence and nature of crimes and any associated risks that could inform prevention policies. It also supports and raises awareness about the various United Nations tools and data collection methods

concerning crime and criminal justice statistics, such as the International Classification of Crimes for Statistical Purposes (ICCS), The Manual on Crime Victimization Surveys, and United Nations Surveys on Crime Trends and the Operations of Criminal Justice Systems (UN-CTS).

Street Food Academy: A programme established in 2019 that helps prisoners reintegrate into civilian life upon release by teaching them how to cook and start their own food business. The project is a collaboration between over 30 private, government, and civil society organisations including the TIJ, Kamlangjai Project, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang University and the Thai Department of Corrections.

Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (SEP): See SEP.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): See SDGs.

Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ): A research institute on criminal justice that works to promote the rule of law and focuses on areas such as women and children in the criminal justice system, crime and justice statistics and crime and development. Headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, it is part of the UN-PNI.

TIJ Academy: A programme under TIJ responsible for engaging Thai criminal justice professionals through capacity building programmes and activities on the implementation of related international standards and norms and good practices.

TIJ-IGLP Workshop: A workshop hosted by the TIJ and the Institute for Global Law & Policy (IGLP) at Harvard Law School for young professionals to think about the linkages between the rule of law and policy making processes in the economic, political and social development at local, regional and international levels. The workshop is part of the TIJ's RoLD programme. It is also called the TIJ-IGLP Workshop for Emerging Leaders on the Rule of Law and Policy.

Tokyo Rules: Also known as the 'UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures', the Tokyo Rules are a set of international standards on alternatives to imprisonment. They

provide a set of basic principles to promote the use of non-custodial measures and sanctions, as well as minimum safeguards for persons subject to alternatives to imprisonment. The Tokyo Rules are supplemented by the Bangkok Rules, specific to women and children.

Toolkit on Gender Responsive Non-Custodial Measures: A 2020 report funded by the TIJ that argues the case for non-custodial measures that are ‘gender-responsive,’ helping to transform the gender norms, roles, and inequalities that lead to discrimination against women in contact with the law.

UN: UN stands for the United Nations, an intergovernmental organisation aiming to maintain international peace and security, develop friendly relations among nations, achieve international cooperation and be a centre for harmonising the actions of nations. Founded in 1945, it consists of 193 Member States.

UNAFEI: UNAFEI stands for the United Nations Asia and Far East Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and is a regional institute that aims to promote the sound development of criminal justice systems and mutual cooperation in Asia and the Pacific Region. Headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, it is part of the UN-PNI.

UNAFRI: UNAFRI stands for the United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and is an intergovernmental organisation which aims at promoting an active cooperation of governments, academic institutions, non-governmental organisations and experts in the area of crime prevention and criminal justice. Headquartered in Kampala, Uganda, it is part of the UN-PNI.

UNDP: UNDP stands for the United Nations Development Programme, an agency under the UN that focuses on international development, namely to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality in 170 countries. UNDP’s work comprises sustainable development, democratic governance and peace building and climate and disaster resilience.

UN Human Rights: The leading UN entity on human rights. It is committed to the promotion and protection of the full range of human rights and freedoms set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. It is also known as the

Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

UNICEF: UNICEF, also known as the United Nations Children’s Fund or United Nations International Children’s Emergency Fund, is a United Nations agency responsible for providing humanitarian and developmental aid to children worldwide. TIJ has partnered with UNICEF on various occasions.

UNICRI: UNICRI stands for the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute and assists intergovernmental, governmental, and non-governmental organisations in formulating and implementing improved policies in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Headquartered in Turin, Italy, it is part of UN-PNI.

UNODC: UNODC stands for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, an agency under the UN whose mission is to help make the world safer from drugs, organised crime, corruption and terrorism. It works with governments around the world as well as a network of field offices.

UNGA: UNGA stands for the United Nations General Assembly, the main policy-making organ of the UN that comprises all Member States. The UNGA provides a forum for the discussion of international issues covered by the Charter of the United Nations.

United Nations General Assembly (UNGA): See UNGA.

United Nations Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: Also called the ‘Model Strategies,’ these are a set of 17 strategies adopted by the UN in 2014 developed to prevent and respond to violence against children in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

UN-PNI: See PNI.

United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-Custodial Measures for Women Offenders: See Bangkok Rules.

UN Women: Also known as ‘The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the

Empowerment of Women,’ UN Women is the United Nations entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. It has been a partner with TIJ on various projects, such as the ‘HeForShe’ campaign (2014).

UN Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures: See Tokyo Rules.



ABOUT THE TIJ

‘JUSTICE IS A MATTER
THAT CONCERNS EVERYONE.’

The Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ) is a relatively new player in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice. Established in 2011 with funding from the government of Thailand, the TIJ supports policymakers and practitioners in Thailand and beyond to ensure a fair and effective response to crime and the proper treatment of offenders.

Despite ongoing reform efforts by criminal justice systems worldwide, meeting the specific needs of the vulnerable – mostly women and children – remains a challenge for many countries. The TIJ, therefore, places a strong emphasis on capacity-building for the effective implementation of the international standards that specifically address the vulnerabilities faced by women and children in criminal justice settings.

One example is the 2010 United Nations Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders or the Bangkok Rules. The rules seek to address the gender-specific needs of women who were imprisoned or subject to non-cus-

todial measures. International standards and norms like the Bangkok Rules not only provide policy guidance to member states, but also serve as a rich repository of good practices in the field of crime and justice. The TIJ works closely with member states to collectively enhance capacity and make effective use of these standards and norms. Strategically, most of the TIJ’s programmes are in alignment with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

In this context, the TIJ contributes to, and benefits from, the large pool of knowledge and expertise shared among our international partners within the United Nations Crime Programme. These include the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and regional and national organisations comprising the United Nations Programme Network of Institutes or UN-PNIs. Currently, the TIJ is an active member of the UN-PNIs and the only one in Southeast Asia – an honor enjoyed since 2016.

Five years after the adoption of the Bangkok Rules came another milestone that characterises the trajectory of the TIJ as we fulfill our mandates. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 represents such a pivotal moment. Underlying the new framework is a realisation that all sectors responsible for sustainable development of society are deeply interrelated.

In this sense, our justice systems cannot operate in isolation. We need to pursue multi-sectoral cooperation and cross-sectoral linkages. When justice works together with public health, education,

poverty reduction or job creation, for instance, we stand a better chance to succeed. Not only in what we do, but also in helping others achieve their goals.

The TIJ, therefore, began to expand our work beyond traditional areas of justice and the rule of law. Our partnership network now includes more players such as private enterprises, civil society, academia and youth. We invite and encourage our partners to seek ‘justice’ in everyday life themselves.

The new direction rests on the premise that diversity is essential for finding the best solutions to societal problems. We hope to bring together criminal justice practitioners and those working in other fields so that – as a whole – we benefit from distinct yet complementary perspectives.

The aim is to ensure that justice and the justice sector remain relevant in the contemporary era of technological disruption. Under the new agenda, the TIJ strives to create, nurture and expand the ‘justice-minded networks’ in society. We believe these networks are the key to securing a sustainable and inclusive path towards a more innovative and people-centred solution to persisting challenges in the fields of crime and justice.

A new chapter for the TIJ is upon us. We commit ourselves to the principles and values of justice but remain open to new possibilities. We embark upon a journey where we embrace change and translate new ideas into actions and solutions.



As part of the Thai criminal justice system and an official member of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme Network of Institutes (UN-PNI), the TIJ works on both international and domestic criminal justice agendas, engaging in a wide range of issues, from prison reform to crime prevention, from the public's access to justice to emerging criminal threats.

At the Nexus: A Record of the TIJ's First 10 Years tells the story of our organisation: our founding and principles, our initiatives and partnerships, our spirit and pride in striving to improve the criminal justice system and the lives of all of those who rely on it.