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SEVENTH UNITED NATIONS CONGRESS ON THE
PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT
OF OFFENDERS

REPORT OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC REGIONAL PREPARATORY MEETING
ON THE PREVENTION OF CRIME AND THE TREATMENT OF OFFENDERS

Corrigendum

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After paragraph 55 insert

56. Furthermore, the poor working conditions of production workers in many industrial manufacturing plants of national and transnational corporations were reported in the newly industrializing as well as developing countries of the region. Apart from the low wages, long working hours and sometimes lack of promotion prospects, the inadequate conditions in factories had been found to be detrimental to the long-term and even short-term health of workers. Women had been the worst affected, since they comprised the bulk of the production force, particularly during the past decade of growing industrialization.

57. Several participants pointed out that persons who had social, economic and political power might abuse it in pursuing their own interests. On many occasions the entire population, or a considerable proportion of the population, might be victimized, despite the fact that no direct relationship existed between the perpetrators and those being affected; thus, particular attention had to be given to victims. Unfair business transactions, fraudulent flow of capital and price manipulation - often disguised as legitimate commercial and financial arrangements - had the effect of victimizing large sectors of the population.

58. The difficulty of detecting and discovering such crimes, similar to the difficulty of detecting organized crimes, was particularly stressed. In fact, at times victims were not even aware of being victimized. The importance of further research on the extent and dimensions of such crime was therefore underlined, as was the need for more stringent administrative controls and checks. In this regard, several participants reported on recent initiatives directed at controlling the abuses of economic or public power, including the establishment of special prosecution, special investigative and inspecting units and the important role to be played by an ombudsman or similar officials.

This archiving project is a collaborative effort between United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and American Society of Criminology, Division of International Criminology. Any comments or questions should be directed to Cindy J. Smith at CJSmithphd@comcast.net or Emil Wandzilak at emil.wandzilak@unodc.org.