

# **“Regional training on Victimization Surveys in Asia-Pacific”**

## *A Welcoming Address*

**Dr. Zin-Hwan Kim**

(President, Korean Institute of Criminology)

I would like to extend our warm welcome to the distinguished representatives from each country who are here today to participate in “Regional training on Victimization Surveys in Asia-Pacific”.

I am most delighted to host this training course together with members of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), and the Thailand Institute of Justice (TIJ).

As you know, we have already organized two successful regional meetings on statistics on crime and criminal justice in Bangkok, Thailand in December 2014 and in Seoul, Korea in November 2016.

In line with it, I fully expect that this Asia-Pacific regional training on Victimization Surveys will strengthen our exchanges as an excellent platform in which we improve statistical frameworks on crime and criminal justice and develop proactive strategies for crime prevention and control at national level.

In the case of Korean Institute of Criminology (KIC), as the only national crime and criminal justice research institute under the Office of the Prime Minister, we have been conducting Victimization Surveys since 1991.

It is because Victimization Surveys help reveal the true extent of crimes and the impact they have on society which cannot be easily measured with official crime statistics. Since crime victim affects not only individual lives but also a country as a whole, recovering the damage of one victim is imperative as well as rebuilding security in a society.

Victimization Surveys remain therefore as one of the most significant research domains of the KIC. It is my great pleasure to be able to present and distribute knowledge and experiences of the KIC to encourage the ways of cooperation between Asia-Pacific countries.

Under the SDGs Goal 16 “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, this training course is a very meaningful event where we can share our backgrounds of relevant information and best practices, aiming to develop the methodological and operational guidance on victimization surveys.

Furthermore, this valuable opportunity will allow us to have more accurate international comparisons of crime and criminal justice activities that are not limited by country-specific legal boundaries.

Once again, on behalf of the Korean Institute of Criminology, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all of you who make this program come together. It is my great pleasure to witness the result of our cooperation in jointly organizing this program in Pattaya.

Allow me to further extend my sincere thanks to all the distinguished attendees. Due to your presence, our gathering takes on a special meaning to strengthen the ties between us.

Thank you.