

Sub-themes to be addressed at the symposium

1. Theory on Victimology and Human Security

Comments:

- Beyond target hardening and hot spots, there is a theoretical bridge between security studies and Victimology. Aspects of Victimology in general and special theoretical considerations about the interrelationships between knowledge about victims, victimizations and reactions towards them will shed new light on personal as well as institutional security.
- This sub-theme includes Security Science or Security Studies, and their relationship to Victimology.

2. The Draft UN Convention on Victims in the light of international instruments and national norms

Comments:

- The UN is of great importance for the WSV; therefore, various events in the symposium deal with UN - related topics.
- A main contemporary concern of the WSV is the Draft UN Convention. This convention stands in the context of other UN conventions and declarations that have been created since 1985, the year of the UN Victim Declaration.
- This section will deal with these developments which have been pushed forward by the WSV in concert with Intervict and the Tokiwa International Victimology Institute, the leading international research institutes in Victimology. It will also deal with implementation problems in the three great influential law systems that have influence: the Anglo-American, the continental European and the Islamic legal systems.

3. The work of the UNHCR and victims of abuse of power, refugee victims and displaced persons

Comment:

- The importance of the UN for victims is further highlighted by the work of the UN High Commissioner of Refugees in the framework of forced migration and exploitation. For the first time this topic will be given a centralized focus in a WSV symposium. Refugees include victims of abuse of power as well as victims of climate change. This section will include a variety of aspects and themes and the Program Commissions seeks contact with ILO and IOM.

4. Victims of Human Trafficking, sexual exploitation and other transnational victimizations

Comment:

- This section reflects on the traditional importance of the UNDOC. It picks up the cutting edge themes of international human trafficking while emphasizing the victim's perspective. This subsection concentrates on victimizations using modern, highly specialized and economically lucrative exploitations. It aims to concentrate on the cultural and economic backcloth as well as the consequences for individual victims, groups and classes.

5. Victim issues in the national justice systems: focusing on restorative justice and victims surveys, including the International Crime Victim Survey

Comment:

- This traditional topic of special Victimology: victims in the criminal justice system, is widened to include all aspects of the implementation of the UN Declaration. This sub-theme concentrates on recent developments in Asia. It looks at achievements and at desiderata of the development in Japan and other Asian countries.

6. Responses to disaster victimization

Comment:

- Disaster victimization is of special importance in our region but it is not yet sufficiently taken notice of by social scientists in the therapeutic community or in public community organizations. The contributions in this section want to highlight this important growing field of theoretical and applied knowledge.

7. Psycho - traumatological and psychological interventions, building a network and coordination of victim, -specialized interveners (professional and volunteers)

Comment:

- Promoted by volunteers, evidence based victim assistance draws its information from a growing body of knowledge in PTSS and other emotional consequences. In Asian countries there is a lack of sufficiently trained specialists in victim assistance. Improvements will bring planned policies to counteract this deficiency

so that victims of severe (and milder) trauma will no longer be confronted with long waiting lists when they seek treatment and relief from the many consequences of victimization.

8. Victimization of indigenous people and other socially marginalized groups

Comment:

- Until recently, societies have victimized minorities. In 2008 alone, the policies of discrimination and planned victimization against minorities (e.g. the Ainu in Japan or the first nations in Australia) have been put in the limelight of parliamentary and social attention. This section deals with the victimization of minorities in various societies and is aimed at developing countermeasures to achieve their better integration.

9. Special Victimizations, among them victims of family violence, torture, terrorist attacks, consumer fraud, or cyber victims.

Comment:

- This section will contain the broad multitude of special victimizations that concerns victimologists from various backgrounds. The Symposium Scientific Program Committee will be open for a variety of contributions that will be thematically grouped under these exemplary headlines.