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Managing Youth Who Offend

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Editor's note



Literature on offending has shown that the Risk-Need-Responsivity (RNR) principles are efficacious in rehabilitating offenders and reducing recidivism. This also applies to young offenders. In providing interventions for young offenders, it is important to take into account their developmental stage and responsivity needs given their youth. In this edition, we will take a closer look at some of the rehabilitation policies, initiatives and practices shared by members to reform young offenders so that they can return to society as responsible and contributing citizens.

Japan Correction Bureau introduced the Juvenile Classification Home where they conduct assessments on juvenile delinquents at the pre-trial stage to assess their reoffending risks and needs. At their Juvenile Training School, they provide a series of interventions, academic and vocational training as well as community engagement to facilitate the rehabilitation and reintegration of young offenders.

Malaysia Prisons Department currently employs the *Putra Rehabilitation Module* in their prison schools to meet the developmental, physical and spiritual needs of young offenders as adolescence to ensure they do not reoffend after release. With the implementation of the Putra Rehabilitation Module, the Malaysia Prisons Department is certain that young offenders who had gone through it can be transformed and reintegrate effectively back to society.

Singapore Prison Service adopts a differentiated approach towards rehabilitation. Recently, a review was undertaken of the Reformatory Training (RT) regime with the aim to better address the rehabilitation needs of young offenders. The review also took into consideration the developments in juvenile homes and use of probation in the community, as well as SPS' latest understanding in correctional rehabilitation.

Recognising the importance of community support, Vietnam Prison Management Department works with the government and NGOs to provide financial aid for young ex-offenders. They also spur the community to provide offenders with stable jobs to facilitate their reintegration. Vietnam Prison Management Department's primary focus in the treatment of young offenders is to educate and help them in their rehabilitation so that they do not reoffend.

The General Executive Agency of Court Decision Mongolia has launched a community aftercare community initiative called the *"Faith Project"*. The objective of the Faith Project is to provide social assistance and emotional support to help offenders reintegrate to society successfully.

Without a safe and secure environment, no rehabilitation programme can be effectively delivered in our prison settings. This was a timely reminder as Macao Correctional Services conducted a Mock Riot Drill with their Police Tactical Unit in November 2018 to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation and enhance the responsiveness, communication and coordination abilities of prison staff in violent incidents.

I am encouraged to read about the member countries' efforts in support of young offenders' rehabilitation and reintegration. Their contributions to this newsletter has allowed for the sharing of best practices. This is important as we seek to elevate correctional standards across the APCCA fraternity for the betterment of our societies.

Desmond Chin

**Commissioner
Singapore Prison Service**



Juvenile Training School

Contributed by Japan Correction Bureau

1. Introduction

Risk-Needs-Responsivity (RnR) is the basic principle of offender treatment that is applicable to youth offenders. In general, youth offenders are immature and likely to be influenced by their environmental factors that would lead to criminal behavior. The juvenile delinquents often face family issues that can affect their transition into adulthood. Whether they are studying or attending vocational trainings, they will need education and employment support from the community and family. Regrettably, sometimes we do come across situations where youths faced what they perceived as insurmountable challenges at school or work and resorted to crime to resolve their issues. Thus, it is obvious that youth offender treatment requires comprehensive assessments coupled with tailored interventions.

In the criminal justice system in Japan, offenders under the age of 20 who committed a crime are regarded as juvenile delinquents, and will be housed in youth institutions. This article will introduce Juvenile Classification Home (JCH), where we conduct assessments on juvenile delinquents at pre-trial stage and Juvenile Training School (JTS), where we provide interventions for their rehabilitation and reintegration.

Juvenile Classification Home (JCH)

2. Assessment of Youth Offender

The JCH housed juveniles who await the family court hearing. During this period, our rehabilitation specialists will review the cause of delinquency, through running clinical interviews, psychological tests, and behavioral observations. These assessments will be reported to the family court for the rehabilitation and reintegration of youth offenders.

In the past, there are no standardized tools to assess the risk of reoffending or treatment needs. However, the correction today recognizes the importance of an evidence-based offender treatment. Japan has developed an assessment tool which associates the risk of reoffending and treatment needs with quantitative indicators - Ministry of Justice Case Assessment Tool (MJCA). MJCA was introduced in 2013 which consists of the (i) Static Part (early environment, history of early school adjustment, early onset of problem behavior, prior criminal justice history, current offence) and (ii) Dynamic Part (family relationship, social adjustment, self-control, antisocial attitude). The benefits of using MJCA allow Japan Correction to plan and evaluate the treatment for each juvenile.

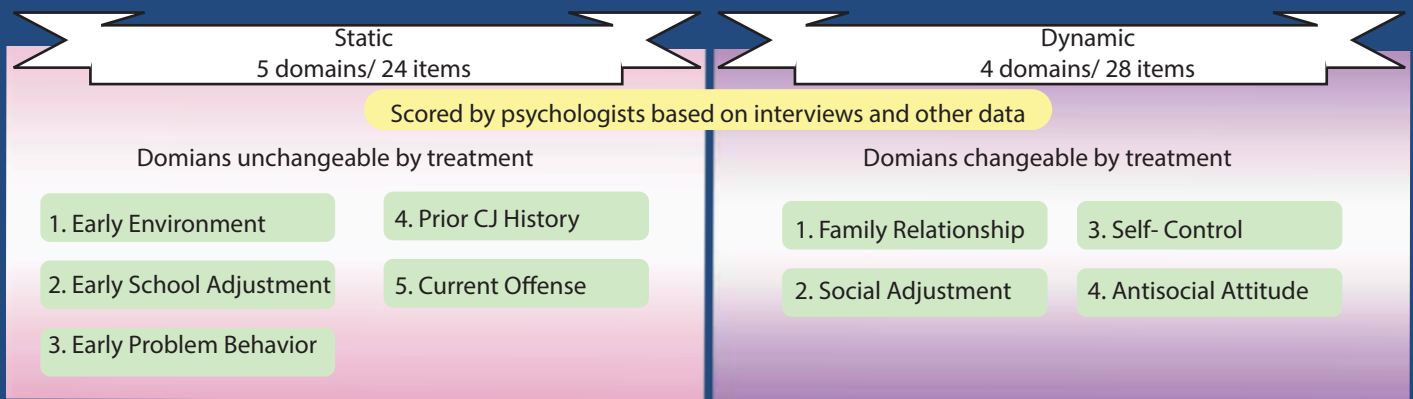


Table 1. Structure of MJCA

In addition to MJCA, Japan Correction utilizes a variety of tools and techniques when necessary. To date, we focus on assessments of developmental challenges and educational needs, utilizing Developmental Disorder screening tool and IQ tests (WAIS-IV, WISC-IV, KABC-II)

Juvenile Training School (JTS)

3. Rehabilitation Programs

Juveniles in JTS are provided with a structured rehabilitation programme in accordance with their criminogenic needs. The following table summarizes the special programmes designed for inmates with specific needs.

Needs	Treatment
Less motivated to understand feelings of victims or their family	Guidance from the Perspectives of Victims
Dependent on drug or substance	Guidance for Prevention of Drug Dependence
Cognitive distortion or low self-control that can lead to sex offence	Guidance for Prevention of Sex Offence
Cognitive distortion or low self-control that can lead to violence	Guidance for Prevention of Violence
Delinquency with the background of family problems	Guidance for Improvement of Family Relationship
Associated with people with antisocial attitude / behaviors	Guidance for Improvement of Peer Association

Table 2. Structure of Rehabilitation Programme in JTS

4. Educational Support for Youth

Children in Japan have 9-year compulsory education followed by a 3-year high school education. However, not many delinquents complete their high school education. Some reasons include their poor academic grades, family problem and employment factors. Youth who expressed interest in furthering their studies in prisons are provided with opportunities to take examination - *Certificate for Students Achieving the Proficiency Level of Upper Secondary School Graduates*

(certification for a person achieved an equivalent level of proficiency as high school graduates in Japan). In addition, JTS motivates and inform inmates through the School Information Handbook which was partnered with NGOs to provide information on studying in prisons. Through these collaborated efforts, there was an increase in the number of inmates who passed their examination.

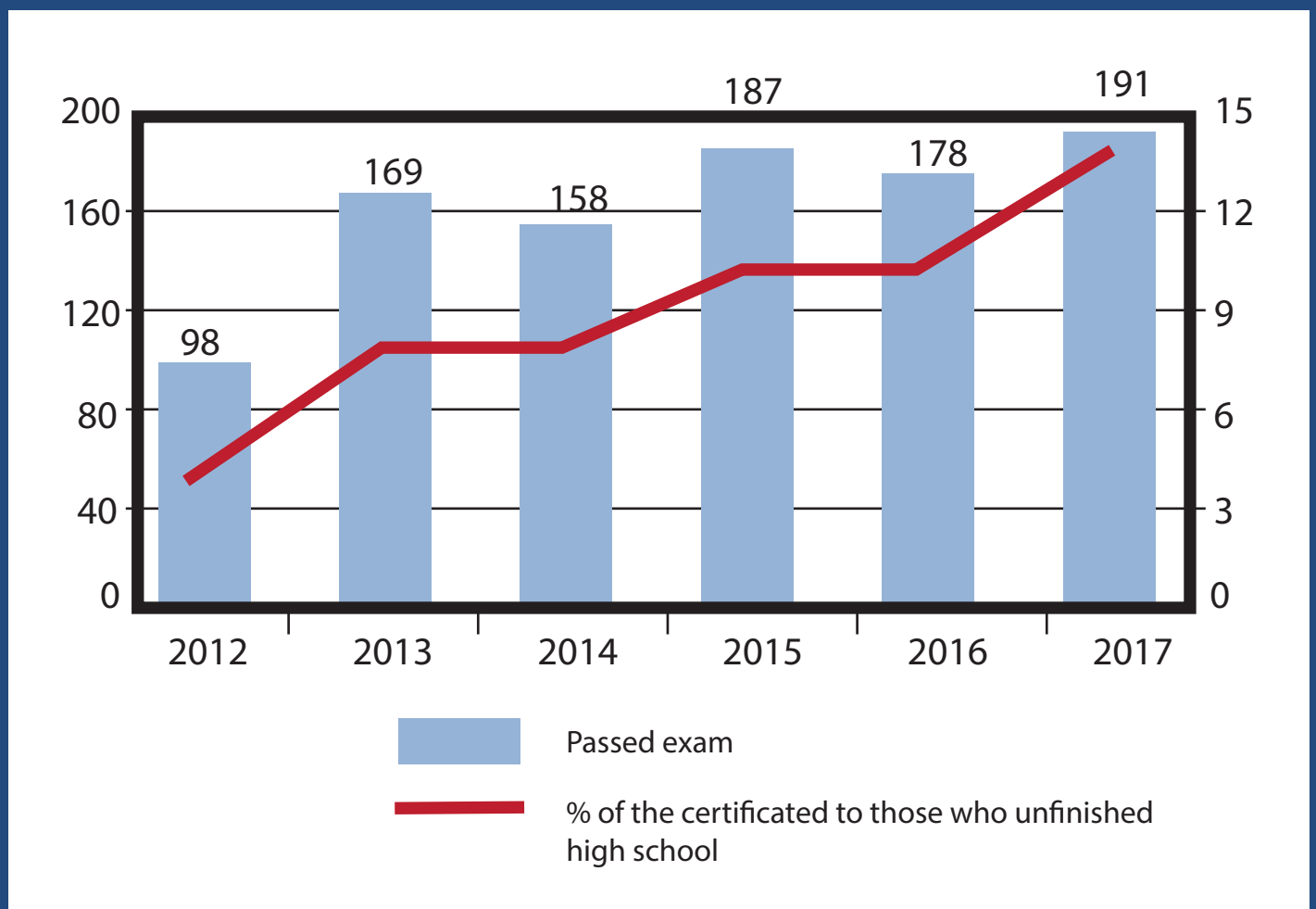


Figure 1. No. of inmates who passed their examination

5. Employment Support for Youth

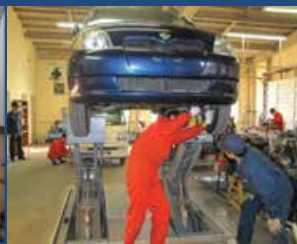
Youth offenders in JTS look forward to get a job right after their release. Therefore, JTS conducts vocational training to provide job-related knowledge and skillset that can enhance their employability.

Specifically, Japan Correction organizes a wide range of vocational courses, including fine arts, agriculture, health-care, automobile and construction.

Over the years, Japan Correction has partnered with Ministry of Health, Labour to provide job seminar and information on job application to aid offenders on their reintegration.



Fine Arts



Automobile



Constructions



Agriculture



Job-Seminars



Health-Care

Photo 1. Vocational Training In Juvenile Training (JTS)

6. Community Support

“ How to Handle Adolescents ”

There are 52 Ministry of Justice Support Centers (MJSCs) providing support on Crime Prevention to the community. MJSC offers counseling session to troubled teens and parenting tips on handling their children.

For instance, MJSC provides parenting advice on children who sneak out at night as well as conducting dialogues entitled “How to Handle Adolescents” at school. MJSC continues to partner with child welfare facilities, schools and educational organizations, as well as NGOs, to promote crime prevention in the community.



Counselling session at Ministry of Justice Support Centers



Putra Rehabilitation Module

Contributed by Malaysia Prisons Department

ADOLESCENT

Adolescents generally refer to young people between the ages of 10 to 18, where they are beginning to grow into adults who are mature and thoughtful. During this transition between childhood and adulthood, they tend to experience intense physical, emotional and psychological changes.

If they fail to cope well with these changes during their adolescence, they will run the risk of being misfits, dropping out of the school system, and growing up as disruptive and anti-social adults.

CAUSE OF TEEN DELINQUENCY

Personality

Today's youth are less able to adjust because they are unable to control and protect themselves. As a result, they find difficulty in handling their emotions when faced with challenges in life and peer pressure. Most teenagers do not know how to manage their anger, happiness, suffering or love that surround their daily lives.

Family

The integrity of families today are undermined because parents are busy working and giving less attention to their children.

Problems that occur at home also affect the psyche of the children, especially when children bear witness to family violence.

Family dysfunctions will make these children insecure and thus, more susceptible to negative influences outside their homes.

Financial

Many of the crimes and social problems that teenagers create today are due to financial factors because of their increasing need for worldly desires.

For teenagers from poor families, they are easily influenced by affluent friends.

Hence, they tend to commit crimes and illicit activities such as stealing, prostitution, drug trafficking and storing stolen items to secure financial resources to feed their innumerable wants.

Society

Today's society is selfish and less sensitive to moral norms and values.

People within a community no longer proactively come together and engage themselves in communal activities, causing them to alienate themselves from each other.

To them, youth problems are considered trivial and not a worthwhile cause for them to seek solutions.

Peers

This factor has been widely known as the main cause of today's social ills among teenagers.

Akin to magnetic attraction, teenagers like to hang out with peers who are fun and leading an exciting lifestyle even though they may be a negative influence.

Teenagers today are more vulnerable to negative influences as they lack insights to meaning of their lives.

Religious

The weak faith and lack of understanding of religion make the youths today less accountable to their actions. Discarding religions obligation and poor guidance from parents are the cause of this social problem.

MALAYSIA : THE JUVENILE COURTS ACT 1947 (ACT 90)

In Malaysia, we have an Act to provide for the care and protection of children and young persons which is executed by the Juvenile Court. This Act:

- Determines the punishment of children, juveniles and young people found guilty under the law.
- Provides opportunities for them to obtain care and protection.
- Provides opportunities for those who have been found guilty to undergo a recovery plan at Morals of or Moral Schools.
- Provides awareness to parents or guardians and determine their participation in the rehabilitation of their children

TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS IN MALAYSIAN PRISON

The Prison Department of Malaysia provides an effective rehabilitation program to these inmates. The schools in jail have been established for a long time and their curriculum is targeted at the young offenders' challenges and needs. The schools are prepared to accept a diverse group of young offenders. As juveniles placed in prison schools have disciplinary and moral problems, prison schools are aimed at solving the problem as well as seeking excellence.

The objectives can be achieved through teaching and learning approaches which are conducted in a fairly-controlled environment. Juveniles in a school are not given a choice unless they are required to attend an education class. To ensure that the school system runs smoothly, the department has established policies to ensure that the school runs smoothly and safely. Such policies also help juveniles to pursue further education until the age of 21.

Attending a prison institution has various obstacles. With the teacher's concern, these obstacles will turn to positive challenges for the juveniles to work on and overcome. To ensure that the juveniles succeed, some of the directions of excellence has been set. With directions set, the students at the prison school will gain confidence and motivation to build a better future for themselves.

They can also be successful just like any regular school students in the community. Schools in prison institutions have the potential to become a 'school of hope' for students facing social problems. The schools can also serve as the best institution in addressing social problems among students especially those involved in criminal activity. The establishment of the School of Integrity (SI) and Henry Gurney School (SHG) is to provide formal education at prison institutions in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Malaysia.

Prison education is available to young inmates aged between 15 to 21 years old. There are two groups of students attending juvenile school, namely at Henry Gurney School and young prisoner at Integrity School. In 2008, six SIs and two SHGs were set up to provide a second opportunity for juveniles and young prisoners to undertake co-curriculum activities and improve themselves academically and in character. As of 2017, there are eight (8) SIs and four (4) SHGs nationwide.

IMPLEMENTATION CONCEPT

- Provide a formal education system based on the Malaysian Education Ministry curriculum.
- The Management of schools are under the Ministry of Education Malaysia, Prisons Department of Malaysia.
- Collaboration with the Ministry of Education Malaysia are providing a professional teacher and operation education
- Classification of students are not based on age but according to academic achievement level

Statistic of Inmates in Henry Gurney Schools and Integrity School, Malaysia

School	14-18yrs		Total	18-21yrs		Total	Total
	M	F		M	F		
Telok Mas, Melaka	785	59	844	260	13	273	1117
Keningau, Sabah	140	23	163	5	4	9	172
P , Borneo, Swak	52	-	52	75	-	75	127

M = Male

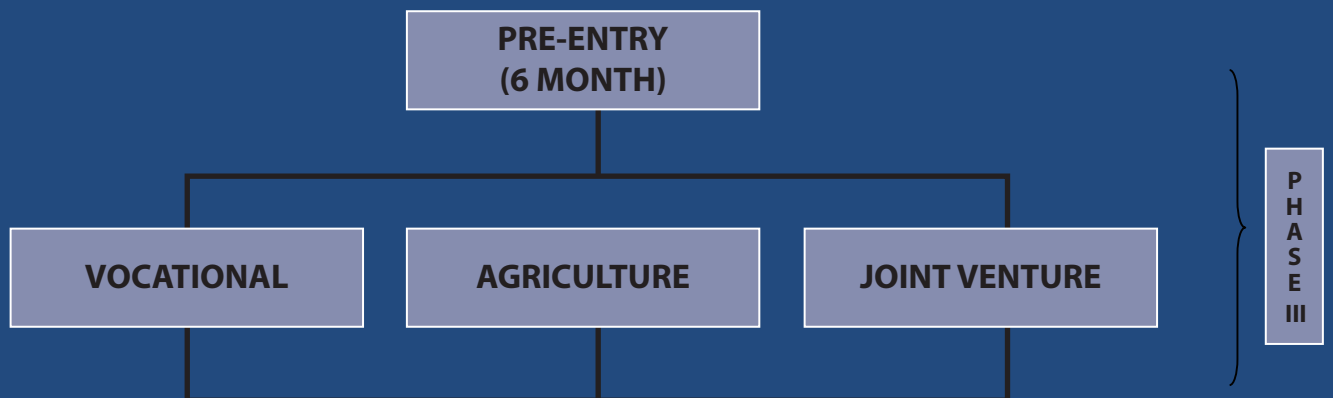
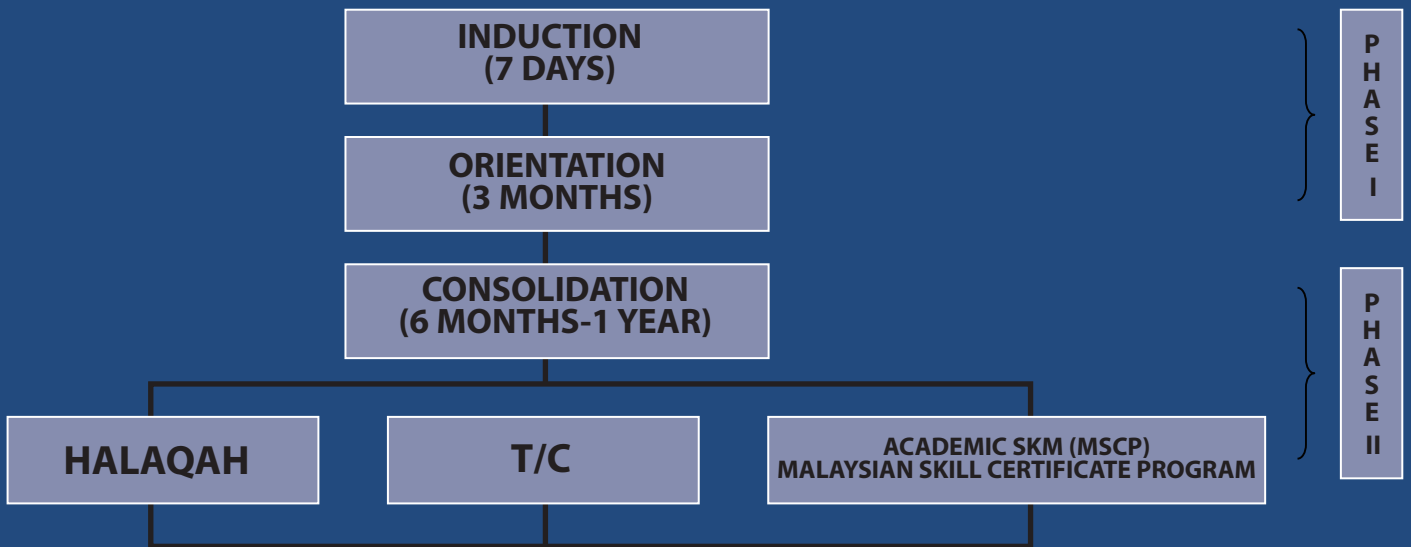
F = Female

Putra Module

To ensure that young prisoners follow a recovery program during their detention periods, they will be exposed to vocational skills programs such as carpentry, welding, agriculture, music instruments band, cooking, sewing and so on. They are required to adhere to the Putra Module.

Integrity School in Prison	Young Inmates	
	Male	Female
Puncak Alam	475	
Sungai Petani	558	
Kluang	46	
Muar	31	
Puncak Borneo	26	
Bentong	14	
Marang	146	
Kota Kinabalu(M)	204	
Kota Kinabalu Women Prison		38
Kajang	29	
Total	1,529	38

SPECIAL MODULE FOR YOUNG OFFENDERS



Career Preparation



Phase I

Induction and Orientation

Orientation modules are formulated based on the need for physical rehabilitation through wire activity, introduction to prison rules, prisons security policies, prison rehabilitation policies and the essentials of every young offender to know during a sentence of disclosure is important to ensure that every prisoner gets information on their rights through a talk or briefing scheduled from time to time. Presenting this information is important in order to prevent prisoners from receiving misinformation, especially from fellow prisoners.



For rehabilitated young people to stay strong on the path of rehabilitation, at the 1st phase they have to joined marching training aimed at enhancing self-discipline

Phase II

Phase 2 is a stage where juveniles are given more intensive recovery treatment after they cleared Phase 1. The three main activities in this phase are academic education / Malaysian Skills Certificate, Halaqah activities and Therapeutic Community activities. Juveniles will be given choices based on their interests and tendency to follow one of those core activities. Under these activities, juveniles will also go through other elective activities such as, sports / recreation, library and other activities set by the institution.



Young Prisoner can choose either they want to continue study or following other academic skills

Phase III

Phase 3 is the stage where prisoners will go through preparatory activities to return to communities where they will be provided with more intensive training to provide skills, especially in vocational or religious affairs. Activity in this phase will be scheduled within six months.

5.1.1 Vocational activities

5.1.2 Agriculture

5.1.3 Spirituality



Spirituality Activity aimed at sharing knowledge, sharing issues while strengthening the spirit and supporting for change

Phase IV Pre-Free

Once the prisoners manage through phase 1, 2 and 3 they will proceed to phase 4, which is pre-free. In this phase, prisoners will be exposed to social skills in order to provide them with the knowledge and confidence to assimilate back to society. In this context, the Prisons Department will obtain proficient speakers either from professionals or ex-offenders or non-governmental organizations to deliver social skills talks to young prisoners.



Program of Pilgrimage Missionary Day Religious Excellence (JAIM) Henry Gurney Telok Mas Melaka

CONCLUSION

Rehabilitation of prisoners requires the implementation of integrated recovery modules to ensure that every offender can undergo a recovery program either physical recovery or spiritual recovery. Hence, the above program framework is a module that can meet the needs of juveniles as adolescents who need to be given effective remedies to ensure that they do not repeat the crime once released. With the implementation of the Putra Rehabilitation Module, the Prisons Department of Malaysia is certain that prisoners who had gone through this module can be restored and reintegrate effectively back to society.



Managing Young People Who Offend

Contributed by Singapore Prison Service

The Singapore Prison Service (SPS) adopts a differentiated approach towards rehabilitation. There are various programmes and specialised regimes, in which interventions are tailored to address the inmates' risks and needs.

Under the Singapore Law, young offenders aged 16 to below 21 on the day of conviction may be sentenced to Reformatory Training in lieu of any other sentence by High Court or a District Court. Those between 14 and below 16 years of age may also be sentenced to Reformatory Training if they have, prior to the conviction, been ordered to be sent to an approved school established under section 62 of the Children and Young Persons Act (Cap. 38). The RT regime comprises an in-care component of between 6 and 36 months, with a supervision phase of at least 1 year and up to the expiry of 4 years from the date of sentence.

The Reformatory Training (RT) regime is a form of strategic early intervention in the offending cycle for young offenders.

The regime aims to effectively address the rehabilitation needs of the RT trainees so as to increase their chances of returning to society as responsible and contributing citizens, from a young age.

Young offenders are housed together in Tanah Merah Prison. This prevents mixing and contamination with the adult offenders. Centralising the young offenders also allows better resource allocation. SPS takes a differentiated approach to meet the youth's dynamic needs and ensure coverage of offenders through different levels of intervention intensity. The administration of various rehabilitation programmes aim to motivate the young offenders towards change, and address attitudes that may be supportive of criminal behaviours, violence, and/or substance abuse.

Recently, a review was undertaken of the RT regime with an aim to better address the rehabilitation needs of the RT trainees.

The regime also took cognisance of the developments in the juvenile homes, use of probations and also SPS' latest understanding in the area of correctional rehabilitation.

The revised regime came into force on 31 Oct 2018, with the amendments to the RT legislations. The following table shows some of the changes to the regime:

Table 1: Changes to the RT Regime

Category	Previous Regime	Revised Regime
Minimum Detention Period in Reformatory Training Centre (RTC)	18 months (by law)	Either 6 or 12 months, depending on the intensity of the intervention (by law)
Increased Involvement of the RT trainees' families in their rehabilitation journey	Family interventions were concentrated towards the tail-end of the RT trainees' detention	Revised family programmes are designed such that family interventions will commence upon the RT trainee's admission and continue through his detention via the provision of a tiered family programme framework
Increased educational and vocational training opportunities	Generally limited to courses related to Computer Literacy and Electronics	Vocational training and employability skills courses were expanded based on market trends and study: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workforce Skills Qualification (WSQ) in Retail Operations • Workforce Skills Qualifications (WSQ) in Hotel and Accommodation • Services Career Guidance • Programme Employment Preparation Programme

Minimum Period to be on Released on Supervision (ROS)	RT trainees were required to be on at least 6 months of ROS before they could be considered for discharge from the RT sentence	RT trainees would be required to be on at least 12 months of Release On Supervision (ROS) as young offenders are assessed to require a longer period of hand holding in the community
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In-care Programming

Let us take a closer look at the programming of the RT Regime. The following table will provide you an overview of the programmes that RT trainee will undergo during his detention in Reformatory Training Centre, depending on his level of intensity of intervention required.



**Table 2:
Overview of Programmes in the revised RT Regime**

OVERVIEW OF REVISED RT REGIME			
Category	Incarceration Phase		Community
	Orientation	Transformation	Aftercare (Supervision)
Criminogenic Programmes	Psychology-based Correctional Programme (PCP) Level 1	PCP Level 2, PCP Level 3	Case Management Befriender Prog Employment/Education Reporting Sessions & Urine Tests
Family Involvement	Basic Family Prog Family Orientation Session	Intermediate Family Prog, Advanced Family Prog Parents-Officers' Meeting	
Vocational Training		WSQ Retail Operations, WSQ Hotel Accommodation & Services Employment Prep Prog, Career Guidance Prog	
Education		General Education, GCE N/O/A Level	
Transformational Environment	Inspirational Talks Community Case Conference RT Handbook Podcasts	Inspirational Talks Communal Meetings Community Case Conference RT Handbook Podcasts	
Others	Foot Drills Religious Services Orientation Briefing Core Skills Prog Enrichment Activities	Foot Drills Case Management Religious Services Anti-Gang Related Talk Befriender Prog Enrichment Activities	

Tiered Psychology-Based Correctional Programmes (PCPs)

SPS has developed and implemented a tiered PCP framework to address motivation levels, substance abuse, violent offending and criminal thinking. The PCPs are developed based on evidence-informed theories, methodologies that are relevant for the youth population, and adheres to the principles of effective rehabilitation.

All RT trainees will undergo minimally a level 1 programme (Motivational Primer) to increase their awareness of their offending behaviours and their commitment towards change. Some of the topics covered are – identifying important values, goal setting and challenging negative self-talk.

RT trainees who are assessed with higher intensity of intervention required would subsequently be required to attend level 2 or even level 3 programmes under the tiered model to address their criminal thinking. These will delve into their unhelpful core beliefs and replace them with more adaptive ones in order to facilitate attitudinal change and the formation of a pro-social identity, while providing them with skills to abstain from offending behaviours. For those with a risk of violent offending, the programme will help them gain ownership over their use of violence, challenge negative thoughts underlying violent behaviour, and to develop personal relapse prevention plans.

Increased Involvement of the RT trainees' families in their rehabilitation journey

SPS notes the importance of establishing strong family support for the RT trainee during his detention period in RTC. Hence, in the revised RT regime, family programmes are conducted at the various phases of the RT trainee's rehabilitation journey. The provision of family programmes will start immediately upon the RT trainee's admission and continue throughout his stay in RTC at regular intervals. The programmes seek to strengthen family bonds and establish a supportive family network for the RT trainee.

Emphasis of Vocational Training and Education

In the revised RT regime, there is greater emphasis in enhancing the employability for RT trainees through vocational skills training and education. SPS has since worked with Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprises (SCORE) and Workforce Singapore (WSG) accredited organisations to provide more options for vocational training and employability skills training – which include WSQ Certificate in Retail Operations, WSQ Certificate in Hotel Accommodation and Services courses.

Towards the tail end of the RT's in-care phase in RTC, SPS has also implemented the Career Guidance and Employment Preparation programmes to guide them in making informed occupational choices. For RT trainees who are more academically

inclined, there will still be educational opportunities available for them. The acquisition of additional qualifications such as GCE 'N', GCE 'O' and GCE 'A' levels will stand the young offenders in good stead for pursuing further education upon their release.

Personal Development

During the RT trainee's detention in RTC, he will also undergo programmes that are targeted at his personal development to strengthen his personal efficacy. For example, young offenders are encouraged to participate in the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA). This annual programme aims to encourage young people to develop personal qualities of self-reliance, perseverance and responsibility to both themselves and the community.

In order to achieve an award, the RT trainee will be required to undergo various components**, which include:

- **Service Learning:** This aims to develop the young people into socially responsible citizens and they will learn how to give useful services to others in the community.
- **Outdoor Appreciation:** This aims to develop the young people's confidence problem-solving skills, and inculcate a sense of stewardship for the environment.
- **Healthy Living:** This aims to develop a healthy physical and mental wellness in the young people through healthy living.

***To note: Components are subjected to changes every year, under the national NYAA framework*

Aftercare

When the RT trainees have completed the mandatory minimum detention period in RTC and are assessed to be ready to be released into the community for reintegration, they will progress to the next phase of the RT sentence – the Aftercare phase.

All RT trainees will be required to undergo a crucial period after their detention in RTC - known as Release on Supervision (ROS). Having proper aftercare intervention is critical in ensuring the RT trainee's good progress in their reintegration into the community.

In the revised RT regime, structured aftercare case management support has been put in place for all the RT trainees to facilitate their transition from the residential to the community setting. Each RT trainee will be assigned a Reintegration Officer and Case Manager, where both of them will work closely with the RT trainee to develop his reintegration plan, monitor his progress, and review his plan continuously until he is discharged from the RT sentence.

Conclusion

“The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.”

-Nelson Mandela

Young people are the future of our country. Hence, it is important that sufficient resources are allocated to these young offenders for their rehabilitation to prevent them from reoffending and to be able to return to the community as responsible and contributing citizens.





The Management and Rehabilitation of Young Offenders in Vietnam

Contributed by Vietnam Prison Management Department

1. Overview Introduction:

The Vietnam Prison Management Department (VPMD), headed by Lieutenant General Mr. Ho Thanh Dinh, is under the purview of Ministry of Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. VPMD consists of various divisions and a training unit. Its main office is located in Ho Chi Minh city. VPMD manages all the prisons in Vietnam as well as the rehabilitation and reintegration of the inmates. In recent years, the number of young offenders (under 18 years old) has decreased due to legislative amendments to accord more tolerance to this group where possible. For example, in lieu of imprisonment, they are given warnings, fines, or subject to community based sentences such as home detention. However, the decision to impose these non-custodial sentences is dependent on the severity of the offence committed as the punishment must be commensurate with the crime.



Delegates of Singapore Prison Service welcomed by the Directorate of VPMD at the Headquarters in November, 2018



Minister of Home Affairs and Justice of Mongolia and delegates visited VPMD in October, 2018

For more targeted intervention and management of young offenders who make up a small percentage of the overall offender population, those sentenced to imprisonment are housed in dedicated prisons in the north, central, and south regions. This arrangement helps to better streamline rehabilitation programmes for young offenders as well as family visits to encourage them during their incarceration. At present, the legal framework governing the management and rehabilitation of young offenders in all of Vietnam's prisons is in compliance with the Vietnam Constitutions (2013) and United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989). VPMD's primary focus in the treatment of young offenders is to educate them and help them in their rehabilitation so they can become contributing citizens upon their release.

2.The Custodial Management and Rehabilitation of Young Offenders:

In designing a holistic environment for young offenders in custody, they are housed and assigned work based on their gender and medical status (e.g. healthy or requiring long term medical care). Most young offenders are well behaved in prison and follow the rules and regulations. They are given priority for vocational training, visits, and privileges such as making calls to their families and engaging in recreational activities.

- + Accommodation: Each young offender has a 3m² bed area in their cell, which is one 1m² bigger than the beds used by other offenders (2m² for each offender)
- + Food: Young offenders are given more meat and fish for their meals compared to other offenders
- + Clothing: Young offenders are given more clothes and bedding (e.g. blankets, mosquito nets) and basic necessities than other offenders
- + Family Visits: Young offenders can receive up to 3 visits a month and for 3 hours each time – this duration is also longer than what other offenders are permitted
- + Phone Calls: Young offenders can make up to 4 phone calls a month to their families and for 10 minutes per call – the call duration is twice as long as that allowed for other offenders
- + Cultural and Recreational Activities: Young offenders have twice the amount of recreational time compared to other offenders
- + Remission of Sentence: Young offenders who have served a quarter of their sentence can be considered for remission of sentence up to a maximum of 4 years. Other offenders must serve at least a third of their sentence before they can be considered for remission and the maximum period of remission is up to 3 years. On each National Day, young offenders who have served a third of their sentence term can be considered for Presidential Amnesty. Those who have yet to serve a third of their sentence will be given progressive rehabilitation intervention.

It is compulsory for young offenders to attend and complete the primary and secondary educational programmes during their incarceration. These programmes are conducted every day except for Sundays and public holidays. The lessons cover moral values, basic life skills, current affairs, as well as information required for smooth reintegration upon release. Additionally, VPMD coordinates with the Department of Labour, the respective Invalid and Social Affairs departments in each province, socio-political organisations such as the Vietnam Youth Association, as well as non-government organisations to foster greater support for young offenders. These partner organisations are encouraged to hire young ex-offenders and also provide vocational training (where applicable) for them during and after their incarceration to prepare them for their new jobs in the community upon release.

The Vietnam government has increased efforts to provide financial aid for young ex-offenders and called for government and non-government organisations to support the hiring of ex-offender so as to provide them stable jobs to encourage their rehabilitation. As an incentive, companies who hire ex-offenders in accordance with the legal framework are given subsidised rental rates for their offices, warehouses, and other facilities.

SOME ILLUSTRATED PICTURES FOR REHABILITATION OF YOUNG OFFENDERS IN VIETNAM PRISONS



Young offenders undergoing vocational training (making handicraft products)



Young offenders enjoying a sports game



An educational class for young offenders as part of their rehabilitation programme



Faith Project - Community Aftercare Initiative

Contributed by Mongolia General Executive Agency

The General Executive Agency of Court Decision (“GEACD”) Mongolia has launched a community aftercare community initiative called “Faith Project”. The objective of Faith Project is to provide social assistance and emotional support to help offenders to reintegrate to society successfully. One example is G.Byambadorj who was recently released from prisons and had benefited from the new Faith Project. Following is his story.

Before imprisonment, Citizen G. Byambadorj is an alcoholic without a stable job. His fiancé left him. As a result, he was depressed, committed a crime and was incarcerated. During imprisonment, he actively participated and completed the social reintegration and educational programme conducted by the GEACD.

He managed to quit smoking and became a role model to other prisoners. After his release, G. Byambadorj faced the same challenges over and over again because he has no home, no support from family and could not even find a job. However, he did not give up.

Through the “Faith” project organized by GEACD, G. Byambadorj was provided with a house (a Mongolian traditional yurt) with the support from various non-governmental organizations (NGO). He hosted his wedding with his loving lady. At his wedding ceremony, family members, friends, officers from GEACD and NGOs were invited.



“Faith project call
“Turn key ceremony”



“Wedding ceremony”



“Receiving the home key”



“Meeting with his brother”

During the ceremony Mr. Byambadorj said: *“Throughout my life, I have made a lot of mistakes. However, I understood that I should be responsible for my wrongdoings and change to be a better person. So, I promise to you all that I will try my best to be better person every day and will not lose your faith in me”.*

In 1994, Mr.Byambadorj found out that he has a younger brother and was sent to an orphanage. He tried to search for his missing brother but to no avail. Faith project continued to find his brother whom he had not seen for 24 years. GEACD conducted a search together with various NGOs, and found his brother, Mr.Tuvdendorj . Both brothers were happily reunited. Mr. Tuvdendorj said: *When I was a little boy, I used to cry every night because I was so jealous of those kids with family members. Now that I know I have a brother, it means the world to me.*Faith Project has helped and motivated Mr. Byambadorj to become responsible person in his life and in the society.

“Throughout my life, I have made a lot of mistakes. However, I understood that I should be responsible for my wrongdoings and change to be a better person. So, I promise to you all that I will try my best to be better person every day and will not lose your faith in me”



Inter-Departmental Cooperation on Riot Control

Contributed by Macao Correctional Services Bureau

On 27 November 2018, the Correctional Services Bureau and the Public Security Police Force conducted a joint riot control drill at the Coloane Prison.

The joint collaboration with the Police Tactical Unit (PTU) is to strengthen inter-departmental cooperation mechanism and enhance the responsiveness, communication and coordination abilities of prison staff in violent incidents.

The exercise was concluded successfully involving more than 100 officers from the PTU of the Public Security Police Force and the Riot Control Unit of Coloane Prison.



The joint riot control taskforce disperses the rioters at Coloane Prison

Riot Control Drill

The riot control drill took place in the afternoon at the yard of Coloane Prison. It was a mock scenario where the inmates have gotten into a conflict during their recreational time and it escalated into a brawl between two rival gangs. The first officer-at-scene tried to deescalate the situation but was unsuccessful despite negotiation attempts. Instead, some of the inmates refused to cooperate and even assaulted the prison guards; the incident exacerbated into a riot. The officer on duty of Coloane Prison reported the riot to the superior, evaluated the security threat level based on the emergency response guidelines, and requested the Public Security Police Force for immediate reinforcements.

Concurrently, Coloane Prison activated the emergency response mechanism and established a command center to coordinate and deploy personnel from involved sub-units.



Riot control personnel subdue the troublemakers and remove them from the scene

Once notified, the Public Security Police Force immediately dispatched its PTU and Police Dog Unit to Coloane Prison for a joint operation with the Prison's Riot Control Unit to quell the riot. At the command center, commanders of both parties deliberated on the strategies to be employed. The riot control officers entered the scene and gave a serious warning to the rioters. They ignored it and continued to throw objects around and block the walkway. As warning efforts were futile, the taskforce decisively used non-lethal weapons (such as flash bangs, pepper gun and water cannon) and appropriate force



Riot control officers surrounding the rioters

coupled with drill formations and strategies employed, swiftly subdued all troublemakers and quelled the riot. During the process, it was simulated that three inmates sustained minor injuries and were treated at the Prison's Clinic.

Inter-Departmental Cooperation

Upon completion of the drill, the Director of Correctional Services Bureau, Mr. Cheng Fong Meng, and the high-level representatives and commanding officers of the Unitary Police Service and Public Security Police Force held a meeting to review and discuss in-depth all the processes of the drill to further optimize the inter-departmental cooperation mechanism in joint operations.

The Correctional Services Bureau will continue to collaborate with other public departments on organizing different joint drills to perfect the inter-departmental response mechanism for major incidents, safeguarding the safety and order in the Prison.



Unitary Police Service, Public Security Police Force and Correctional Services Bureau hold a review meeting



M U L T I M E D I A H U B
Tanah Merah Prison
Singapore



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Special thanks to the inmates at MMH for their dedication and commitment in the design and layout of this newsletter.



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