

Financial Criminology Training and a Visit to the Forensic Science Centre, Teesside University, UK

By Prof. Dr. Normah Omar

In March 2010, I went to the United Kingdom for eight days to participate in a training programme at the Fraud & Corruption Summit 2010. The training programme, which was held in London was jointly organised by the MIS Training Institute and other agencies such as the World Check and Septia Group. Keynote speeches were deliberated by five renowned anti-fraud specialists: (i) Mr Stephen Harrison, Director of Enforcement, National Fraud Authority, UK, (ii) Mr Andrew Jennings, Investigative Reporter & Author, Specializing in Corruption in the Sports World (FIFA) UK, (iii) Mr Mark Babington, Director & Head of the Fraud Practice Network, UK, (iv) Ms BSD Sanga, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission of Nigeria and (v) Lady Olga Maitland, CEO Money Transfer International. International participants who came from more than fifty countries were exposed to real-life fraud and corruption cases. The training programme includes lecture, hands-on workshop, drama, forum and sharing-sessions. Through case study evaluations, we learned new techniques or new world strategies for fraud prevention, detection and deterrence.



◀ *Fraud & Corruption Summit 2010* ▶



Whilst in London, I also took the opportunity to visit the Teesside University at Middleborough, located on the North East side of the United Kingdom. At that time, Teesside University was just being named as “University of the Year” by the Times Higher (THES). One of the most prominent research centres at Teesside University is the Forensic Science Research Centre (FCRC). FCRC is jointly managed by renowned forensic science researchers/professors and forensic investigators. What is unique about the centre is its close collaboration with the police department in the UK. In fact I was told that the crime rate within the Middleborough area is one of the lowest in the country. Besides being equipped with different types of forensic laboratories, the centre has also built two crime scene houses. The university has converted two student residential houses into CSI laboratory. The Crime Scene House is divided into several “locations” such as living room, child room, garage, kitchen, bedroom, attic, bathroom, storage area, dark room etc. Students are readily exposed to different “real-life” situations involving different kinds of crimes. Even lectures are held within the crime scene houses.



◀ *Financial Database Laboratory*



◀ *Crime Scene House*

In addition to the normal crime scene investigation, FSRC dedicates one specific department to handle cases involving financial criminology. The centre has a dedicated computer laboratory that keeps relevant financial databases used in financial investigations.