**Nomination for Allan Lavell for the:**

**2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction**

**Ian Davis**

Visiting Professor in Disaster Risk Management in Copenhagen, Kyoto, Lund and Oxford Brookes Universities.

Lauriat, United Nations Sasakawa Award, 1996

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**For the attention of :**

**The Administrator of Sasakawa Awards**

**United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)**

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In my acceptance speech on receiving the 1996 Sasakawa Award, I acknowledged that my contribution to disaster protection was one of those- “*dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants”*

Of the persons I have worked with during the last forty two years in DRM, I have met a small handful of truly inspired leaders who have decisively led this subject, and encouraged a generation to devote their energies and creativity to the noble cause of reducing risks. Allan Lavell is undoubtedly one of these ‘giants’ and I am delighted to nominate him as a worthy recipient of this prestigious award.

I was one of the lead authors in the two year UNISDR/ IPCC SREX project that aimed to bring together leaders and practitioners in the DRR and Climate Change communities to hammer out a common cause, vocabulary and culture. Allan clearly emerged as the key figure in our DRR community, since with great clarity, warmth, courage and insights he inspired us all to develop our task, one of immense importance for the future of both Disaster Risk Reduction and Adaptation to Climate Change and for a sustainable future for our planet.

Allan has rich credentials for this award:

* energy, enthusiasm, insight, arguments, focus, humour, friendliness and a willingness to talk to all from consummate professionals, undergraduates to the person ‘in the street’;
* linguistic skills enabling him to write in simple but profound ways in both English and Spanish. Thus, he speaks with persuasion on critical issues to diverse audiences from governments to academia, NGO communities and local communities;
* a decisive impact on the development of new laws, policies, and strategies for DRM in Latin America, where the concepts and approach he has developed have been adopted by numerous governments and regional organizations;
* conceptual clarity and ability to forge new ideas, always within a development context;
* a lasting influence on the development of thought and practice on local level risk management in Latin America and on the very notion of integral disaster risk management, fully ‘mainstreamed’ into structures and policies; and-
* within his academic role, Allan has initiated and secured over two million dollars for research on DRM, particularly within the structure of LA RED. His teaching at post-graduate level, conference attendance in over 40 countries and consultancies have been financed by the organizing agencies. He maintains a permanent position at the Latin American Social Science Faculty in Costa Rica that enables him to move freely between academia, consultancy and international conferences.

To summarize, Allan has decisively shaped the future by his actions, and the rapid progress in international DRM over the past two decades reflects his pervasive and lasting influence. Therefore, if this award is made to him, this will acknowledge his current role as a global leader and encourage him to further exercise his rich gifts in the HFA2 era.

I understand that a package of supporting documentation will follow shortly.

Ian Davis