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Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA)

Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

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The Sasakawa Team

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**Letter of nomination for the 2015 Sasakawa Award: DiDRRN**

Dear Sir/Madam

This letter is to nominate the *Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction Network* (DiDRRN), as a *key agent of change* in promoting disability-inclusion in DRR, for the 2015 Sasakawa Award.

DiDRRN was established in consultation with UNISDR during ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meetings and was launched at the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR), 2012. The mission of DiDRRN is to provide a voice for, and to promote the active participation of, persons with disabilities in the development, and realization, of the international post-2015 DRR framework (HFA2)

DiDRRN was formed in response to the lack of reference to, and acknowledgment of, the disproportionate impact of disasters on persons with disabilities within DRR. DiDRRN raises awareness on disability-inclusion among DRR actors and encourages the prioritisation of DRR among the disability community.

*My parents put me on a banana trees to float to safety in the flood, but I was so sacred, I said no and then they carried me to the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of our house where I*

*was safe.*

Danh (11) Vietnam, a child with disability, Global Platform, 2013.

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DiDRRN was established as a multi-stakeholder collaboration to *overcome individual institutional boundaries* and to foster understanding, to challenge preconceptions and to provide practical disability-inclusive DRR solutions. The network draws on the experience of national and international organisations alongside regional networks and benefits from the expertise of both disability and DRR practitioners.<sup>1</sup>

*Disability must be included in DRR and we need disability-inclusive DRR programmes. However, disability-inclusion can't be achieved just like that, we need full collaboration between Disabled People's Organisations, government, and other organizations focused on DRR.*

Mr Suparman, Indonesian local DPO, 6<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR.

DiDRRN partners work directly with communities and with governments. As such, DiDRRN is uniquely placed to draw on direct experience of implementation to guide policy. Alliances with the Red Cross/Crescent chapters, academia, stakeholders within the HFA2 consultative process and UNISDR itself also broaden DiDRRN's legitimacy and reach. For the 3<sup>rd</sup> World Conference, DiDRRN is collaborating with other key disability stakeholders including the International Disability Alliance, Rehabilitation International and the Nippon Foundation to ensure strong representation of persons with disabilities in Sendai and beyond.

A core aim of DiDRRN is to demystify disability within DRR. Partners highlight commonalities and shared understandings within a whole-of-community approach. DiDRRN questions traditional approaches to disability, which draw on medical or social understandings, within DRR. For DiDRRN, the importance of recognising and addressing functioning limitations and the barriers that persons with disabilities face to participation and to minimising risk is key. Practical examples include access to potentially life-saving information and ensuring that all can evacuate and have safe refuge; whether independently or through collaboration within communities. Importantly, such principles apply to all,

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<sup>1</sup> DiDRRN founding partners: Arbeiter-Samariter-Bund (ASB); CBM; the Centre for Disability in Development; Malteser International; the Pacific Disability Forum; the South Asian Disability Forum.

including; the elderly and women and children with disabilities who may face multiple jeopardies.

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*Many Deaf people have no knowledge and information on DRR. I can now help them to actively contribute to DRR.*

Ms Rahardja, Indonesia. Deaf DRR facilitator.

DiDRRN's work, therefore, serves as a precursor to, and fully supports, the *whole-of-society* approach within HFA2. The work of DiDRRN, and other disability stakeholders, reminds us to better consider how we can all contribute, without discrimination, towards a safer, healthier, wealthier and more resilient world.

Since its formation, DiDRRN has directly contributed to:

- The active participation of 42 persons with disabilities at the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> AMCDRRs; Global Platform, 2013; International Day for Disaster Reduction celebrations with UNISDR, New York, 2013.
- The Yogyakarta and Bangkok Declarations including background documents; the Asia-Pacific HFA2 Input Document; HFA2 drafts.
- Direct implementation of disability-inclusive DRR in 12 countries (Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Kiribati, Myanmar, Pakistan, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Vietnam).
- Capacity building in disability-inclusive DRR to over 700 members of Disabled People's Organisations.
- Equipped over 400 persons with disabilities to contribute to inclusive-DRR in their communities as facilitators and agents of change.
- Collaborated with UNISDR on the design of the first global survey on disability and provided 4,000 responses from persons with disabilities with no Internet access.
- Applied research on disasters and disability of over 2,000 households with a household member with disability.
- Contributed to national initiatives on disability-inclusive DRR; Bangladesh, Fiji, Indonesia, Vietnam.
- Assistance to the government of Indonesia on national DRR curriculum development on disability and DRR and inclusion within Indonesia's national Resilient Village programme.

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- Provision of disability-inclusive community-based DRR guidelines and a commitment from the Vietnamese National Disaster Management Centre to roll out to 6,000 communes.

On behalf of the government of Vietnam, we firmly believe that DiDRRN have demonstrated a clear and worthy contribution to changing attitudes and shaping the future of DRR and, importantly, in ensuring DRR is truly for all.

I trust you will find merit in this nomination.

Yours faithfully



Mr Nguyen Trung Thanh

Acting Head of Social Policy Division  
Social Protection Bureau  
Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA)  
Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

TL. CỤC TRƯỞNG  
KT CHÁNH VĂN PHÒNG  
PHÓ CHÁNH VĂN PHÒNG

  
*Phạm Đại Đồng*

## **Annex 1: DiDRRN funding**

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Since its inception DiDRRN has received financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic and Development Cooperation (BMZ) and from the German relief alliance of Aktion-Deutschland-Hilft (ADH) and also from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

The funds granted to DiDRRN add up to a total budget of EUR 980,335 (USD 1,242,420), of which EUR 797,706 (USD 1,010,960), or 81.4 per cent, have been spent until end of September 2014.

Funds from BMZ totaling Euro 690,000 have been provided to deliver community-based inclusive-DRR projects in 10 high-risk countries in Asia and the Pacific Region (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Kiribati, Pakistan, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Thailand, Tonga, Vanuatu, Vietnam) alongside HFA2 related advocacy activities at national levels and to ensure the active participation of persons with disabilities at key post-HFA related events including the 6<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR, Thailand, 2014 and the World Conference on DRR, Japan, 2015.

Funds from ADH supported initial DiDRRN activities at the 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR, Indonesia, 2012 and the production of information communication and education materials with co-funding from the above mentioned BMZ funds to a value of Euro 168,104.

Additional funds for advocacy and lobbying for disability-inclusive DRR for the 5<sup>th</sup> AMCDRR and co-hosted events at the Global Platform, 2013 were provided by GIZ totaling Euro 36,980.

In addition to the above, all DiDRRN partners have allocated and committed the participation of their DiDRRN focal points to DiDRRN activities from their own funds.

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DiDRRN partners have also agreed to promote the network and to incorporate, and work towards, common DiDRRN objectives with funds directly received by individual partners. An example is a partnership between ASB and the University of Sydney with Australian Aid funding of a total budget of AUS\$ 556,906. This collaboration seeks to fulfill a core DiDRRN objective by better establishing an evidence base on the impacts of disasters on persons with

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disabilities. This work includes the development of a disability-inclusive DRR research tool, in collaboration with DiDRRN partners, that is to be publically available.

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If DiDRRN wins the Sasakawa Award 2015, the award money of USD 50,000 will be utilised by partners to further contribute to the active participation of persons with disabilities as key agents of change within DRR and in direct support of HFA2 objectives.

## **Annex 2: Administrative information**

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### **a. Nominee**

Institution Name: The Disability-inclusive DRR Network (DiDRRN)

Address of headquarters: c/o Malteser International, Kalker Hauptstr. 22-24 · 51103 Cologne, Germany. Tel: +49 (0) 221 9822-212 · Fax: -179

Date of creation: 22 October 2012

Main fields of activity: Disability-inclusive DRR; implementation, advocacy and policy.

Size: 7 partner organisations.

Organisation structure: Network with agreement by consensus and represented by focal points for each partner organisation.

Annual budget and sources of income: Current budget EUR 980,335 from the German Federal Ministry for Economic and Development Cooperation (BMZ) and Aktion-Deutschland-Hilft (ADH).

Name and title of chief executive officer: Ms Sae Kani.

### **b. Nominator**

Nominator's name: Mr Nguyen Trung Thanh

Address: 35 Tran Phu, Ba Dinh, Hanoi, Vietnam

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Email: trungthanhbld@gmail.com

Present position: Acting Head of Social Policy Division, Social Protection Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA), Government of the Socialist Republic of

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Previous position: Staff of Social Policy Division, Social Protection Bureau, Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs (MoLISA), Government of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam