23 October 2014

The United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
Administrator of the Sasakawa Award 2015
9-11 Rue de Varembe
CH1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Dear **Sasakawa Team**:

It is with great honor that I nominate the Department of Science and Technology - University of the Philippines National Disaster Risk and Exposure Assessment for Mitigation (DREAM) Program for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction.

The DOST - UP DREAM Program is the materialization of collaborative efforts from the national government and the academe, one in the objective of generating hard and reliable facts that will back the country's disaster preparedness measures. In 2011, the Department of Science and Technology, in implementing science-based approaches towards building resilient communities, tapped the University of the Philippines Diliman to pursue an innovative research project on disaster management, marking the nascence of the Program.

With its three-dimensional outputs, the DREAM Program generates accurate and high-resolution flood models and flood hazard maps of unprecedented detail that allow early warning, especially for localities alongside the country's major river systems. This early warning system is particularly useful for the Philippines, being a country annually battered by 20 typhoons on the average.

While the DOST - UP DREAM Program is undoubtedly a big-ticket government project its cost cannot compare to the millions worth of material damage and the unquantifiable loss of lives that will persist if the need for science-based information is left unanswered.

The benefits of the Program are concretized in recent events where damage was kept at minimum. Examples are Habagat of 2012 and 2013 when DREAM was able to notify Marikina City of an impending overflowing of the Marikina River four (4) hours in advance, giving the local government unit ample time for evacuation. This experience is echoed in the city of Cagayan de Oro, where zero casualty was also reported during Typhoon Pablo.

The Program's technologies and datasets are also useful for post-disaster assessments as in Compostela Valley after Typhoon Pablo and in Tacloban and areas damaged by Typhoon Yolanda.

With its top-grade technologies and its use of different media for its data acquisition, processing, validation, modeling, and distribution, DREAM transcends the conventional and offers the public less limits for disaster preparedness—thus shaping the future of disaster management.

DOST - UP DREAM outputs merged with the efforts of the national and local government offices, the private sector, and all concerned individuals will bring forth a disaster-ready Philippines.

I hope this nomination merits your attention.

Very truly yours,

LOREN LEGARDA
Senator, Republic of the Philippines
UNISDR Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction and
Climate Change Adaptation for Asia and Pacific