



OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT & HUMANITARIAN COORDINATOR, YANGON, REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR

22 October 2014

Ref: Call for Nomination for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction, <http://www.wcdrr.org/sasakawa/nominate>

Dear Sir/Madam,

Nomination of Myanmar Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015

It is with great pleasure that I hereby recommend the Myanmar Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group (DRR WG) for the 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award on Disaster Risk Reduction. Since 2008 and the devastation caused by Cyclone Nargis, the DRR WG has been working vigorously in support of the Government of Myanmar to advance the DRR agenda and make Myanmar a disaster resilient nation. It has become one of the most diverse and vibrant networks that I have had the pleasure to work with, with over 60 members – UN agencies, international and local NGOs, the Red Cross movement and professional associations.

During the celebrations of the International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13th 2014, jointly organized by the Government of Myanmar and the DRR WG, I witnessed first-hand the vast array of achievements arising from the collaboration between the DRR WG and the Government such as the development and enactment of laws and policies on DRR, enhancement of early warning systems, ongoing capacity development on DRR at national and sub-national level and steps taken to effectively mainstream DRR in all development processes. The Government of Myanmar has made commendable progress against its Hyogo Framework for Action's commitments and the DRR WG has undoubtedly played a critical part in supporting such progress.

Equally important and significant is the combined impact of the members of the DRR WG on community resilience to disasters and climate change. The implementation of coordinated and high quality community-based DRR programs, which are inclusive of the most vulnerable segments of the society, ensures that communities in the most-hazard prone areas are better prepared to respond to and cope with the negative impacts of disasters and climate change.

The DRR WG's efforts are guided by a forward-looking Strategic Framework developed through participatory and multi-stakeholder processes. The group promotes broad participation and innovation as ways to address ever-evolving DRR challenges in a rapidly growing economy. It mobilizes resources primarily from its members and has been increasingly successful at securing institutional funding as donors have come to realize the value of its work.

The 2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for DRR seeks to reward organizations that are visionary and able to anticipate future DRR needs. I believe the Myanmar DRR WG to be a model for all.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Renata'.

Renata Lok-Dessallien
UN Resident Coordinator

The Administrator of the Award

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