



31 October, 2014

Dear Administrator,

Re: Nomination of Rabaul Volcano Observatory, Papua New Guinea for the Sasakawa Award

On behalf of the United Nations in Papua New Guinea, I wish to present to the 2015 Sasakawa Award Committee, the above mentioned nomination for your consideration. The Rabaul Volcano Observatory has been chosen for this nomination after robust and diligent selection process.

The Rabaul Volcano Observatory (RVO) has been nominated due to its path-breaking role in monitoring volcanic hazards in PNG over the past 60 years. The observatory was involved in mitigating impact on human population through major volcanic eruptions in PNG over the years even with limited resources. It was able to do so through its wide coverage of awareness programs targeted at the exposed communities in areas with active volcanoes throughout PNG. Through these of initiatives, the number of deaths due to large volcanic eruptions in PNG has been reduced from 3000 in 1951 to one in 2005.

In 2010, RVO entered into a three year project with one of its key partners to conduct a volcanic hazard assessment of East New Britain Province in PNG. The products of this study were used in informing the development plans of the Province and more widely in the country. This is a new trend and the RVO is continuing to play a vital role in linking science with development to ensure that the exposure of human settlements and critical infrastructure to volcanic hazards are minimized through comprehensive studies and implementation of preparatory measures.

There is little doubt that volcanic hazards in PNG will continue to affect local communities in East New Britain, as well as neighbouring provinces of PNG and other countries. The RVO is well managed and has established an excellent reputation for its work. It regularly issues public information notices and sets an incredibly good, professional example through its work on disaster risk reduction. The RVO has not previously been recognised for its contribution to disaster risk reduction.

Despite the efforts of RVO to minimize volcanic risks, it continues to face some challenges including limited funding to acquire scientific equipment to monitor the 22 active volcanoes in PNG. Lack of funds also continues to hinder the recruitment of additional trained personnel to expand the disaster mitigation work of RVO.

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I trust that this nomination will bring attention to an organization that has served its people well over many decades. I would be happy to provide any further information in support of this nomination, should the Committee require it.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Hemansu- Roy Trivedy

UN Resident Coordinator

The Administrator Sasakawa Award

United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Encl: Mandatory Essay