

In less than 400 words, please describe the remarkable and innovative effort carried out by the nominee to reduce the impact of disasters and build disaster resilience under the theme “*Shaping the Future?*”

The management of The Association of Siamese Architects under Royal Patronage (ASA) has been watching the non-profit organization, Design for Disasters (D4D), growing for some years. It was not until recently that ASA has witnessed a strong network of the young professionals working together.

D4D is a group of devoted young people wishing to change the Thai society with creativity and innovations. With determination, the group aims to build awareness in disasters and mitigation for the Thais who had never been educated about disasters.

Not only their determination to apply art and design with disaster mitigation that won our recognition, D4D’s unique management has shown the rare and priceless professional networking. With limited staff and budget, the team has managed to unite experts from different fields to work together.

Their latest project, “Earthquake Recovery Project: Reconstruction of Schools Affected by Earthquake in Chiang Rai” is a collaboration of experts in architecture, engineering, and construction, to help build new school buildings for the nine schools that had been severely damaged by 6.3-magnitude earthquake on May 5, 2014.

Nine emerging architects have designed buildings, one for each school; The Engineering Institute of Thailand and The Consulting Engineers Association of Thailand provided the engineering support; while the Association of Siamese Architects assisting in gathering of public donation in the form of funding and construction materials through its network and linked the team to construction companies; all pro bono.

D4D did not simply provide a modern design for the schools. The team and volunteer architects did a research on geography and sociology to find the practical design for the earthquake-prone area.

The design resulted in contemporary earthquake-resistant blueprint, which requires only basic construction techniques for which a building can be completed by local construction workers in short time and with affordable materials found in any areas.

Their thoughtful working process and advanced idea are their strength. According to a campaign by UNISDR, it demands every new school to be safe from disasters. The team did not only re-building classrooms, but they meant to provide a safe learning facilities for the schoolchildren. The school building, the only earthquake-resistant structure in the neighbourhood, will be turned into a shelter if the villagers' houses are affected by an earthquake again.

With the above-mentioned details, ASA find D4D deserve to enter the SASAKAWA Award and the management would like to nominate the team for the 2015 competition.