

Washington October 17, 2014

To: United Nations Sasakawa Award Committee

Ref: Support for the nomination of Allan Lavell to 2005 Sasakawa Award

Dear Sirs:

I would like to support the nomination of Allan Lavell based on his contributions through the PREDECAN Project. The results of the Project would not have been possible without the technical contributions and inspirational leadership of Professor Allan Lavell.

Between 2005 and 2009, Professor Allan Lavell led a continuous participative process with hundreds of stake holders of the Civil Defense, DRM institutions, ministries of Planning and External Affairs, ministries of Finance, Environment, Infrastructure, Education, Agriculture, among many other partners of development at the national and local level in the Andean Community (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador y Peru). The conceptual debate he led contributed to the adequate understanding of disaster as a social construction implicitly related to development dynamics. This multi-institutional approach allowed the agreement at a regional level of a comprehensive DRM conceptual framework, the integration of theoretical concepts in the formulation of strategic documents and the strengthening of different national systems and platforms responsible for disaster risk in the countries.

The concept and practice of disaster risk management in the Andean Community moved from an approach based on ideas and actions for post disaster response to a concept based on the understanding of the social processes of risk construction, its relations with development and integral intervention (prospective, corrective and reactive) especially promoting the prevention element.

The positioning of disaster risk management as a priority from a safe development perspective at the sub-regional, national and local levels and the contribution to DRM policies and organization was supported by the approval in 2009 by the Andean Council of Foreign Affairs of the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Relief (EAPAD) articulated to the Hyogo Framework for Action and the formulation of Multi-sectoral DRM strategic Agendas for Risk Management in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru. This and the changes in regulations that took place within the period of the Project and in the following years, particularly the enactment of an Executive Decree that created the Executive Secretariat for DRM in Ecuador (2008) that replaced the Civil Defense system, the laws for the National Risk Management Systems for Disaster in Peru (2011), and the National DRM System in Colombia (2012) were all inspired by Dr Lavells direct conceptual and methodological contributions and leadership.

Because of these contributions and his undoubted role in forging change in the Andean region I have great pleasure in supporting his nomination for the 2015 Sasakawa prize.



ANA CAMPOS GARCIA
Former Regional Director PREDECAN

Senior Disaster Risk Management Specialist - World Bank
acamposgarcia@worldbank.org
Phone: (1) 202 458 0700