

Former Executive Secretaries of the Central American Natural Disaster Prevention Coordination Centre (CEPREDENAC) support for Allan Lavell nomination to:
2015 United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

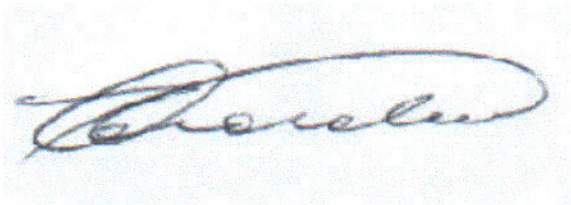
Dr. Allan Lavell was invited by the Central American Higher University Council (CSUCA) at the beginning of the 1980s to form part of its interdisciplinary Central American Research Program and advisory team. His involvement with CSUCA and, later, FLACSO led to the first social and territorial analyses of disasters and disaster risk in the region. These projects were carried out in a Central American context marked by an exclusively “physicalist” – hazard oriented – approach towards disaster prevention and disaster response under civil defense structures, mostly coordinated by the armed forces. Dr. Lavell’s collaboration with colleagues in the Andean Countries then gave origin to the “Network of Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America” (LA RED) and to a “disasters are not natural” approach.

In 1987 with the Esquipulas II Agreements for Peace in Central America, the region’s political authorities proposed modifying their agenda, dedicating themselves to ending long existing civil wars and to prioritizing development issues. These agreements opened the doors to the disaster prevention social and territorial approach. Research and projects promoted and coordinated by Dr. Lavell, and his intense personal participation as an academic scholar and advisor to organizations, governments and communities in Central America, crucially contributed to the consolidation of an institutional change process, which culminated with the creation of civil entities and a progressive modification in the disaster response traditional focus, thus including a risk management and development concern. In particular, his contributions to the Central American Coordination Center for the Prevention of Natural Disaster (CEPREDENAC) were a significant factor for its consolidation, sustainability and development.

Among his many academic contributions, one is witness to his understanding of the comprehensiveness of disaster as a social and historical process, with risk seen as a central category and focused on disaster risk management within a broader collective network. A very broad sector of academic personnel along with civil servants and community leaders have been significantly influenced by Dr. Allan Lavell’s professional guidance and accessibility during the last 25 – 30 years, a main reason why Central American governments and overall society will be eternally grateful for his contributions.

Central America, October 5, 2014

Former CEPREDENAC Executive Secretaries:



Luis Diego Morales

Period: 1994 - 1996



Luis Rolando Durán

Period: 1996 - 1999 and 1999 - 2001



David Smith

Period 2005 - 2008



Iván Morales

Period: 2009 - 2013



Noel Barillas

Period: July to December 2013