

## **2017 UN SASAKAWA AWARD FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION**

### **JURY REPORT**

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 identifies the vital need for substantial reductions in 'disaster mortality', 'number of affected people', 'direct economic loss', and 'damage to critical infrastructure'. These targets require the sharing of risk reduction responsibilities by central Governments and national authorities, sectors and stakeholders, along with executive and legislative State institutions at national and local levels.

This grand commitment has shaped the objective of the 2017 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction as "Reducing Disaster Mortality (RDM)" and guided evaluation. Selection was also mindful of the Sasakawa Award aims of further promoting inclusive and resilient approaches in disaster risk reduction, echoing the fact that inclusiveness and resilience are the key words in the Sendai Framework.

The 2017 UN Sasakawa Award received 18 qualified nominations from eleven countries, among 22 nominations from thirteen countries. Eleven represented institutional efforts, while seven were individuals. Qualifications offered by the nominees, their accompanying essays and volume of supporting documents, greatly impressed the jury.

Among the candidates, some individuals have made exceptional contributions to disaster risk management over decades and deserve recognition, while others have performed their duties above and beyond.

The following finalists, however, demonstrated the most durable, sustained, inclusive and comprehensive institutional efforts in RDM. In deliberating on the finalists, the jury maintained strong support for local authorities and local communities, in accordance with Guiding Principles of the Sendai Framework, while encouraging the good work of state and national governments.

*Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, the jury is happy to announce the:*

### **CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**

#### **Habitat for Humanity, Fiji (\$15,000)**

Fiji is subject to devastating tropical cyclones and flash floods, which cause loss of lives and homes, as well as secondary health

and social impacts. The Fiji Government and Habitat for Humanity Fiji (HFH Fiji), a member of Habitat for Humanity International, conduct 'Build Back Safer' programs and training on self-help construction methods. With modest means, HFH Fiji have engaged with 300 communities and enabled 1,500 community builders, and organized community meetings and training to support community resilience. HFH Fiji particularly targets low-income households, and is inclusive of women, youth and persons with disabilities.

## **CERTIFICATE OF DISTINCTION**

### **Gides Project, Brazil (\$10,000)**

The federal administration has identified that landslides, debris flows and related hazards account for the most losses and are increasing with climate change. A comprehensive and long-term risk mitigation project named 'Gides Project - Strengthening the National Strategy for Integrated Management of Natural Disasters Risks' has identified high-risk municipalities as priorities. Beneficiaries are inclusive of individuals who are disadvantaged and disproportionately impacted. Since 2013, many applications of slope stabilization, macro-drainage, flood risk mapping, contingency plans and debris flow prevention have taken place. The results of the GIDES project include landslides and flood risk mapping for 264 municipalities, 24-hour monitoring in 342 municipalities, and the extensive installation of telemetry equipment.

*The jury is further pleased to announce two distinguished Laureates this year:*

## **LAUREATES**

### **AMADORA Municipality, Portugal (\$15,000)**

The Municipality of Amadora has formally developed an interdisciplinary team for risk management. This is to mitigate impacts of natural hazards, avoid accidents and better manage social challenges faced by the community. The Municipality conducts various infrastructural, technical, social and educational programs in collaboration with more than 30 diverse stakeholders supported by emergency response agencies. Attempts to reduce social exclusion, promote intergenerational integration and voluntary civic participation, increase awareness against violence and addictive behaviour are exemplary approaches for all municipalities to follow.

### **DRES - Safe Schools Programme, Islamic Republic of Iran (\$10,000)**

Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools (DRES) acknowledges the likely impacts of earthquakes –and the destruction of school buildings that could cause major loss of life – as an overall national threat. Surveying all schools nation-wide, DRES offers a method of assessing their structural vulnerability, classifying them into subsets for action, and accordingly demolishing, rebuilding, and retrofitting them. Not only are pre-disaster measures implemented, but preparations also include

training and drills for emergencies which are offered to teachers, children and their families and are inclusive of persons with disabilities. DRES represents a powerful dedication to the Sendai objectives of RDM and is a model of children-teachers-families mobilization.