



2003

United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

*In recognition of innovative practices and
outstanding initiatives in reducing the risks and
vulnerabilities of communities to natural disasters*

Thursday 16 October 2003

Award Ceremony held in the context of the Second
International Conference on Early-Warning
(EWC-II)

Museum of Arts
Bonn, Germany

*Provided through an endowment fund from the
Nippon Foundation to the United Nations*



日本財団



International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction

Message from the Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

I am delighted that the Sasakawa Jury took the decision to select Mrs. Esther Tadzong as the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award laureate. This selection is particularly commendable as it promotes an African community-based experience, rewarding - for the first time in the Award's history - a woman from a developing country and a highly disaster-prone continent, recognizing her personal commitment and leadership in disaster reduction.

Coinciding with the Second International Conference on Early Warning, the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award Ceremony complemented the technical discussions of the meeting and highlighted the social aspects of disaster reduction such as community-based activities and values, as well as the importance of indigenous knowledge and experience within the community life. It also recognized the influence and central role of educational and training exercises to empower local communities and enhance their capacities in the face of natural hazards, thereby reducing their vulnerability.

I am pleased to see the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction develop as a valuable mechanism to promote good practices in disaster reduction, providing the opportunity to least developed communities and countries to be recognized for their efforts in building a safer world for all.

Sálvano Briceño
Director, UN/ISDR



2003

Message from the Nippon Foundation

Thousands of years of exploration, observation, and scholarly studies have provided us with a sophisticated understanding of why natural phenomena occur, and although far from perfect, recent research and technological developments have better equipped us with ways to reduce natural hazards and the impact of disasters. However, despite such developments, the world continues to experience dramatic human suffering and loss of life due to natural hazards and related disasters. And there is a staggering difference in damage and casualties between those regions that are prepared and those that are not.

Disasters can strike anywhere at anytime. Therefore, it is imperative that we empower even the most remote communities with greater disaster prevention capacity by improving access to the latest information and technologies. The United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction recognizes individuals or institutions that have made outstanding contributions in the field of disaster prevention, not only to reward their accomplishments, but also to raise awareness of successful cases of disaster prevention. It is our sincere hope that the rest of the world will learn from their successes, and that this will lead to the creation of a truly global culture of disaster prevention.

Mr. Shuichi Ohno, Director, Department of International Affairs
Nippon Foundation

About the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Together with the World Health Organization (WHO) Sasakawa Health Prize and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Sasakawa Environment Prize, the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is one of three prestigious prizes established in 1986 by founding Chairman of the Nippon Foundation, Mr. Ryoichi Sasakawa.

The total approximate value of the Award is US \$50,000, shared between the Laureate and the recipients of Certificates of Distinction and Merit. In addition to the financial prize, the Laureate is presented with the valuable UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction crystal trophy.

Administered by UN/ISDR, the Laureate and Certificate recipients are agreed upon by the UN Sasakawa Jury, composed of representatives from five continents. The Award presentation ceremony takes place on the occasion of the International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction, the second Wednesday of October.

2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

The 16th ceremony of the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction took place on 16 October 2003 at the Museum of Arts of Bonn, Germany, in the context of the Second International Conference on early Warning (EWC-II).

The Ceremony was chaired by the United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Mr. Jan Egeland, and hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Bonn, Mr. Ulrich Hauschild. Mr. Hauschild expressed satisfaction, on behalf of the City of Bonn and Lady Mayor, Mrs. Dieckmann, to welcoming this international event in Bonn, as a growing centre for international exchanges and discussions on environmental protection and climate-related matters. He highlighted the honour, for the city of Bonn, to reward the work carried out in the field of disaster reduction, not only by the international community and national governments, but also by worldwide experts such as the 2003 Sasakawa Laureate and the recipients of Certificates, as a decisive and vital step towards a safer future for humankind. A cocktail was offered by the Mayor of Bonn.

The event attracted around 150 participants ranging from international technical experts in disaster reduction to decision-makers, including the diplomatic community and journalists. The 2003 Sasakawa Laureate and recipients of Certificates all attended personally the ceremony and expressed appreciation to the international recognition given to their work. They took the opportunity to encourage further an increased involvement of national governments in disaster reduction and the creation of partnerships with the civil society and other relevant sectors to facilitate a valuable multi-disciplinary approach to disaster reduction. Media attention was brought on that occasion, as well as at national level, in each awardee's country or region.

2003 UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction - Laureate and Recipients of Certificates

Laureate

Mrs. Tadzong, née Esther Anwi Mofor, Cameroon
Global Centre for Compliance, Hazard and Disaster Management (GLOCECOHADIM), Cameroon

Certificates of Distinction

- Fundación para la Prevención del Riesgo Sísmico (FUNDAPRIS), Venezuela
- Meda Gurudutt Prasad, India
- Rafi Ahmad, Jamaica

Certificates of Merit

- Association Prévention 2000, France
- Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority, India
- Dr. Jean Pierre Massué, France, Director, EUR-OPA Major Hazard Agreement, Council of Europe, France



Laureate

Mrs. Tadzong, née Esther Anwi Mofor
Provincial Chief of Service for Planning and Guidance,
Ministry of National Education, Cameroon
Programme Manager and Treasurer, Global Centre for
Compliance, Hazard and Disaster Management
(GLOCECOHADIM), Bamenda, Cameroon
Nominated by the Global Centre for Compliance, Hazard and Disaster
Management (GLOCECOHADIM)

The laureate of the 2003 UN Sasakawa Award, Mrs. Tadzong was chosen for her personal commitment and her determination in overcoming obstacles that stood in the way of her reaching her objectives. The Jury was particularly impressed by the fact that she became a model for her community and had convinced politicians and government institutions alike that her ideals were worth pursuing and supporting.

Mrs. Tadzong is the driving force behind the Cameroon-based NGO, the Global Centre for Compliance, Hazard and Disaster Management (GLOCECOHADIM), which was created to bring assistance to victims and survivors from the local population after a serious industrial accident in Cameroon. This initial experience of providing assistance to victims of a technological disaster was soon extended to developing and delivering disaster reduction services and support to local communities in the North-West Province of Cameroon.

Preparing the local community for disasters soon became the centre-piece of the NGO's activities because, as Mrs. Tadzong puts it: "the only certainty about the future is that it will be uncertain." She has worked tirelessly, with a dedicated team of helpers, to organize training courses for local leaders, heads of families and women to teach them how to mitigate the impacts of natural disasters by planting trees to prevent soil erosion and prevent landslides; supplying and planting fire resistant plants to prevent bush fires; and introducing the practice of using compost to fertilize soil for food crop production.

Strengthening public awareness and engaging in advocacy activities is also an important component of Mrs. Tadzong's work. Plays are held in village to drive home messages such as the need to be aware of hazards, and which plants are best to prevent soil erosion. Residents are also informed of the risks they face in building their homes on slopes or close to swamps and taught to recognize natural phenomena in order to improve their disaster forecasting skills. In short, the aim is to raise awareness on environmentally-friendly practices and their importance in mitigating disaster risk.

Mrs. Tadzong is planning to use the Award money to support women's groups in order to better involve them in disaster mitigation activities, as well as to organize workshops and conferences to identify and monitor hazards and introduce mitigation prevention measures in watershed settings.

For further information, please e-mail glocecohadim@justice.com

Certificate of Distinction

Fundación para la Prevención del Riesgo Sísmico (FUNDAPRIS)

Mérida, Venezuela

Nominated by Gobernación del Estado de Mérida, Area de Prevención, Riesgos y Desastres, Venezuela

In awarding the Certificate to FUNDAPRIS, the UN Sasakawa Award jury cited the dedication of " a group of university professors who placed their knowledge and skills at the service of less fortunate people. Their actions will serve as a model to other social actors, both in terms of their achievements, but also in the exemplary manner they worked with national government authorities."



FUNDAPRIS is a pioneer of national and regional initiatives on school security. Active in seismic risk reduction since 1979, its reputation and contribution in promoting school security programmes in the event of natural disasters is well established in its home country, Venezuela. One of its most important achievements to date has been to convince educational authorities in Venezuela to adopt a permanent programme on preparedness in cases of earthquakes.

In recent years, FUNDAPRIS, which is largely staffed by volunteer university professors working in offices provided by the University of the Andes, has expanded its disaster-related activities to cover such issues as emergency plans for local communities (launched in 1984); evaluation and proposals for the strengthening of seismic resistant structures of hospitals, caserns for fire-fighters and schools (initiated in 1986) and microzoning of urban risks.

Many of the activities that FUNDAPRIS has been involved in have served as models of good practice for other Latin American countries. However, as financial resources are limited, the prize money from the Sasakawa Award is earmarked for two projects: one aims to protect local communities living in the vulnerable and flood-prone plains of the Chama River, and the other to modernize the equipment FUNDAPRIS uses in the course of its seismic risk reduction activities.

For further information, please e-mail linayo@icnet.com.ve

Certificate of Distinction

Mr. Meda Gurudutt Prasad,

Disaster Manager,

Coastal Area Disaster Mitigation Efforts (CADME), Andhra Pradesh, India

Nominated by Creator's Charitable Organization, India

Mr. Prasad was awarded a Certificate in recognition of his personal attachment and commitment to the disaster reduction's noble cause, in particular for engaging communities and maximizing the related benefits through training, teamwork and advocacy.

Mr. Meda Gurudutt Prasad has been involved in disaster preparedness for the better part of his career. Previously active in a number of important Indian NGOs, notably the ACTION Association for Rural and Tribal Development in Andhra Pradesh and AWARE, CASA, and PREPARE, he is now a Disaster Manager/Trainer with an NGO Coastal Area Disaster Mitigation Efforts (CADME).

CADME organizes a wide range of activities to reduce the socio-economic impact of disasters in 518 disaster-prone villages situated on, or close, to the Bay of Bengal, entailing the creation of task force teams in different settings, the organisation of training courses on disaster preparedness and advocacy workshops in 150 districts of the Indian States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu.



CADME promotes disaster reduction and mitigation to facilitate the vulnerable populations' understanding of the links between development issues and disaster preparedness. Village dwellers are taught of the advantages of certain activities, for example the need to have food reserves; retrofit their homes to make them cyclone-resistant; be aware of warning information systems; and assess their vulnerability to hazards. CADME intends to use the award money to expand community preparedness and SPHERE training to a further group of 150 villages and launch a 'green belt' programme in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

For further information, please email prasad_org@rediffmail.com or cadmeindia@rediffmail.com

Certificate of Distinction

Professor Rafi Ahmad, University of the West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
Manager of the Unit for Disaster Studies (UDS), Department of Geography and Geology, University of the West Indies, Jamaica

Nominated by the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM), Jamaica

The Sasakawa Jury commended Professor Ahmad's commitment and devotion to promoting the study of natural hazards and advocating collective action, as was reflected in his voluntary work outside the university he works in.



Professor Ahmad contributed significantly to the study of natural hazards and hazard mapping in Jamaica and produced scholarly articles on natural hazards which assisted ODPEM in its work. In July 2003 his expertise and research on landslide hazard reduction in the Caribbean was recognized and rewarded by the International Landslide Research Group with a special award.

He is currently a senior lecturer in the Department of Geology and Geography at the University of the West Indies. In this capacity, he has organized workshops, field trips and courses on natural hazards to enlighten the professional community and general public on hazardous processes and the recognition of physical constraints on land use that may lead to prevention strategies and relatively inexpensive non-structural methods of natural hazard mitigation.

Mr. Ahmad has been instrumental in the establishment of a Unit for Disaster Studies as a public online resource of hazard information for the entire Caribbean region, which he currently heads. He is planning to use the award money to initiate data collection activities on natural hazards and disasters, and prepare natural hazard profiles of other islands in the West Indies.

*For further information, please email
rafi.ahmad@uwimona.edu.jm*

Certificate of Merit

Association Prévention 2000, Paris, France
Nominated by Association Française pour la Prévention des Catastrophes (AFPCN), France

The Association Prévention 2000 was recognized as an encouraging initiative to educate and create awareness and understanding of disaster reduction mechanisms among children, as tomorrow's actors for a sustainable future.

Established in 1997, Association Prévention 2000 aims at raising awareness and promoting education on natural hazards among schoolchildren in France and Nicaragua. Its activities mainly focus on disaster mitigation and the exploration of innovative uses of the Internet and information technology to promote disaster reduction through an Internet site (www.prevention2000.org) with a large documentary base on natural disasters, now considered as one of the pre-eminent sources of French-language information on natural disasters.

Association Prévention 2000 is a key player in the education group of the French Association for Natural Disasters Reduction (AFPCN). It is a member of the jury for scholars organized every year by the French Ministry of the Environment to enhance young people aged between 10-15 years to draw local hazard maps based on natural disasters that historically struck their town. Orleans and Tours, among others, are official partners of this initiative, giving the opportunity to adolescents aged 16-17 to pursue a natural hazard-related project in cooperation with a selected scientific partner to oversee their project.



An Ambassador Network was launched in 2001 as a pilot project to bring together French schools with educational activities on disaster risk. It produces a newsletter 'Mitig'info' for disaster risk professionals in French-speaking regions in the world.

The award money would be used to continue developing educational networks on natural disasters such as educational websites in foreign languages and an international bank of educational resources.

For further information, please email mel@prevention2000.org

Certificate of Merit
Gujarat State Disaster Management
Authority (GSDMA), Gujarat, India
Nominated by the Government of India,
Ministry of Home Affairs

The Sasakawa Jury recognized the inclusive and innovative approach adopted by GSDMA in disaster situations, in which many partners and their stakeholders, both inside and outside India, provided knowledge and resources to formulate effective policies and legislation and prepare disaster management plans.



Created in the wake of the most devastating and deadly Bhuj earthquake of January 2001 in Gujarat, India, GSDMA has acquired a solid reputation in the massive reconstruction and rehabilitation work following the disaster.

An early decision was taken by the appropriate local and national authorities to undertake all the necessary social and economic activities to rehabilitate housing and resettle the affected people; lay the foundations for social and economic rehabilitation; and prepare programmes and plans to mitigate disaster losses and prepare for future losses.

With the financial support of the central and state government, multilateral agencies principally the World Bank, the ADB and the European Community, a massive earthquake rehabilitation programme was launched. The first phase consisted in dealing with basic human needs and the most pressing reconstruction work, before reaching a medium-term perspective focusing on strengthening affected houses, public infrastructure, rural water supply and social infrastructure, the longer term approach being to reduce and manage the natural hazards faced by Gujarat.

For further information, please email
jtceo-gdsma@gujarat.gov.in

Certificate of Merit
Dr. Jean-Pierre Massué
Executive Secretary, EUR-OPA Major Hazard
Agreement, Council of Europe, France
Nominated by the Ministry of Ukraine of Emergencies and Affairs of
Population Protection

The Sasakawa Award recognized Mr. Massué because as a model of personal commitment to disaster reduction by promoting, beyond his official duties, a political and institutional understanding as well as enhanced policies on disaster reduction for the benefit of many vulnerable communities and countries

Founded in 1987 under the auspices of the Council of Europe, the EUR - OPA Major Hazards Agreement seeks to facilitate the exchange of information to enhance disaster prevention activities, and to organize aid among the state-members of the Agreement. Member states are also called on to share experiences and pursue collaborative activities on risk reduction in order to strengthen public awareness and develop the science and techniques to organize relief operations and help restore normality in the wake of a disaster.

Thanks to Mr. Massué's dynamism and leadership, the initial geographic coverage of the agreement has been expanded to cover 25 countries, including disaster prone countries in Western and Eastern Europe, the Commonwealth of Independent States, and North Africa (Algeria and Morocco). By organizing bi-annual meetings of Ministers to discuss joint measures to protect populations against natural and technological disasters, Mr. Massué has contributed to bring disaster reduction on the highest authorities' agenda and to facilitate the implementation of international resolutions and recommendations on disaster reduction at the national level through the creation of valuable partnerships.



Among other main achievements, the Agreement contributed to the creation of a school of civil protection in Kosovo, the preparation of training manuals, the analysis of risk prevention legislation and related methodologies in different countries as well as the harmonization of and standardization of these laws. Mr. Massué is also responsible for a number of innovative initiatives such as STRIM, dealing with the potential applications of space techniques and facilities in the field of risk management; EDRIM - which implements new information and communication techniques to improve risk management - and FORMOSE which seeks to develop education and training in the various domains relating to major risks.

For further information, please refer to <http://www.coe.int/europarisks>
or email europa.risk@coe.int

Former Laureates of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

2002	Sergueï Balassanian, Armenian Association of Seismology and Physics of the Earth's Interior (AASPEI), Armenia	1996	Dr. Ian Davis, United Kingdom
2001	Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC), Germany	1995	No Laureate
2000	Fondo Para la Reconstruccion y el Desarrollo Social del Eje Cafetero (FOREC), Colombia	1994	National Emergency Commission, Costa Rica
1999	Prof. Mustafa Erdik, Turkey	1993	Dr. Vit Karnik, Czech Republic
1998	H.E. Mr. Ji Cai Rang, China, Prof. Wang Ang-Sheng, China	1992	Geophysical Institute of the National Polytechnic School, Ecuador
1997	Observatorio Sismologico del Sur-Occidente (OSSO), Colombia Dr. A.S. Arya, India	1991	Mr. Franco Barberi, Italy
		1990	Mr. Julio Kuroiwa, Peru
		1989	Relief and Rehabilitation Commission, Ethiopia
		1988	ESCAP/Typhoon Committee, Philippines
		1987	Ratu Kamisese Mara, Fiji

About the United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Recognising that natural hazards can threaten any one of us, the ISDR builds on partnerships and takes a global approach to disaster reduction, seeking to involve every individual and every community towards the goals of reducing the loss of lives, the socio-economic setbacks and the environmental damages caused by natural hazards. In order to achieve these goals, the ISDR promotes four objectives as tools towards reaching disaster reduction for all:

- Increase public awareness to understand risk, vulnerability and disaster reduction globally
- Obtain commitment from public authorities to implement disaster reduction policies and actions
- Stimulate interdisciplinary and intersectoral partnerships, including the expansion of risk reduction networks
- Improve scientific knowledge about disaster reduction

The ISDR combines the strengths of many key players through the Inter-Agency Task Force on Disaster Reduction (IATF/DR) and the Inter-Agency Secretariat for the ISDR (UN/ISDR).

The IATF/DR is the principal body for the development of disaster reduction policy. It is headed by the UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and consists of 25 UN, international, regional and civil society organizations. It meets twice a year in Geneva, Switzerland. Working Groups reporting to the IATF/DR bring together specialists and organisations to discuss issues of common and global relevance to disaster reduction such as climate variability, early warning, vulnerability and risk analysis, wildland fires and drought.

The UN/ISDR is the focal point in the UN System to promote links and synergies between, and the coordination of, disaster reduction activities in the socio-economic, humanitarian and development fields, as well as to support policy integration. It serves as an international information clearinghouse on disaster reduction, developing awareness campaigns and producing articles, journals, and other publications and promotional materials related to disaster reduction. The UN/ISDR headquarters is based at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It conducts outreach programmes through its regional units in Costa Rica and Kenya.

For more information, please visit www.unisdr.org

United Nations Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)

Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland
Tel: +41 22 9172529/762/759
Fax: +41 22 917 0563
isdr@un.org
www.unisdr.org

UN/ISDR Africa

Block U Room 217
UNEP, Gigiri
Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 624119
Fax: +254 20 624726
ISDR-Africa@unep.org
www.unisdrafica.org

UN/ISDR Bonn Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning

Görresstrasse 30
D-53113 Bonn
Germany
Tel: +49 228 249 88 10
Fax: +49 228 249 88 88
isdr-ppew@un.org

UN/ISDR Latin America and the Caribbean

P.O. Box 3745-1000
San José, Costa Rica
Tel: +506 224 1186
Fax: +506 224 7758
eird@eird.org
www.eird.org

About the Nippon Foundation

The Nippon Foundation was founded in 1962 as the Japan Shipbuilding Industry Foundation, an independent, non-profit organization devoted to promoting shipping and shipbuilding, and preventing marine hazards. The Foundation was established by legislation setting aside 3.3 percent of the revenues from motorboat racing to be used for philanthropic purposes. Although the Foundation originally focused on providing aid to the maritime field, it has expanded the sphere of its activities to include public welfare and voluntary programs, as well as overseas cooperative assistance. The objectives of these activities are to alleviate human suffering, to advance human welfare and to promote world peace, without any bias to policy, ideology, religion or race. The Nippon Foundation's annual spending in the year 2002, not including indirect costs, amounts to approximately US\$ 368 million, of which US\$ 52 million was spent for overseas cooperation assistance.

For more information, please visit www.nippon-foundation.or.jp