



30 October, 2014

Letter for Nominating Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra, Jammu & Kashmir for Sasakawa Award-2015

Dear Ma'am /Sir,

Greetings from India! It is great pleasure to nominate Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the prestigious "Sasakawa Award-2015."

I have had the pleasure to have known the organization and their commitment towards Disaster Risk Reduction activities. The Shrine is governed by the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and headed by His Excellency The Governor of Jammu & Kashmir. It has a dedicated senior bureaucrat as their Chief Operating Officer and staffs from different agency's work in close coordination.

In India, though the subject of Disaster Risk Management has taken roots it is yet to be actually implemented with dedication and percolated to the general population in terms of imparting Basic Life Skills and importantly brings an "attitudinal change" towards risk reduction.

In sharp contrast, the Shrine Board Management were focusing as to what methods need to be adopted so that their staff internalize the DRR activities not only in terms of getting Life Skills training but also to understand how they could reduce carbon footprints? Simple acts of waste segregation, switching off lights & other electrical appliances contribute towards reduced carbon foot prints and sustainable growths were imparted to the staff in a friendly training atmosphere. Besides, they could achieve the same, by making their training program practical, understanding the "real" needs of the staff and ensuring that those who have taken the training become ambassadors of change! It has linked its development activities with a Disaster Risk Reduction perspective.

The Shrine Board is a good example of complying with the international principles at the local level with no external funding but commitment by the management to ensure DRR is taken seriously and implemented.

I strongly nominate Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board for the Sasakawa Award-2015 as an agent of change and a good example that could be emulated by stakeholders globally.

Wishing you Good Luck. Should you require any further assistance from my side, please feel free to contact.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Swati Mitra', with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Swati Mitra, Founder Consultant

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