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**Dr Mark Keim: Nomination for the Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015**

In my capacity as the WHO focal point for disaster risk reduction, I would like to strongly support the nomination of Dr Mark Keim for the Sasakawa Award for his leadership in disaster risk reduction. Dr Keim has been a visionary leader over the past 3 decades, but more importantly he is a leader of the future as he envisions the key issues that will need to be addressed to implement the post-2015 framework for disaster risk reduction until 2030. The world should know more about the work of Dr Keim and his vision for the future, and the Sasakawa Award is an important way to bring his work to the attention of the disaster risk reduction community.

Dr Keim has been the leader of the health sector's contribution to disaster risk reduction in the Pacific and the world as the health representative on the national platform for disaster risk reduction. He has been a prolific communicator, teacher, researcher and writer of textbooks, guidance and articles on disaster risk reduction, risk management and resilience, including as an author for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change S-REX "Special Report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation." Dr Keim has the rare talent to work across disciplines, and has linked disaster risk management with health, environment, climate, and urban development. Dr Keim has been a staunch advocate for disaster prevention, and the need for multiple sectors to work together to assess and reduce risk for countries and their communities which face the greatest risk of disasters. He has shown courage and persistence in advocating for prevention in health when the focus of the health sector has been on disaster response. Dr Keim's focus has been on strengthening capacities of many countries, in particular in the Pacific countries and territories, where the risk of disasters is high and there are few actors who are providing support to these states. He has also made a strong personal commitment to work with indigenous peoples in the Pacific and elsewhere. As Dr Keim looks to the future, he is striving to improve our knowledge about the contribution of risk factors to the vulnerability and resilience of people and communities, and to find better ways to address the risks of disasters.

Dr Keim is a truly unique individual: he is passionate, courageous and entirely committed to disaster risk reduction and saving people's lives. The Sasakawa Award would provide Dr Keim with appropriate recognition for his special contribution to disaster risk reduction and will support his visionary and influential leadership which can inspire the work of future generations to implement the post-2015 framework for disaster reduction for people, communities and countries which are most at risk.

Sincerely

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