

Our Reference: OED/8067/14

04 October 2014

Support for the Nomination of Prof. Dr. Allan Michael Lavell to 2015 UN Sasakawa Award on DRR

I see my fourteen (14) years in disaster risk management as being a small milestone when compared to the over three to four decades worth of teachings, consultancy, research, conceptualizing and critical thinking that Allan Lavell has provided to the Latin American, Caribbean and international communities. He is widely considered one of the “Wise men of Disaster Risk Reduction” and a philosophical thinker on urban and regional development issues of which disaster risk plays a major role.

Allan’s years of experience and courage to challenge established thinking and practice of DRR within a development context, has served to set him apart from many luminaries in the field. His contribution to journals and presentations at key conferences central to shaping global strategies have stimulated thought and inspired a new generation of DRM practitioners.

I have had the distinct pleasure to have engaged with Allan during his consultancy assignments through the IDB and further through technical workshops and think tanks; all of which have served to influence and support my thinking, understanding and practice as one who has been selected to lead at national and regional levels in DRM in the Caribbean. Allan’s work in the Caribbean spans across Cuba (Havana initiative), Jamaica and Trinidad. He has been one of the authors of the UNISDR/IPCC SREX project aimed at achieving a very important convergence of DRR and CCA.

Allan’s rich history in the field and his credentials provide a solid justification for his nomination. His current series of work within the context of the HFA in particular to the conceptual examination of DRR in a modern era will no doubt have a profound impact in the years to come.

It is important to note, that beyond his capacity as a thinker, writer, researcher and philosopher he is never afraid to identify and enable the potential he has seen in the next generation. He generously shares his knowledge, (as quoted by Margaret Fuller “*if you have knowledge, let others light their candle in it*”) and has never refrained from lighting all the candles that have come to be lit.

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It is within the context provided above that I am happy to offer the support for Dr. Allan Lavell with the confidence that his contributions undoubtedly speaks for itself.

Yours sincerely

CARIBBEAN DISASTER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

**Ronald H Jackson
Executive Director**

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