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October 9, 2014

Sasakawa Award Selection Committee  
wcdrr2015\_sasakawa@un.org

Dear Sasakawa Award Selection Committee:

I am writing in support of the nomination of Dr. Allan Lavell for the Sasakawa Award for 2015. I was extremely pleased to learn that Dr. Lavell had been nominated and believe that he is a most deserving candidate.

I have known Dr. Lavell for approximately 23 years during which we have worked together on a number of projects of La RED (The Network for Social Studies on Disaster Prevention in Latin America). I currently chair the Forensic Investigations of Disaster (FORIN) project of the Integrated Research on Disaster Risk scientific committee of the International Council for Science and work with him closely on its development.

As a founding member of La RED, Dr. Lavell provided key leadership in the formation and groundbreaking activities in policy relevant projects and research of that highly influential organization. Indeed, he has always been in the forefront of research on disaster causation, vulnerability analysis, preparedness, humanitarian relief and reconstruction. His cutting edge research is published in diverse journals and in over 20 books of our field. Moreover, his current research and writing on the linkages between Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation lead the field. His paper "Unpacking Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management: Searching for the Links and the Differences: A Conceptual and Epistemological Critique and Proposal,"(2011) written for the IUCN-FLACSO Project on CCA and DRR is simply the best analysis we have on that complex relationship.

Allan has as well distinguished himself as an advisor and advocate to multiple governments and civil society organizations around the world, but most particularly in Latin America. In this work, he is capable of speaking directly to policy makers, scientific colleagues as well as to the general public in cogent, convincing language that communicates effectively on necessary policy measures as well as methods for concrete changes required to reduce risk, respond to impacts and reconstruct after disaster. His high standards in research as well as the moral and ethical dimensions of our practice in disasters stand as an outstanding example to emulate for all in our field.

Sincerely,



Anthony Oliver-Smith  
Professor Emeritus of Anthropology  
Munich Re Foundation Chair Emeritus  
United Nations University (2005-2009)  
Lauriat, Bronislaw Malinowski Lifetime  
Achievement Award, Society for  
Applied Anthropology (2013)