



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Announcements



United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nominations are now open
Deadline: 29 June 2007
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/sasakawa/2007/Sasakawa-Award-2007-English.pdf>

UNEP Sasakawa Prize 2007 Nominations are now open for **Deadline:**

15 March 2007
http://www.unep.org/sasakawa/Nomination_Form/index.asp

Call for contributions:

1. Good practices on community-based DRR
Contact: cocchiglia@un.org
2. Good practices in disaster risk education and school safety
Contact: blin@un.org

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Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
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Publications

To submit an article or inform us of a new
publication/web resource or event, please
send your inputs to: isdhighlights@un.org
by the **20th day of each month**.

*"The information and opinions expressed in
this publication do not necessarily reflect the
policies of the UN/ISDR secretariat"*

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January 2007

Media and Communication Professionals, all Together

BBC, European Broadcasting Union (EBU), Reuters AlertNet, The Guardian, Radio France Internationale and communication professionals from World Bank, UN/ISDR, IFRC, UNEP, UNDP were part of the first consultative meeting in Geneva to leverage a Media Network on disaster reduction. This network, initiated by UN/ISDR with the financial support of the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GF/DRR), responded to the urgent needs to provide effective support to the media with the adoption of a new approach to disaster reporting. This new network aims to win the media's full support for building a culture of safety and resilience to disasters at all levels, from global to local, that effectively reduce the impact of disasters. The media – as mass communicators - have the capacity to play an essential role in conveying the necessary information on disaster reduction to the public, decision makers and practitioners. In a nutshell, the ongoing global shift from a reactive attitude to a proactive one towards disasters cannot be achieved without the media full support.

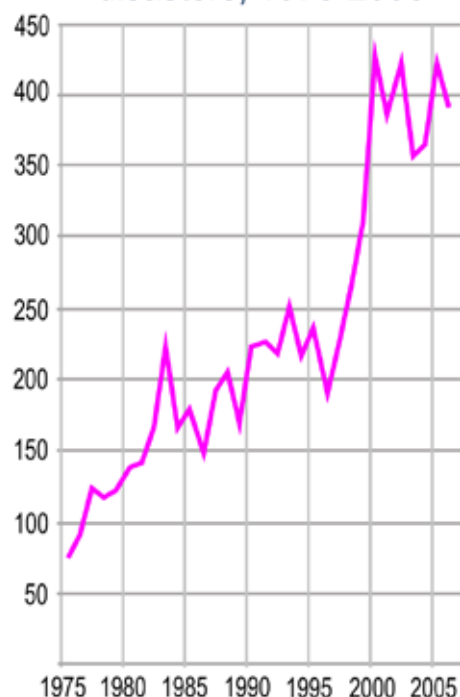
For more information please contact: Ms Brigitte Leoni, leoni@un.org
<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/media-room/media-room.htm>

395 Disasters Recorded in 2006

The Center for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters (CRED) released, 29 January 2007, the compiled figures of disaster losses triggered by natural hazards for the year 2006. A total of 395 disasters were recorded in 2006 with 226 caused by floods, 66 by windstorms and 30 related to extreme temperature events. The 2006 disasters killed 21,342 people. While Asia was the continent hit most by disasters triggered by natural hazards, three European countries - Netherlands, Belgium and Ukraine - ranked among the top ten countries most affected by deadly disasters. The economic damages in 2006 were around 19 billion US Dollars.

For more information <http://www.cred.be> or see
the summary of the statistical analysis in graphs
and tables at <http://www.unisdr.org>
Contact Dr Debarati Guha-Sapir,
cred@esp.ucl.ac.be

Time trend of natural
disasters⁽¹⁾, 1975-2006



(1): Natural disasters = Country-level disasters

Two Years after the World Conference on Disaster Reduction

An International Symposium on the Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) and Recovery from Tsunami and Earthquake was organized by the International Recovery Platforms, a joint effort of Asia Disaster Reduction Center, UN/ISDR, UNDP, OCHA, UN-HABITAT, ILO, the World Bank, IFRC, the Government of Japan and Hyogo Prefecture, on 15-16 January 2007, in Kobe, Hyogo. Attended by more than 300 participants, the Symposium provided an important opportunity to share lessons and experiences on post-disaster recovery. It also provided a forum to identify what has been done nationally to implement the HFA. The experiences of Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Maldives, India, Pakistan, Thailand, and Japan underscored the necessity to integrate risk reduction elements into every aspect of the recovery process. Moreover, the participants highlighted the importance of advancing international cooperation in disaster risk reduction, and promoting "build back better" principles and adopted the "Kobe Communiqué - for Further Implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action".

For more information, please visit: <http://www.recoveryplatform.org/>

Disaster Reduction: First Time on the World Social Forum Agenda

For the first time, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) was on the 7th World Social Forum agenda, in Nairobi from 20 to 25 January 2007 under the theme "People's Struggles, People's Alternatives". The side event on "Disaster Reduction is everyone's business - Safer World is possible", co-organized by Action Aid and UN/ISDR Africa, aimed at bringing NGOs and civil society together. The objectives were to open debate related to DRR, climate change and national platforms and to share knowledge and information on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for action by NGOs, especially on Action Aid International's initiatives at national level. In addition, this event was an opportunity for the children from Kwale (Southern Part) of Kenya and Nsanje, Malawi to raise their voices, aired also through BBC, to ask the National Governments, with NGOs as potential network and linkage, to build the resilience of their families and communities to disasters.

Contact Ms Noroarisoa Rakotondrandria, noroarisoa.rakotondrandria@unep.org

Reducing Mega-Cities Risk in Asia

Organized in response to the Hyogo Framework of Action's call to address the emerging risks associated with the vulnerability of mega-urban agglomerations, the Asia Megacities Forum 2006 in Japan brought together academics and megacity partners from East and South-Central Asia, a number of international organizations, and students from the JICA training course at Kobe University, in a knowledge sharing experience on disaster risk reduction. At the regional forum, Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) formally unveiled MEGA-Learn, a suite of practical a disaster risk management tools, techniques and capacity-building programs that could help in empowering city authorities, and in mainstreaming disaster risk reduction in the urban development and planning processes. The forum was organized through the joint efforts of the Earthquakes and Megacities Initiative (EMI) and Kobe University's Research Center for Urban Safety and Security (RCUSS). It was supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), the ProVention Consortium, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP/BCPR), the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR), and the World Bank Institute (WBI).

For more information please visit: www.earthquakesandmegacities.org

Contact Mr. Kristoffer Berse, kris.berse@earthquakesandmegacities.org

WEB RESOURCES



Dare to prepare

<http://www.earthquakecountry.info/daretoprep/>

Earthquake professionals, business and community leaders, emergency managers, and others have joined together to organize Dare to Prepare, a year-long earthquake readiness campaign to raise earthquake awareness and encourage earthquake readiness in southern California.



Community-Based Disaster Management Toolkit

<http://www.idepfoundation.org/cbdlm/download.html>

This online version of UNESCO Jakarta's Community-Based Disaster Management Toolkit, contains general but concise guidelines on preparedness and prevention of disasters at community level, a ready-to-use form book in the event of a disaster, brochures and posters on disaster preparedness, and eight comic books on different disaster topics.



Reuters AlertNet Interactive Map

<http://www.alertnet.org/map/>
AlertNet has launched an interactive mapping service bringing users detailed images of the world: zoom in on any region, search for news on specific countries and crises, download maps, measure distances between locations, and much more.



A New Action Plan for School Safety

Representatives of the public sector, civil society, and the educational sector, including teachers, parents, students and individual school safety advocates gathered at the International Conference on School Safety organized by the Indian NGO SEEDS and hosted by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority (GSDMA) in Ahmedabad, India. The theme for the Conference was "Disaster Reduction Begins at School". The 150 participants from 17 nations developed the Ahmedabad Action Plan for School Safety, which will provide guiding principles and recommendations to further facilitate the implementation of the school safety agenda at the international and national levels. Networks and individual advocates are encouraged to affiliate with the Coalition for Global School Safety, as well as networking through regional ISDR offices.

Contact Mr. Manu Gupta, SEEDS India
manu@seedsindia.org

Words into Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action

To facilitate national implementation of Hyogo Framework for Action, the Guide "Words into Action: Implementing the Hyogo Framework for Action", was issued in 2006 by the ISDR secretariat as a consultation version. It is a succinct 'how-to' manual that offers advices on useful strategies and good practices in disaster risk reduction, drawing on illustrative examples from around the world. It targets national authorities and public servant managers, but is also useful for many other stakeholders engaged in disaster risk reduction. It is now being shared with UN agencies and experts, National Platforms and regional organizations, to test it and solicit comments, more case studies and useful references. The final version will be launched at the ISDR Global Platform in June 2007 and translated at least into French and Spanish.

<http://www.unisdr.org/eng/hfa/docs/words-into-action-consultation-draft.pdf>
 Contact Mrs Silvia Llosa, llosa@un.org or Mrs Carolin Schaerpf, schaerpf@un.org

REGIONAL NEWS

For more information about disaster risk reduction activities at the regional level please visit the following:

Africa:

www.unisdr.org/africa

Asia & the Pacific:

www.unisdr.org/asiapacific

Latin America & the Caribbean:

www.eird.org

Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning Platform:

www.unisdr.org/ppew/info-resources

Disaster Reduction: New Responsibilities for Social Work Education

There is clearly growing evidence, qualitative and quantitative, that social work and community organization activities improve the well being of communities. The International Conference on "Disaster Planning, Management and Relief: New Responsibilities for Social Work Education" in Barbados looked at ways to strengthen the international involvement of social work in the field of disaster reduction. Concretely, more partnerships between social work associations, academics and organizations could help building synergies for the implementation of their unused social potential in disaster prevention and mitigation. In other terms, mental health would help in healing important social and individual wounds caused by disasters, as it would also help create more capacities within targeted communities. This would, of course, come as a complement to their prominent role already well acknowledged in response and recovery.

Contact Mrs Margarita Villalobos, margarita.villalobos@eird.org

ProVention Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction

Recently published by Provention Consortium, Tools for Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction: Guidance Notes for Development Organisations is a document containing a series of 14 short, practical guidance notes focusing on where and how to take hazard-related concerns into account in each of the tools covered, so ensuring that disaster risk and related opportunities for reducing vulnerability are adequately and systematically considered in development initiatives in hazard-prone countries.

For more information visit www.proventionconsortium.org/

MARK YOUR CALENDAR: Conferences, Trainings and Events February 2007 - May 2007

DATE	LOCATION	EVENT
FEBRUARY		
5-9	Nairobi, Kenya	Global Ministerial Environment Forum www.unep.org
8-11	Orlando, USA	28th Annual International Disaster Management Conference www.emlrc.org/disaster2007.htm
8-10	Los Angeles, USA	6th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth: Building Safe, Healthy and Livable Communities www.newpartners.org
12-14	Hague, Netherlands	International Climate Change and Vulnerability Conference www.upeace.org/climate
12-15	Dares Salaam, Tanzania	Provention Global Forum http://www.proventionconsortium.org
19-24	Nicosia, Cyprus	International Conference on Environment: Survival and Sustainability www.neuconference.org
10-12	Texas, USA	International Conference on Ocean Security in the Wider Caribbean www.osi-int.org
MARCH		
5-9	Lima, Peru	Second Alexander von Humboldt International Conference: The Role of Geophysics in Natural Disaster Prevention http://meetings.copernicus.org/avh2
5-12	Dhaka, Bangladesh	International Conference on Water and Flood Management icwfm@iwfm.buet.ac.bd ; www.buet.ac.bd/icwfm
5-16	Bangkok, Thailand	Flood Disaster Risk Management tedadpc@adpc.net ; www.adpc.net/trg06/trg_home.htm
7-22	Buenos Aires, Argentina	Fifth session of the Committee for the Review of the Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (CRIC5) Contact details: www.unccd.int
19-21	New Delhi, India	Exhibition on Disaster Management 2007 www.iiies.ac.ir/SEE5
22		World Water Day http://www.worldwaterday.org
APRIL		
2-5	Brussels, Belgium	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change www.ipcc.ch
12-14	New Orleans, USA	Conference on Disaster and Migration www.tulane.edu/~social/DisasterandMigration.html
19-20	Miami, USA	Global Warming International Conference and Expo http://gw18.globalwarming.net
30-11/05	New York, USA	15th Commission on Sustainable Development http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/csd/policy.htm
MAY		
14-16	Tehran, Iran	5th International Conference on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering www.iiies.ac.ir/SEE5
14-18	Trieste, Italy	Workshop on the Physics of Tsunami, Hazard Assessment Methods and Disaster Risk Management http://www.ictp.it
25-27	Toronto, Canada	3rd International Symposium on Geoinformation for Disaster Management (GiDM2007) junli@ryerson.ca
13-17	Sevilla, Spain	4th International Wildland Fire Conference www.wildfire07.es

PUBLICATIONS

Measuring Vulnerability to Natural Hazards - Towards Disaster Resilient Societies

This book, published by the United Nations University Press, is a unique compilation of state-of-the art vulnerability assessment and is essential reading for anybody interested in understanding the fundamentals of measuring vulnerability. Salvano Briceño, Director of the Secretariat of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction, recalls in the preface that disaster risk concerns every person, every community, and every nation. Without taking into consideration the urgent need to reduce risk and vulnerability, the world simply cannot move forward in its quest for sustainable development and reduction of poverty.

<http://www.unu.edu/unupress/2006/measuringVulnerability.html>

Human Development Report 2006 – Beyond scarcity: Power, poverty and the global water crisis

The UNDP Report, a product of research and analysis by international experts and staff across the UN system, is intended to stimulate debate and dialogue around a set of issues that will have a profound bearing on progress towards achieving the Millennium Development Goals and human development. This year, the report investigates the prospects for human development that are threatened by a deepening global water crisis. Debunking the myth that the crisis is the result of scarcity, this report argues poverty, power and inequality are at the heart of the problem. <http://hdr.undp.org>

World Disasters Report 2006 - Focus on neglected crises

This year's report ventures into the shadows lying behind the brilliantly illuminated disasters of 2005-2006. It combines first-hand reporting from the field with critical analysis of aid flows and donor preferences to highlight places and issues starved of attention.

<http://www.ifrc.org>

Lessons for a Safer Future

The UN/ISDR report "Lessons for a Safer Future", drawn on the experiences of many organisations and individuals during and following the tsunami, offers eleven lessons as a contribution to the ongoing process of learning how nations, communities and individuals can become better prepared for and reduce the risk of potential natural hazards.

<http://www.unisdr.org>

19th

United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Selection Process 2007

Join us in rewarding individuals and institutions from around the world who contributed, through innovative practices and outstanding initiatives, to reducing the risk and vulnerabilities of communities to natural hazards

*Closing date for
nominations
29 June 2007*

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

For more information please visit:

www.unisdr.org - www.unisdr.org/asiapacific - www.eird.org -

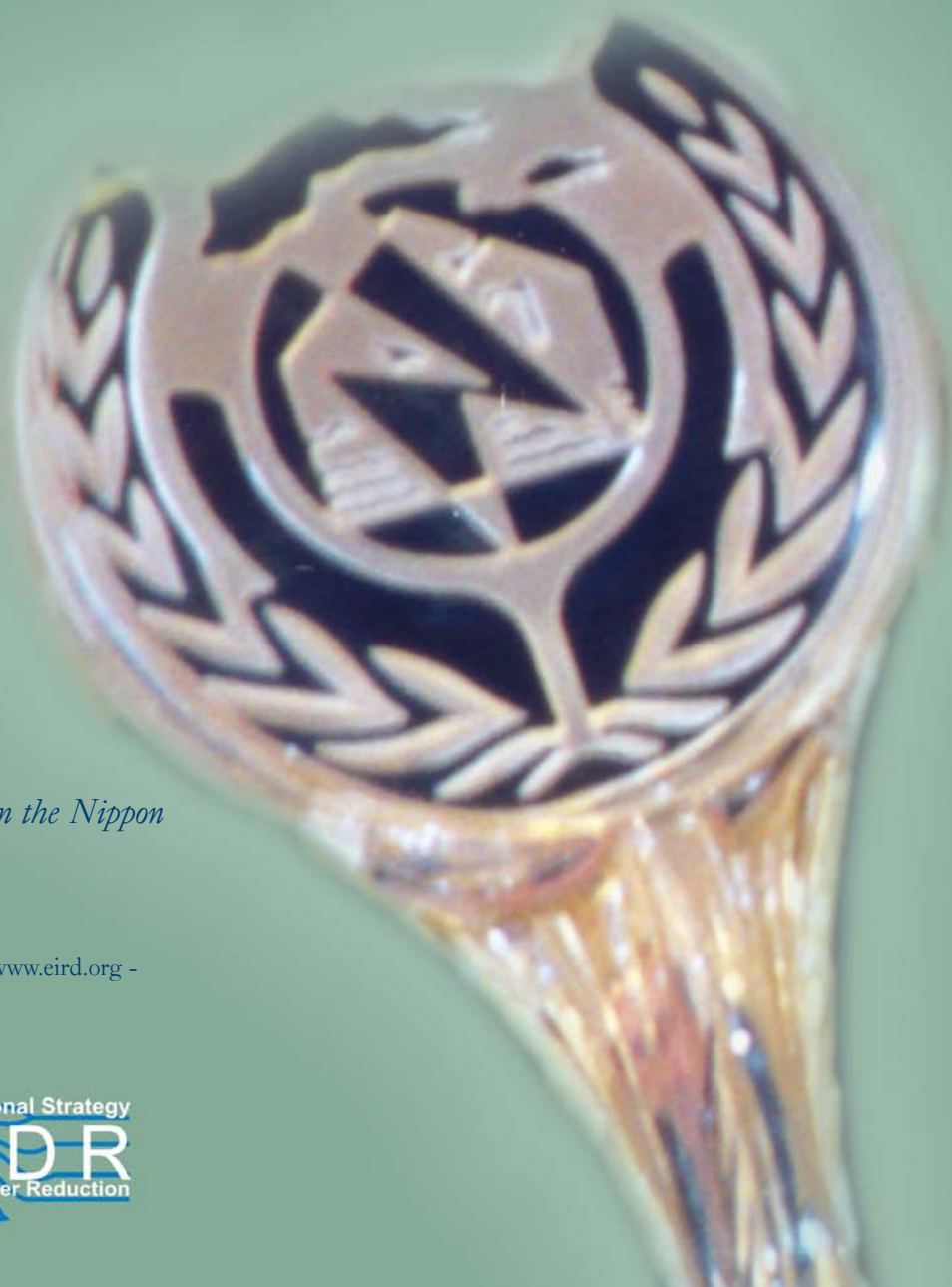
www.unisdr.org/africa



日本財団



International Strategy
ISDR
for Disaster Reduction



Closing date for nominations: 29 June 2007

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered.

The United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction is worth approximately US \$50,000 to be shared among the Sasakawa Laureate and recipients of the Certificates of Distinction and Merit. It is presented annually on the occasion of the International Day for Disaster Reduction, every second Wednesday of October. The next Sasakawa Award Ceremony will be held on *Wednesday 10 October 2007*.

Eligibility for the Award

The candidate can be an individual or an institution. He/she/it shall have distinguished herself/himself/itself through outstanding and internationally recognized action in the following fields:

- a) The implementation, at international or regional level, of activities designed to strengthen people's awareness of disasters triggered by natural hazards;
- b) The launching of scientific activities contributing to technological innovation facilitating disaster prediction;
- c) The launching of scientific or social activities contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction;
- d) The promotion of activities which reduce the economic impact of disasters and contribute to sustainable development;
- e) Any other activities recognized as essential in promoting disaster risk reduction (early warning, environmental management, land-use planning, promotion of building codes, awareness-raising, education etc.)

Nomination of Candidates for the Award

Nominations shall be made to the Administrator of the Award, who will submit them to the Jury, together with his/her comments. The Administrator may seek independent reports on the work carried out by candidates for the Award, which shall be submitted, when appropriate, by the Administrator for the consideration of the Jury. *No candidate may nominate herself/himself.*

Selection of the Laureate(s) and recipients of Certificates

An international Jury composed of experts from different continents will vote in a private meeting on the basis of well-defined criteria, to identify and select the Laureate of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction. Since 1998, Certificates of Distinction and of Merit have been awarded to those who make valuable contributions in the field of disaster risk reduction. The Jury may however decide not to designate any laureate, if it so wishes. The current Jury is composed by representatives from each of the following regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Oceania.

Candidates can be nominated by:

1. Former Sasakawa Award Laureates;
2. Representatives of institutions specializing in disaster reduction;
3. UN specialized agencies;
4. Resident Coordinators of the UN System; and
5. Permanent Missions to the UN Office in Geneva.

Nomination Forms

Nominated candidates should complete the attached nomination form for the 19th UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction 2007, and forward it *by 29 June 2007* together with the requested detailed information in support of the nomination to the ISDR Secretariat. Candidates are requested to provide a Power Point presentation in English with details of their work and contribution to reducing risk and vulnerability to natural and technological hazards.

All nomination forms and letters should be sent to:

Inter-Agency Secretariat of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UN/ISDR)
Administrator of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10
Tel: +41 22 917 2786 / Fax: 41 22 917 0563 / E-mail: isdr-sasakawa@un.org
Websites: www.unisdr.org - www.unisdr.org/asiapacific - www.eird.org - www.unisdrafrica.org

19th United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Nomination Form 2007

No candidate may nominate herself / himself

PART I: FOR INDIVIDUALS (please attach a Curriculum Vitae)

Name: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____

Nationality: _____

Date and place of birth: _____

Gender: ☐ Female ☐ Male

Qualifications: Give details in chronological order, starting with the most recent qualification

Date: _____ Institution: _____ Qualifications obtained: _____

Present position: _____

Current job description: _____

Previous positions held (in chronological order, starting with the first position held)

Date _____ Position held and mandate: _____

PART II: FOR INSTITUTIONS (Please give succinct information)

Name and address: _____

Date of Creation: _____

Main fields of activity: _____

Size and structure (if applicable): _____

Optional: Funding (annual budget and sources of income): _____

Name of Head of Institution: _____

PART III: SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Please give details of outstanding innovative work in the field of disaster risk reduction which would qualify the candidate for the Award, in particular with regard to:

Section 1: General disaster risk reduction activities to reduce the socio-economic impact of disasters and to contribute to sustainable development: _____

Section 2: The implementation, at the international or regional level, of activities designed to strengthen peoples' awareness of disasters caused by natural hazards: _____

Section 3: Achievements in disaster risk reduction in developing countries (if any): _____

Section 4: The introduction of scientific activities and any technological innovation contributing to improved disaster forecasting: _____

Section 5: The promotion of social activities contributing to the strengthening of disaster risk reduction: _____

Section 6: Other activities recognized as essential in promoting disaster risk reduction: _____

PART IV: PROPOSAL FOR THE USE OF THE AWARD MONEY

Please give details on the use to be made of the Award money for further development, improvement and promotion of disaster risk reduction activities: _____

A questionnaire on the use of the Award money will be sent to all Sasakawa Laureates to evaluate what extent this financial assistance has contributed to implementing the disaster risk reduction activities planned under this item, and facilitated the advancement of a global culture of prevention.

PART V: DOCUMENTATION

Please list and attach supporting documents related to the work carried out in disaster risk reduction, such as constitution, charter, membership list, including samples of published literature, annual reports and press articles. To facilitate the nomination process, kindly provide as much information as possible in English:

PART VI: REFERENCES

Please list three persons /institutions who are familiar with your activities:

	Full Name	Full address	Business or occupation
1)	_____	_____	_____
2)	_____	_____	_____
3)	_____	_____	_____

Separate nomination papers respecting the above format with comprehensive and detailed information will be accepted

Submitted by: _____

Date of submission: _____

Date of receipt by ISDR: _____

Deadline for submission: 29 June 2007

Please note that applications received after the deadline will not be considered