Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo

Santiago de Chile, February 28 2011

United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction

Dear members of Jury:

We have been informed that the project "*Sustainable Reconstruction Master Plans for 25 coastal cities: Development of risk studies, integrated master plans, and tsunami mitigation projects for the resilient reconstruction of 25 coastal towns devastated by the earthquake and tsunami in Chile*" developed by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development of the Government of Chile has been presented to the United Nations Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction.

The risk studies and master plans for the sustainable and comprehensive reconstruction of priority local areas in the Maule and Biobío regions have been developed under the above-mentioned project. These master plans include the construction of mitigation infrastructure and the allocation of subsidies for tsunami resistant housing. Additionally, these plans favor the inclusion of risk mitigation measures in local planning activities, and as such represent a qualitative improvement over the pre-disaster situation.

In our opinion, the experience obtained during the post-earthquake and tsunami reconstruction period together with the implementation of these Master Plans will allow the identification of a series of important lessons and provide valuable contributions regarding the way in which these types of disaster risk scenarios should be managed.

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