

February 24, 2011

The UNISDR Secretariat
Administrator of the UN Sasakawa Award for Disaster Reduction
Palais des Nations, 8-14 Avenue de la Paix,
CH-1211 Geneva 10

Dear Sir/Madam:

Greetings!

On behalf of A2D Project—Research Group for Alternatives to Development, Inc., it is an honor to write this letter in support of the nomination of San Francisco, Camotes Island, Cebu, Philippines for the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) Sasakawa Award.

A2D Project is a non-stock, non-profit non-governmental organization based in Cebu City, Philippines that is dedicated to finding innovative alternatives to address poverty, exclusion and inequality in the Philippines through action research, strategic planning and effective development policies and programs. As a non-government organization, we have assisted the local government unit of San Francisco in the formulation of its Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) plan. Through this, we have seen the strong commitment of San Francisco in addressing climate change, global warming and disaster risk reduction and management through participatory local governance that promotes enabling conditions for building resilient communities. We are further impressed by the *purok* system instituted by the municipality, which is a novel and

innovative approach that builds on an indigenous social organization founded on communal cooperation as a mobilizing force to pursue the municipal DRRM program. In this way, resilience is truly built *by* communities themselves.

I fully support the nomination of San Francisco for the UNISDR Sasakawa Award, in an effort not just to share their experience in building resilient communities, but also to help further strengthen local and practical initiatives for disaster risk reduction programs. I believe that the world has much to learn from the example provided by the municipality of San Francisco.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Albuero', written over a horizontal line.

KAIRA ZOE K. ALBURO

Executive Director

A2D Project—Research Group for Alternatives to Development