



Colonel Nagar M Verma, India



Colonel Verma is the Founder Trustee of Saritsa Foundation, a Mobile University for Disaster Risk Reduction. He advocates 'people-centered, people-led and people-owned' practices to build resilience and to understand it from a community perspective. His efforts have built capacity among 200,000 people including 9,000 people with disabilities, in 18 states. In rural and urban areas Colonel Verma has organised built capacity through workshops, mobile campaigns and mock drills, seminars and family conferences. Colonel Verma used his retirement funds to set up Saritsa Foundation in June 2000.

The foundation has a variety of supporters including state and local governments, international organizations various community groups, schools, colleges and universities, police, army and the corporate sector. 'There is an inadequacy in the government's ability to protect its citizens from impacts of disasters due to inbuilt constraints of resources, commitment and accountability,' said Colonel Verma. 'We as individuals and society have to become alert and develop a deeper understanding of means to protection. This was the starting point to raise awareness and prepare people to develop 'safety culture' as part of each individual's duty and accountability to be resilient.'

Links:

- [Reason for nomination \[DOCX 52.52 KB\]](#)
- [Candidate's presentation - Part 1 \[DOCX 17.89 KB\]](#)
- [Candidate's presentation - Part 2 \[DOCX 12.19 KB\]](#)

For more information, visit:

<http://www.unisdr.org/we/campaign/sasakawa/2013/>