

ICCCAD Youth Fellowship Alumni Report 2024

Personal Information

1. **Name:** Eco Talukder
2. **Fellowship Batch (Year):** 2024
3. **Contact Information:**
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 - **Current Location (Upazila and district):** University of Chittagong Campus
4. **Current Occupation/Role:** MS (thesis) Student, Department of Geography and Environmental Studies, University of Chittagong

Fellowship Experience

1. **Briefly describe the most valuable lessons or skills you learned during the fellowship.** (Paragraph maximum 150 words)

It was glad to be part of wonderful fellowship journey. Throughout my fellowship journey, I learned the value of teamwork, collaborating effectively with new individuals from diverse backgrounds. One of the most important lessons came from the field trip to Kuakata, where I understood the difference between academic information and real-life obstacles. Observing the difficulties of the Kolapara community and the natural effect of growth projects, such as coal-powered energy in Patuakhali. These projects have worsened local climate problems and deeply affected the surrounding communities' lives. These events improved my knowledge of the difficulties of climate change and the importance of developing sustainable solutions that value community health and natural balance.

2. **Which sessions or activities during the fellowship were most impactful for you? Why?** (Paragraph maximum 150 Words)

The field trip to the Kuakata, Barisal region was the most impactful part of my fellowship journey. It was my first visit to this region, and seeing the realities of climate change directly left a strong impression. I had read about the effects of cyclone on Kolapara in newspapers or news, but the actual situation was far worse than I had imagined. This trip was instrumental in helping me to meet with local people, and to hear about their experiences made the challenges more personal and real. I also learned about the impacts of the coal energy project on the community. Many locals shared how the project had disrupted their lives and worsened their living conditions. This field trip was crucial in helping me to understand how climate change and unsustainable development projects impact communities.

Implementation of Learning

- 1) How have you applied the knowledge or skills gained from the fellowship in your personal or professional life? Examples of specific actions, or initiatives you have led or contributed to advocacy, awareness, event, workshop, project etc.).** (Paragraph- Maximum 200 words)

The knowledge and skills I gained from the fellowship have been instrumental in shaping both my academic and professional pursuits. With a background in geography and environmental studies, I have integrated my fellowship experiences, particularly insights from the field trip, into my academic presentations and exams. Sharing observations from Kolapara, such as the impacts of climate events and the coal energy project on local communities, added depth and real-world relevance to my academic work. These examples helped bridge theoretical concepts with practical realities, enabling me to enrich discussions and inspire my peers to think critically about sustainable solutions.

Professionally, my team, “The Green Edit,” won the ICCCAD Youth Innovation Fund, which further allowed me to apply my fellowship knowledge to real-world projects. Inspired by the field trip, our team designed a project focused on addressing the adverse effects of TEAK trees monoculture and promoting sustainable environmental practices in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Using the skills gained during the fellowship, including teamwork, project planning, and advocacy, we organized workshops and campaigns to raise awareness among local communities. This experience reinforced my ability to apply knowledge from the fellowship to initiatives that contribute meaningfully to environmental restoration and resilience.