



## AN INTERACTIVE AND PARTICIPATORY DISCUSSION ON 'COMPACT TOWNSHIPS'

### AT TARAKANDA, MYMENSINGH

17 April, 2014.

The second outreach of the Compact Township Foundation started with the welcome speech of Mr. Ekram Hossain, researcher at Brac University. He mentioned in his speech that our country is losing its cultivable lands and natural resources each year. Again, population growth, potentially an alarming issue if it remains constant, means that the country will have a population of about 28 crores in 2050. The local areas of Modhupur and Vawalgarh in Mymensingh are not the same as before-- he mentioned. The landscape of Bangladesh is changing every day due to unplanned way of urbanization and it is directly affecting agricultural land.

Dr. Abul Hossain, General Secretary of the Compact Township Foundation, started his speech by welcoming the guests and the chairperson. He explained that the main objective of the meeting was to familiarize the ideas of the Compact Township Foundation to the local people. 'The core concept of 'Compact Townships' was a birth child of Dr. Salim Rashid, renowned emeritus professor at the University of Illinois. There wouldn't be any cultivable land in the next 100 years if the current rate of urbanization continues. Compact Townships are rural places where most urban facilities can be found. He mentioned that in the EPZ's there is production, but no educational or health facilities for workers. Generally, a compact township, or CT, is a place where about 20 thousand people can live and the township can be based on agriculture, farming, fishing etc. a direct calculation suggests that by the end of 2050 Bangladesh can have about 7500 Compact Townships across the whole country. 'Every year we are losing about 1 percent of cultivable land for non-agricultural purposes. It is high time for us to decide whether we should take steps to save our land or move towards an unplanned future.

Several questions were asked by the participants at the open discussion phase. Mr. Pulok Ranjan Sarkar, an NGO worker and activist commented that Compact Township is a national concern and the promotion of the concept should be carried out by the government itself. Mr. Sarkar, a lecturer of English, wanted to know who will take the leadership to initiate the compact township concern.

Anwar, a student of Bangabondhu Degree College asked that who would fund the program. Azam Chowdhury, a farmer, wondered if it will be viable to live in the 2 or 3 storied buildings and what will happen to the farmer's domestic output. Mr. Kamal Khan wanted to know if the concern for compact townships will be continued or if it will be a failure in the meantime. Mr. Shamim Talukder said that generally the land of every houses varies according to one's economic abilities. He wanted to know the future scenario of economic stratification after implementing the compact township concept.



In reply to the queries asked by the participants, Dr. Abul Hossain said that the Compact Township Foundation was founded in 2012 and the cost was borne by themselves from the beginning. This foundation is consulted by several well-known people and the topic is already popular in the media. The outreach program is a campaign to involve local people and seek their concerns about land loss and population growth. Dr. Abul Hossain said that we have already discussed with the GoB about policies to implement Compact Townships. But to make it as a national agenda the first priority is to seek out the people's concerns. A new land use plan will soon be published by the government. In our country it is

nearly impossible to rely on the act and laws of government. He stated a few days ago a German organization named GIZ mailed the CTF that they liked the idea of Compact Townships and they want to encourage further work on the concept. Loans are now widely available by many foundations and it is not a tough job to make shelters.

Last month the compact township foundation had its outreach program in Khulna in the Dumuria upozilla and the local people responded well. Dr. Abul Hossain said the participants of Tarakanda also thought well of the program and they are very much aware of the upcoming worrisome scenario of rapid urbanization and growth of population.

Mr. Zabbar, the chairman of union council said we all can imagine what will be our future in 2050. He said that while he was in India he had a trip from Delhi to Agra and in 450 km didn't see any markets and bazars along the roadside. 'If we build high rises for the multi families, horizontal lands can be saved and at the same time residences can be made. I went to a village to attend a seminar in West Bengal, India, and there I was asked that why the govt of Bangladesh sent me there and bore my expenses. I replied, we have active human resources and we have achieved success in our poverty reduction and family planning. So if the govt can link the local administrators with the Compact Township sector, it will definitely be a success.'- Mr. Zabbar said. Dr. Mokhlesur Rahman, an agriculturist said the most fearsome factor is that we are losing large amounts of land every year. For rapid urbanization he had collected various data in different cities. He suggested that a model of this can be made on a pilot basis. Dr. Abul Hossain replied that the seminar was really successful and thanked the participants for their wise responses.

[Participant List attached below.]





**Compact Township Foundation Outreach Meeting**

Tarakanda, Mymensingh

Thursday, 17 April 2014

Attendance Sheet

Sl	Name & Organisation	Address & Contact Number	Signature
1	Md. Imam Hossain	Lecturer: - Political Science Bangha Bandhu Degree College, Tarakanda	 01717.640653
2	Md. Mahbubul Alam	Teacher, Baraipara High School Tarakanda, Mymensingh 01757719009	
3	md. Ebnokashim	Teacher, Gohalkanda High School Tarakanda Mymensingh	 01914.072658
4	BIJAN CH. SARMA	Lecturer, Pol. Science Bangabandhu Degree College Tarakanda, Mymensingh	 01718-115503
5	Skamim Jabbar		01915200215
6	MD. Shafiqul Islam.		01710-582362
7	MD. SYAFIQUR	স্বাক্ষরিত প্রতিষ্ঠান: পলি. বিজ্ঞান বিভাগ - বাংলাদেশ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় তারাকান্দা	01719 076674
8	শ্রীধর বিশ্বাস	অধিবন কর্মকর্তা তারাকান্দা প্রকল্প।	 01712-485092
9	স্বাক্ষরিত		0292638082
10	স্বাক্ষরিত	02226626290	
11	স্বাক্ষরিত	স্বাক্ষরিত	029820962
12	Md. Kamal Khan	Teacher, Darakanda High school, Tarakanda 01718.799166	

Md. Abdul Jabbar  
Chairman YSAO Tarakanda  
01712 690828

9.	Amwar hossan Journalist	mymensingha sadan 01936-133190	Amwar hossan
10	Pulack R. Sarker Ex. W. W. B.	Phulpur 01859 094864	<del>Amwar hossan</del>
11	md. shahin mia সংস্কৃতি	Tarakanda 01712-721251	→
12.	Sultan Talukder	Tarakanda 01727-910259	Amwar hossan
13	Motior Rahaman	Tarakanda 01735-881489	
14	নাজমুল হক	ডাঃ সাদিক আব্দুল্লাহ	০১৯০৬৩২২০১৪
15	মাওলানা মোঃ হাবিবুল ক্বারি	ডাঃ-আব্দুল মুন্সীর মোঃ আমানুল্লাহ সহ-কর্তৃপক্ষ জেলা-মুন্সীগঞ্জ	Amwar hossan
16	রাজুল ক্বারি সিং	হুজুরুল ইসলাম-১নং, তারাকান্দা হুজুরুল ইসলাম-২নং, তারাকান্দা	Amwar hossan
17.	আল হাবিবুল ক্বারি	প্রভাসক (অবসর) হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	Amwar hossan
18	সাদিকুল আলম	প্রভাসক (অবসর) হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	সাদিকুল আলম
19	সাদিকুল আলম	প্রভাসক (অবসর) হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	Amwar hossan
20	হাজুরুল ইসলাম	প্রভাসক (অবসর) হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	Amwar hossan
21	হাজুরুল ইসলাম	প্রভাসক (অবসর) হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	Amwar hossan
22.	Balram Ghosh	Lecturer (English) Fazul Haque ch. M.C	Amwar hossan
23	হাজুরুল ইসলাম	হাজুরুল হক চৌধুরী মহিলা কলেজ	Amwar hossan



24	Apon Sarker	Tarakanda	<del>Apon</del>
25	Likhon Chanda	Tarakanda	<u>Likhon</u>
26	Shobuj Khan	Tarakanda	<u>Shobuj</u>
27	Parag Ritchie	Halughat	<u>Parag</u>
28	Beauty	Tarakanda	<del>Beauty</del>
29	Sweety Akther	Tarakanda	<u>Sweety</u>
30	Beauty Rani	Tarakanda	<del>Beauty</del>
31	moni Akter	Tarakanda	<u>moni</u>
32	Shorona Talukder	Tarakanda	<u>Shorona</u>
33	Lovely Akter	Tarakanda	<del>Lovely</del>
34	<del>MAHMUDA AKTER</del>	Tarakanda	<del>MAHMUDA</del>
35	Ripa Akther	ইলী, রুহুল হক উদ্বৃত্তি আইসি কলেজ	<u>Ripa</u>
36	Fahmida	Tarakanda	<u>Fahmida</u>
37	Nagma Akther	Tarakanda	<u>Nagma</u>
38	SUMA AKTER	Tarakanda	<u>Suma</u>

39	Salina Akter	Tarakanda	<u>Sl</u>
40	Kheky Akter	Tarakanda	<u>kelukis</u>
41	Momofa	Tarakanda	<u>momofa</u>
42	Shila Rani Paul	Tarakanda student	<u>shila</u>
43	Sharmine <del>Akter</del> Begum	Tarakanda student	<del>Sharmine</del>
44	Razia Khatun	Tarakanda student	<u>R</u>
45	Nilufar yeasmin	Tarakanda	<u>Nilufar</u>
46	Tuti Akter Begum	Tarakanda student	<u>tuti</u>
47	Nargis Akter	Tarakanda	<u>Nargis</u>
48	Furjana Akter	Tarakanda	<u>Furjana</u>
49	Sharmin Shila	Tarakanda	<u>Shila</u>
50	Mousumi Akter	Tarakanda, student	<u>mousumi</u>
51	Moni Akter	Tarakanda	<u>Moni</u>
52	Shabnaz	Tarakanda	<u>Shabnaz</u>