

## RESUME OF ABU HASNAT MD. MAQSOOD SINHA



**Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha**, a professional urban planner and architect by training, holds Masters Degree in Urban and Regional Planning with specialization in environment, urban waste management and recycling from Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand. He is a practitioner, researcher and a social entrepreneur in areas of waste management, environmental management and clean energy.

As a Co-founder and Executive Director of Waste Concern, Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha along with his colleague Iftekhar Enayetullah, have conceptualized, designed and implemented the community based decentralized composting model using public-private-community partnerships approach. Their model of waste management was first piloted in Mirpur area of Dhaka city in early 1994, and subsequently replicated in five communities of Dhaka city with support from Ministry of Environment and Forest and UNDP in 1998. This approach has led to significant environmental improvement at community level along with creation of employment opportunities for the urban poor especially women along with production of eco-friendly compost, which is most needed for the organic matter deficient soil of Bangladesh and also for reducing green house gas emission.

The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development of Government of Bangladesh has replicated the model, in 14 cities and towns of Bangladesh with support from UNICEF since September 2002. Till December 2006, Waste Concern's composting technology and implementation model has been replicated in 47 locations distributed in 26 cities and towns of Bangladesh. This composting technology has also been replicated by the municipalities, NGOs and private sectors. Moreover, UNESCAP has assisted two cities one in Sri Lanka and another in Vietnam in replicating the composting technology and implemented the model of Waste Concern.

Recently, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and Department of Agriculture Extension of Government of Bangladesh have taken an initiative under their Special Program for Food Security to promote and demonstrate the composting technologies developed by Waste Concern to farmers in rural areas of the country, using biomass in order to increase organic matter content in the soil aimed at increasing crop yield and reducing poverty.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha has played a significant role in attracting carbon financing (CDM based investment) in Bangladesh. Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha and Iftekhar Enayetullah, through Waste Concern prepared the first CDM projects entitled Landfill Gas Recovery and

Electricity Generation as well as Composting of Organic Waste in Dhaka and facilitated Dutch investment in the projects. These projects are the first CDM projects registered from Bangladesh. He was involved in the development of the methodology to account reduction of green house gas emission using aerobic composting. This methodology is accepted by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

For his contribution and innovative work in the field of solid waste management and environment in Bangladesh, Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha has been elected by the Ashoka Innovators for the Public of USA as an Ashoka Fellow in 2000.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is also one of the winners of the USA based Fast Company magazine's first-ever Fast 50 – fifty champions of innovation for the year 2002 (the only ones from Asia). Fast Company announced it's first-ever "Fast 50 list", celebrating fifty "champions of innovation" whose achievements have led to significant change in their companies or society.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is also a recipient of the United Nations Poverty Eradication Award 2002 for the entire Asia and the Pacific region for his work and contribution in the field of solid waste management, especially generation of employment opportunities for the urban poor through composting. He is the first Bangladeshi to receive this prestigious UN Award along with his colleague Iftekhar Enayetullah.

Schwab Foundation of Switzerland a sister organization of the World Economic Forum has also selected Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha as an Outstanding Social Entrepreneur for the year 2003 for his contribution in the field of waste management and environmental improvement of Dhaka city.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is also recipient of the Tech Museum Awards 2003 in the environment category. He is also selected as a Tech Laureate by the Tech Museum of USA for developing technology benefiting humanity.

At the national level, Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha has received Outstanding Architect's Award 2003 from the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB). He has also received the professional excellence award as an Architect from the Daily Star-a prominent and leading newspaper of Bangladesh.

Under the professional leadership of Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha and Iftekhar Enayetullah, Waste Concern has received the Environment Award 2007 from the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of Bangladesh for their contribution in environmental research and development activities. Moreover, Waste Concern has been selected as one of the Fast Fifty Company of 2007 by Fast Company magazine of USA for developing profit-driven solutions for what ails the planet. Over the years, Waste Concern under their dynamic leadership has become a national resource center on waste management and green house gas mitigation activities.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha has more than eighty publications including scientific papers, articles, fact sheets, manuals, technical reports and educational materials. He is the co-author of a book entitled "Decentralized Composting for Cities of Low and Middle Income Countries" and has also co-edited a book entitled "Community Based Urban Solid Waste Management: The Asian Experience". He has carried out sixty consultancy assignments for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UN-ESCAP, UNIDO, UNICEF, Water Sanitation Program-The World Bank, SDC, GTZ, CIDA, UNDP, UNCHS, FAO, Swisscontact-KATALYST and USAID as well as for universities, both national and international. His publications and consultancy reports include topics in waste management, sanitation, community participation, public-private-community partnerships, pro-poor infrastructure development, physical planning, and industrial pollution control/cleaner production, sustainable use of biomass, cleaner energy options, physical and environmental improvement of small and medium sized enterprises, environmental impact

assessment (EIA), techno-economic studies for environmental sector projects, policy formulation and environmental standard development as well as gender and development.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha's professional expertise and interest are in the areas of waste management (solid, industrial, hazardous and clinical), urban environmental management, eco-sanitation, development of clean development mechanism (CDM) projects, environmental impact assessment (EIA), public-private-community partnerships, industrial pollution mitigation/cleaner production, environmental management system, cleaner energy supply, energy efficient building design, efficient use of biomass, carbon foot print analysis and sustainable development.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha has traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe, Africa and America as a Resource Speaker in international workshops and seminars and lectured on waste management, waste minimization, pro-poor infrastructure development public-private partnership, clean development mechanism/ green house gas emission reduction and sustainable development and also as an international consultant on waste management, public-private partnerships, water supply and sanitation for the urban poor and green gas mitigation projects.

Apart from co-founder of Waste Concern, Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is the Managing Partner of Waste Concern Consultants - the consulting arm of Waste Concern. He is also Co-founder and Managing Director of Waste Concern-Baraka Agro Products.

Through the consultancy services provided by the Waste Concern Consultants, several industries and private enterprises have financially gained as well as reduced environmental pollution and health and occupational risks by implementing waste minimization, waste recycling, reducing green house gas emissions and cleaner production practices designed by this firm.

To promote organic as well as safe food, Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is involved in applied research through one of its sister concern Waste Concern-Baraka Agro Products. Recently, he has been involved in piloting organic vegetable and organic cotton production in Bangladesh using fair trade concept. He is involved in development of certified safe food brands in Bangladesh.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha is a Member of the Architects Bangladesh (IAB), Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP) and Building Partnership Development for Water and Sanitation of United Kingdom. He is a founding member of WasteNet, Bangladesh. He is the editor of a quarterly newsletter on waste management and recycling in Bangladesh. Presently, he is serving as a member of the National CDM Committee of Bangladesh. In addition to these, he is also serving as an external examiner of post-graduate thesis as well as guest lecturer for several universities. The professional work of Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha and Iftekhar Enayetullah through Waste Concern is now being taught as a case study in several universities in USA, Europe and Bangladesh in the graduate program of business and development studies.

Abu Hasnat Md. Maqsood Sinha was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh on 04 April 1963. He is married and father of a daughter and a son. His father Mr. Shahjahan Sinha was a former country head of a British multinational company and later become a successful business entrepreneur and social worker.

## **Contact**

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