



3CEH NEWSLETTER | VOL. 2 | ISSUE 1 | JUNE 2026

Planetary Health Education and Research: Capacity Development of Youths



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Supported by:

CATA-Earth (Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education)

Photo Credit

Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) team

Acknowledgement

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the CATA-Earth team for their constant support and to all the students of the Environmental & Planetary Health Course and the talented Research Assistants of 3CEH for their dedication, enthusiasm, and invaluable contributions.

Published by

Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH)

Asian University for Women (AUW), 20/A, M M Ali Road, Chattogram, Bangladesh

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MESSAGE

From the Founding Director

Dear Colleagues and Esteemed Partners,

Over the past six months, I have had the privilege of witnessing the continued growth of the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) and the dedication of the individuals and communities that shape our work. Every initiative has reaffirmed the principle that has guided 3CEH since its establishment: meaningful and lasting change is achieved when research, education, and community engagement come together with a shared purpose. As environmental and public health challenges become increasingly complex, collaboration and investing in future leaders have never been more important.

During this period, 3CEH has continued to strengthen its mission through research, capacity building, and strategic partnerships. Through workshops, institutional collaborations, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, we have fostered dialogue, strengthened capacity, and encouraged practical solutions to environmental and public health challenges. One of the most encouraging aspects of this journey has been the active engagement of our students and early-career researchers through capstone projects and professional development opportunities. By nurturing the next generation of scholars and practitioners, we continue to build the knowledge, skills, and leadership needed to advance sustainable and equitable development across the region.

This newsletter also celebrates the value of collaboration. Through the Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education (CATA-EARTH) initiative and our continued engagement with academic institutions, research organizations, and community partners, we continue to demonstrate how research, education, and partnership can come together to address complex environmental and public health challenges. As the Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar (K4DM) project approaches the completion of its journey, it stands as a testament to the meaningful partnerships and shared commitment that have shaped our work.

As we look ahead, I am inspired by the dedication and shared vision of our researchers, students, partners, and communities. I invite you to explore the stories in these pages and celebrate the collective efforts that continue to strengthen 3CEH's mission toward a more sustainable and resilient future.

With warmest regards,

Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin

Founding Director & Honorary Professor in Water Science

Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH), AUW

Distinguished Researcher, IMDEA Water Institute. Madrid. Spain

Introducing the Assistant Director of 3CEH



Dear Colleagues, Partners, and Friends of 3CEH,

The Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) is pleased to introduce **Ms. Nazifa Rafa** as our **Assistant Director**. Ms. Rafa's journey with 3CEH began at its inception in 2020, when she joined as one of the Center's pioneering Research Assistants. Today, she steps into her new role to shape the Center's sustainability, strategic growth, and global impact.

She is currently the Senior Instructor in Environmental Sciences at the Asian University for Women (AUW). Her academic foundation includes a BSc in Environmental Sciences from AUW, an MPhil in Environmental Policy from the University of Cambridge, and she is currently completing her PhD in Geography at the University of Cambridge. In recognition of her outstanding scholarly contributions, she was named among the World's Top 2% Researchers (2025) in the Stanford University–Elsevier global ranking, reflecting the impact of her research on environmental justice, climate change, migration, and loss and damage.

Bringing over five years of research and publication experience in disaster risk reduction, loss and damage, climate adaptation, water and energy security, and sustainable development, Ms. Rafa oversees grant development and field team leadership. She is currently part of the Center's collaborative international initiatives, including the European Commission co-funded CATA-Earth project. Under this initiative, 3CEH developed and launched the undergraduate course Environmental and Planetary Health at AUW, where students have gained research experience through capstone projects exploring climate anxiety, heat stress among informal workers, and water and air quality in urban slums.

Reflecting on her journey and vision for the Center, Ms. Rafa shared:

"My hope for 3CEH is simple but ambitious: that we continue to blur the line between the university and the community. I want to see more courses and research co-designed with local leaders, and more opportunities for our students and fellows to lead. I want 3CEH to be a place where no one is too small to make a difference."

Nazifa Rafa

Assistant Director, Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH)
Senior Instructor, Environmental Sciences, Asian University for Women (AUW)

MEET THE NEW FACES OF 3CEH



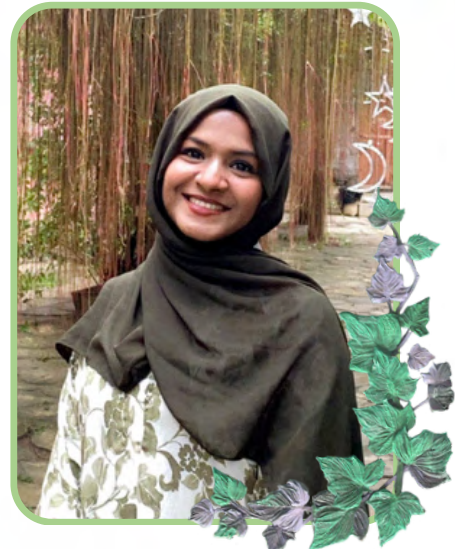
Ms. Nur Subah Arwah

We are pleased to introduce our new full-time team member of the 3CEH team, Ms. Nur Subah Arwah, as a Research Officer.

Beginning her journey as a Volunteer Research Assistant in 2023 at 3CEH, Ms. Nur Subah Arwah demonstrated strong commitment by supporting documentation, project activities, and programmatic tasks. An alumna of AUW with a double major in Bioinformatics and Biotechnology and Public Health, and currently pursuing a Master of Science in Molecular Medicine at IMU University, Malaysia.

Her role at 3CEH focuses on research coordination, technical writing, project development, and publication. She actively manages knowledge dissemination as the newsletter editor, fostering interdisciplinary initiatives that bridge scientific research with environmental and climate health.

Her journey reflects a steady dedication to professional growth and a deep commitment to impactful research. We look forward to her continued contributions to our research and communication initiatives at 3CEH.



Ms. Aysha Farid

We are pleased to introduce our new full-time team member of the 3CEH team, Ms. Aysha Farid, as a full-time Research Assistant.

Ms. Aysha Farid's journey with 3CEH reflects dedication, consistency, and steady professional growth. She began as a volunteer RA in 2025 and contributed to 3CEH research initiatives. Through her commitment, reliability, and strong initiative, she quickly became an integral part of the team, earning her transition into a full-time role.

A graduate in Public Health from AUW, Ms. Farid brings a solid academic foundation along with a strong interest in the intersections of public health, environmental determinants, and community well-being.

In her role at 3CEH, she contributes across multiple domains, including supporting research design and implementation, hosting international events and workshops, leading field surveys, conducting data analysis, assisting in proposal development, report writing, and publications.

Beyond a Fellowship: When a Project Ends, Its Impact Endures



Research does not end with a thesis submission, graduation, or the completion of a funded project. Its true value lies in the knowledge it generates, the collaborations it inspires, and the impact it continues to create. Guided by this vision, the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) organized a research dialogue with Knowledge for Democracy Myanmar (K4DM)–International Development Research Center (IDRC) Fellows during the 10th AUW Commencement at Radisson Blu Chattogram Bay View.

Moderated by **Ms. Sadia Salim**, Community Development Officer & Research Coordinator of 3CEH, the dialogue brought together K4DM Fellows (*Mosaddika Mounin, Taslima Razzak, Tofrida Rahman, Parmin Fatema, Habiba, and Hafsa Akter*) to share their research findings, experiences, and reflections on addressing climate change, environmental health, displacement, and social justice. Their presentations demonstrated the value of locally grounded, evidence-based research in generating practical solutions for vulnerable communities.

The discussion was enriched by the participation of distinguished researchers **Dr. Edgard Rodriguez, Dr. Kawser Ahmed, Maria Kibtia, and Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin**, who emphasized the importance of sustaining long-term research collaborations that connect scholars, institutions, policymakers, and communities. The session also featured remarks from **Mr. Kamal Ahmad**, Founder of AUW, on strengthening collaboration between IDRC and AUW and expanding opportunities for future research, mentorship, and academic engagement.

Although the project has formally concluded, its mission continues. Through peer-reviewed publications, knowledge products, dissemination activities, and future collaborations, the fellows' research will continue to reach wider audiences and contribute to evidence-based policy and practice. By nurturing this growing network of fellows, mentors, and partners, 3CEH remains committed to ensuring that the project's legacy continues to create meaningful and lasting impact.

Strengthening Ties for Sustainable Engineering & Building Futures Together: 3CEH and Danish Embassy Dialogue



The visit of the Danish Embassy delegation to the AUW Mahsa Amini Campus marked an important milestone in the growing partnership between the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH), AUW, and the Danish Embassy. The delegation included *Mr. Anders B. Karlsen, Deputy Head of Mission; Mr. Syed Matiul Ahsan, Programme Advisor; and Dr. Natalie Hicks.*



On August 6, 2025, the delegation engaged with 3CEH's ongoing initiatives, including the development of AUW's new BSc in **Chemical and Environmental Engineering**, planned for launch in September 2026. Supported by Danish Embassy funding and developed in collaboration with Imperial College London, the integrated BEng+MSc program is designed to address pressing environmental and climate challenges through interdisciplinary training in engineering, sustainability, environmental health, and clean technologies.



During the visit, 3CEH research assistants and students presented their thesis findings and research outputs, fostering discussions on future collaboration and funding opportunities. The dedicated 3CEH team also highlighted the Centre's ongoing and completed projects, publications, and strategic vision for future partnerships.

The visit reaffirmed the Danish Embassy's support for AUW and 3CEH as emerging leaders in sustainability research, innovation, and capacity building in Bangladesh. With plans for future workshops and collaborative initiatives, this partnership continues to strengthen pathways for impactful research, education, and long-term environmental solutions.

CATA-EARTH

Catalysing Transformative Change
in Planetary Health Education

The challenges of climate change, environmental degradation, and public health are interconnected, demanding new approaches to education, research, and community engagement. CATA-Earth (Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education) is a European Union-funded international initiative that brings together universities, researchers, and community stakeholders across Asia and Europe to strengthen Planetary Health education in climate-vulnerable regions. The project is designed to build institutional capacity to design and deliver innovative, community-driven Planetary Health education that connects environmental sustainability with human well-being. Through a collaborative **“Co-Design, Co-Develop, and Co-Deliver”** approach, CATA-Earth works closely with local communities, stakeholders, and practitioners to ensure that educational programmes address real-world challenges and foster meaningful, sustainable solutions.

At the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH), Asian University for Women, our work within CATA-Earth has focused on supporting Planetary Health education through community engagement, research activities, and cross-sector collaboration. Through stakeholder consultations, field visits, baseline assessments in climate-vulnerable regions such as Kutubdia, and participation in consortium meetings and training programmes, the team has contributed to broader efforts aimed at developing community-driven Planetary Health education. These activities have provided valuable insights into environmental and health challenges faced by climate-vulnerable communities in Bangladesh. The experiences and knowledge generated through these engagements continue to inform discussions on Planetary Health education and capacity building within the project.

Since its launch in 2024, CATA-Earth has brought together **academic institutions and community partners** from **Bangladesh, Indonesia, Spain, and the Netherlands** through international consortium meetings, capacity-building programmes, and collaborative research activities. The project is also advancing the development of a Planetary Health Framework and Toolkit, specialised university courses, educator training initiatives, and digital learning resources that will strengthen Planetary Health education across the region. By fostering collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and borders, CATA-Earth is helping cultivate a new generation of students, educators, and academicians equipped to address the complex environmental and health challenges of the twenty-first century and contribute to a more sustainable and equitable future.

Environmental and Planetary Health Course

As part of CATA-EARTH Project, in Spring 2026, Environmental and Planetary Health Course was introduced as a core 4-credit course for the Environmental Science major at Asian University for Women (AUW), offered in a bi-weekly format to undergraduate students from UG1 to UG3. The course was **taught** by **Ms. Nazifa Rafa**, Assistant Director of the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) and Senior Instructor of Environmental Sciences, bringing together academic expertise and real-world perspectives in planetary health. The course explored the interconnected relationship between environmental change and human health, covering topics such as climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, environmental justice, and systems thinking. Students examined the health impacts of global environmental challenges while developing an understanding of sustainability, policy, and equitable approaches to creating healthier communities and ecosystems.

Students actively participated in group discussions, reflection papers, and collaborative classroom activities throughout the semester. The course concluded with capstone projects, providing many students with their first opportunity to conduct research and apply the concepts they had learned to real-world environmental and planetary health challenges.



Midterm Examination for the Environmental and Planetary Health course, offered in Spring 2026 as part of the CATA-Earth project at AUW



Course Instructor Ms. Nazifa Rafa with all the students of the Environmental and Planetary Health course during the capstone project presentation

CAPSTONE PROJECT



SUPERVISED BY :
NAZIFA RAFA

FUNDED BY :
CATA-EARTH

SUPPORTED BY : CENTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AND
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH(3CEH)

A Comparative Analysis of WASA Water Quality at the Point of Supply and Point of Use and its Implications for Household Health in Chittagong : A Cross Sectional Study

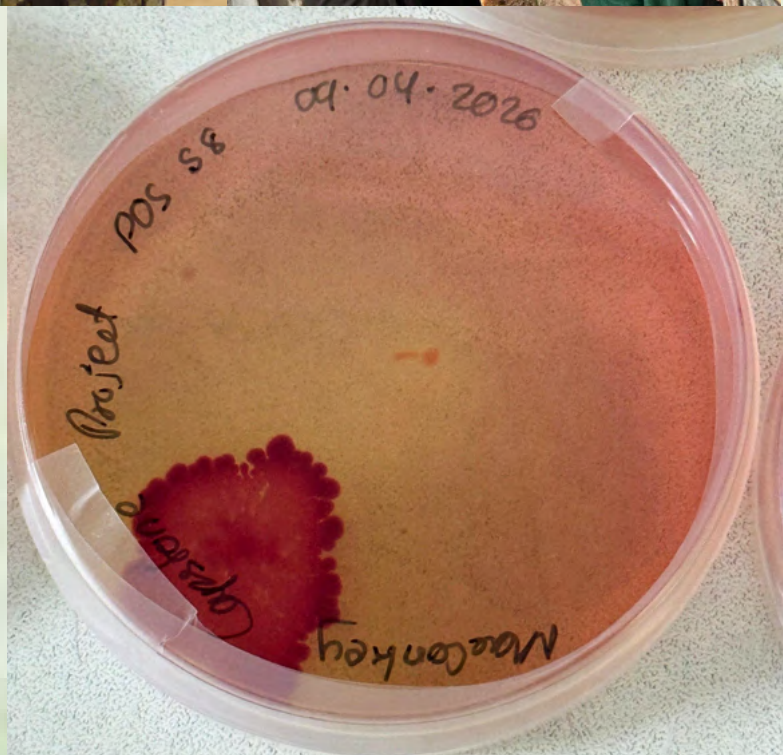
Authors: Maisa Samia Mahbub, Nangaw Htoi Nan, Laila Azrin, Diamond Tripura, Tanusiry Dewan



In this paper the quality of the water supplied by WASA as assessed at the point of supply (POS) and the point of use (POU) and the impact on the health of households in Chittagong are studied. The study was designed as a cross-sectional study involving 24 households, which included both lab measurements of water samples and water handling and health-related outcomes of household surveys. Physicochemical (pH, turbidity, total dissolved solids, and electrical conductivity) and microbiological (total coliform) parameters were measured and compared with national and international parameters.

The findings indicate that although every household used WASA as their main source of drinking water, only 36% reported regular daily supply. Despite a large proportion of households being water-stored (80%) and treated (66.7%), the confidence level in water safety was insignificant (33.3%). Physicochemical parameters of POS and POU were within the WHO and Bangladesh standards, which showed that the chemical quality was good. Nonetheless, there was a rise in microbial contamination between POS and POU by 31% and 54%, respectively, indicating degradation along the lines of distribution and household storage. Also, there were 41.7% of households that had at least one water-related illness, with diarrhea the most common, which could also be a source of health risks due to contaminated water.

This study suggested that to achieve safe drinking water in Chittagong, the source-to-consumer approach is necessary because even when the water quality is at acceptable levels at the source, it still turns unsafe at the house level because of the infrastructural constraints and unhygienic handling procedures.



An Assessment of Plastic Use and Disposal Practices in Patenga and 2 No. Gate, Chattogram

Authors: Ayesha Fairouz Mumu, Bawk Hkawn, Fariya Arefin Rifat, Seng Tsin Nan Maji, Rifah Ulfat Nuha



Plastic waste has been a critical environmental challenge, especially in places that are rapidly urbanizing commercial areas of developing countries like Bangladesh. This study was held on two major commercial zones of Chattogram to investigate plastic waste generation and disposal practices among vendors in Patenga Sea Beach and 2 No. Gate. The study uses cross-sectional and field-based research design in collecting data from 39 vendors and street stalls. The study used structured questionnaires and direct observation during data collection. This study explores the plastic types and usage quantities, awareness of vendors on environmental impacts of plastic, their disposal practices, and barriers in adopting eco-friendly alternatives. The findings of this study point out that polythene bags, bottles, and food packaging materials are the commonly used plastics. This high amount of daily usage contributes to environmental pollution. The study also highlights that 82% out of 39 vendors are well aware of the harmful effects of plastic waste and that they are willing to adopt alternatives. However, only 10% out of 39 vendors actively engage in sustainable practices, such as recycling (10%) and waste segregation (21%). This points out a huge gap between awareness and action.



According to the study, high cost (62%) is the primary barrier that prevents vendors from adopting environmental friendly alternatives. Then, the availability issues, inconvenience usage of alternatives, and lack of institutional support follows. Findings that are related to policy indicate limited awareness and low confidence in existing plastic regulations, with many vendors expressing skepticism toward enforcement mechanisms. However, compared to punitive measures such as plastic bag charges, incentive-based approaches have more positive attitudes were observed.



Assessment of Indoor and Outdoor PM_{2.5} & Their Health Impacts in Slum Households in Chittagong

Authors: Shamima Khatun, Sinzeria Teresa Maria Tavares, Seng Aung, Samia Jaman Jabin, Tasmia Saba



The main objective of this study was to measure the concentration of Indoor and Outdoor PM_{2.5} in the slum areas of Chittagong and analyze the resulting respiratory health risks. A cross-sectional analysis was conducted on a total of 65 households in 4 areas. One-spot measurement method was used to measure air quality and Structured Questionnaire was used for health information. Binary Logistic Regression and ANOVA models were used for data analysis. The average level of Indoor PM_{2.5} obtained in the study was $122.40 \pm 119.54 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the outdoor level was $112.31 \pm 103.79 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, which is several times higher than the WHO Guidelines.

The highest pollution was recorded in Halishohor area due to its proximity to the road. According to the Logistic Regression model, indoor smoking increases the risk of hospitalization for chest diseases by about 2.7 times (OR = 2.729, $p = 0.044$). In addition, the risk of Chronic Cough was found to be about 6 times higher in low-income households. The results indicate a serious public health crisis caused by biomass fuel, inadequate ventilation and tobacco smoke in slum areas. Structural and behavioral improvements are essential to reduce this risk.

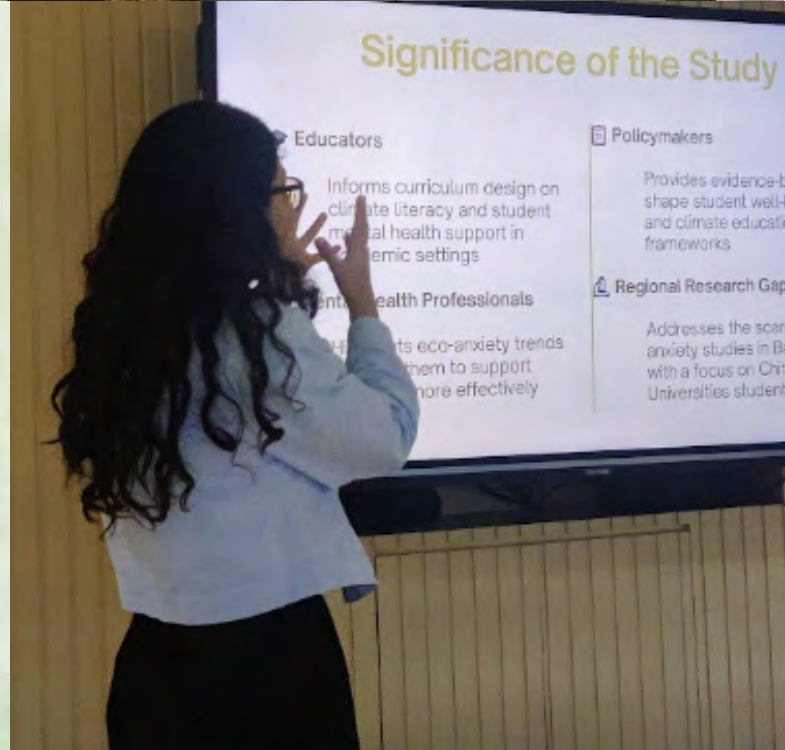


Climate Awareness and Anxiety Among University Students in Chattogram City

Authors: Beauty Saker, Masooma Saberi, Mrityika Banik, Ratneswari Das, Farangis Paiez



Climate change is now widely recognized not just as an environmental issue but also as a psychological issue, especially among university students. This study examines how much university students in Chittagong know about climate change and how concerned they are about it. This research is based mainly on numerical data along with some open-ended responses. It was conducted as a cross-sectional survey. A web-based questionnaire was used to gather data from 235 students of Asian University for Women, University of Chittagong, and East Delta University. Data were analyzed using pivot charts in Microsoft Excel, and data were analyzed simply by calculating frequencies, percentages, and averages. Research shows that most students are well aware of climate change and are concerned about its causes, its impact in Bangladesh, and local environmental issues.



Many students think that human activity is the main cause of climate change. At the same time, students also express moderate levels of climate anxiety, primarily in the form of fear, sadness, and anger. But this anxiety does not significantly impact students' daily lives. Students from environmental Science and females show slightly higher levels of anxiety. Despite this, the study has found that when people are emotionally concerned about climate change, they become more interested in protecting the environment and taking proactive action. Overall, the study shows that learning about climate change creates some concerns in people's minds.



Health Impacts of Urban Heat Stress on Informal Workers in Chattogram, Bangladesh

Authors: Tawsia Ajrin, Mithila Jahan, Wasimah Syed, Yashna Ikter, Hkawn Htoi Awng



Rapid urbanisation and climate change have intensified urban heat stress, especially in low and middle-income countries. Similarly, in developing and also rapidly urbanising Bangladesh, heat exposure has increased due to the Urban Heat Island (UHI) effect. It has been seen that these disproportionately compromise the health, well-being, financial security and everyday life of the urban vulnerable populations. Informal workers make up a large portion of these populations. They are faced with increased risk due to their prolonged outdoor physical labour in demanding work conditions that provide very limited access to any form of occupational protection and cooling infrastructure. This study investigates the same impact experienced by informal workers due to urban heat stress. It particularly focuses on the effects on health, productivity and adaptive capacity of informal workers in Chattogram, Bangladesh. Through a qualitative research approach, using semi-structured interviews with 30 participants, comprising equal numbers of key occupational groups.



These key occupational groups comprised street vendors, rickshaw pullers, and construction workers. The collected data were analysed using thematic analysis to identify recurring patterns related to the points of focus. The analysed data revealed that heat stress significantly affects both physical and mental well-being. We found commonly reported symptoms including fatigue, dehydration, dizziness, and reduced concentration. These symptoms directly reduce work capacity, which also in turn affects their work capacity, productivity, and income instability. While some coping strategies are available, these measures are short-term and may be inaccessible based on environmental and economic constraints. The study highlights that the dynamic effects of urban heat stress are shaped by environmental, occupational and socioeconomic factors.



Access to Public Green Spaces & Its Impact on Physical Activity & Psychological Well-Being Among Middle-Aged Park Visitors in Selected Areas of Chattogram City

Authors: Umme Homaira Anika, Tasfiya Asad Toya, Prithvi Barua, Nisha Agrawal, Sadia An Adiba



This study analyzes the role of urban green spaces in contributing to the physical and mental well-being of residents in Chattogram, Bangladesh based on DC Hill and Foy's Lake. This study focuses on people's experience with nature from their childhood and the changes of nature over time. It also focuses on the difference in accessibility and use between two sites. A qualitative study design was used for data collection. The total number of participants was 58, they were interviewed through semi-structured face-to-face interviews. Data from 47 complete responses were analyzed using thematic analysis following Braun and Clarke's framework. The findings represent that urban green spaces have a great impact on reducing mental stress, improving mental health well-being. It also supports physical activity particularly among middle-aged and older participants. DC Hill was more preferable to the participants due to its free access and proximity.

While Foy's Lake was appreciated for its scenic beauty and less chosen due to its high entry fees. Participants expressed major concern for children not having enough access to green spaces. Additionally, concerns were raised about the environmental degradation, such as loss of green cover and increase of urbanisation. Therefore, this study represents the importance of accessible, inclusive and well-maintained green spaces in urban areas. It suggests the need for better urban planning and policy to be green spaces in Chattogram. preserve green spaces in Chattogram.





Building Conversations Around Sustainability

From innovative student projects to thought-provoking conversations on sustainability, AUW's Zero Waste Day celebration transformed environmental awareness into an engaging, campus-wide dialogue on the future of responsible waste management.

Held on 4 April in observance of International Zero Waste Day, the event brought together students, environmental experts, educators, and artists to explore sustainable waste management and the shared responsibility of protecting our environment.

The panel featured **Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin**, Founding Director of the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH); **Captain Ikhtiar Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury**, Chief Conservancy Officer of Chattogram City Corporation; **artist and art educator Sameena M. Kareem**; and **Professor Dr. Md. Abul Kashem** of the University of Chittagong. **Moderated** by **Nazifa Rafa**, Senior Instructor of Environmental Sciences and Assistant Director of 3CEH.

The discussion examined the challenges and opportunities surrounding waste management, highlighting the importance of effective policies, community participation, and innovative solutions. An engaging Q&A session encouraged students to reflect on topics ranging from industrial accountability to community-driven waste management initiatives, reinforcing the idea that lasting environmental change requires both systemic action and individual responsibility.

The celebration also featured creative student activities, including projects showcasing products made from recycled materials and a T-shirt upcycling competition, demonstrating how sustainability and innovation can go hand in hand.

Through meaningful dialogue and hands-on engagement, the event showed how collaboration and creative thinking can build more sustainable communities and contribute to the broader conversation on environmental resilience and responsibility.

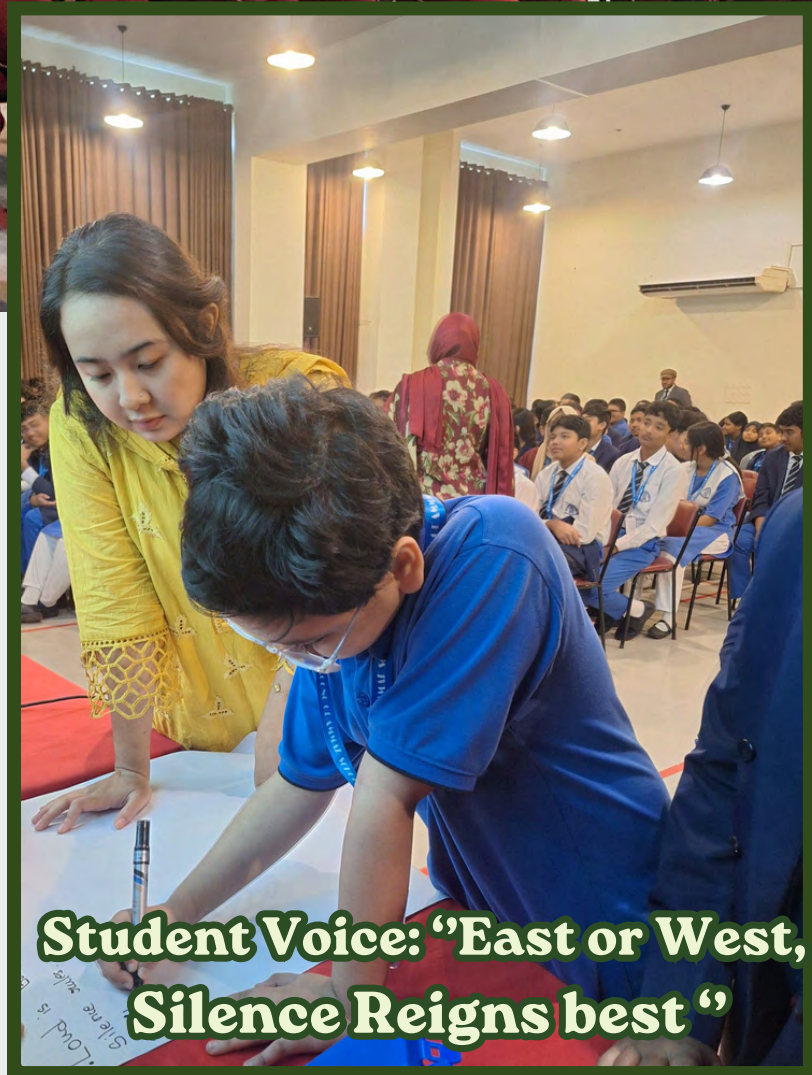
Towards a Noise-Conscious Future



On February 3, 2026, the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) at AUW, in collaboration with Chittagong Grammar School (CGS), organized an interactive workshop titled “*Anti-Sound Pollution*” to raise awareness about the environmental and health impacts of noise pollution among young learners.

More than 200 students from Classes 6–8 participated in two engaging sessions designed for middle school and national curriculum students. Through presentations, real-life case studies, games, and hands-on demonstrations using sound meters, students explored the sources and consequences of sound pollution on both humans and wildlife.

The workshop was conducted by the dedicated 3CEH team, *Sadia Salim* and *Aysha Farid*, and moderated by AUW alumnae and students *Nur Subah Arwah*, *Anwasha Chakma*, *Nishat Salsabil Raisa*, *Moni Munda*, and *Jemima Hoque Suchi*. Guided by *Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin*, Director of 3CEH, the sessions encouraged students to recognize their role in protecting environmental and public health.



Student Voice: “East or West, Silence Reigns best”

The workshop promoted SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), emphasizing the importance of reducing environmental noise for a healthier and safer future. The event concluded with students pledging to share their learning with families and communities, demonstrating how education and youth engagement can inspire meaningful environmental change.

1. MINIMISE EXPOSURE:



AVOID LOUD ENVIRONMENTS:

Stay away from situations where noise levels are consistently high.



TAKE BREAKS FROM NOISE:

While working in a noisy environment, take frequent breaks in quieter areas.



BE MINDFUL OF YOUR NOISE:

Keep your noise at a reasonable level while working or being in a shared space.

2. UTILISE HEARING PROTECTION:



EARPLUGS:

Wear earplugs when exposed to loud noises, whether at work or recreational activities.



EARMUFFS:

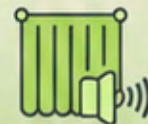
The use of earmuffs can also provide a good level of protection in noisy environments.

3. SOUNDPROOF YOUR HOME/WORKPLACE:



INSULATION:

Make the home or workplace well-insulated to reduce sound transmission. E.g. Soundproof windows and doors



DECORATIVE ELEMENTS:

Use curtains, carpets, and other furnishings that absorb sound and reduce noise levels.



Young Minds, Smart Solutions



The Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) at AUW, in cooperation with Chittagong Grammar School (CGS), held a captivating Global WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) Workshop presided over by **Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin** on 08 April 2026. The workshop brought together selected students from Classes 9 and 10, nominated by the school to participate in the session. It inspired students to think about the challenges of global water, sanitation, and hygiene and the direct link between safe water, sanitation, and hygiene and public health and sustainable development.



Students explored innovative ideas, including low-cost water purification, rainwater harvesting, community-based sanitation facilities, and promoting hygiene awareness among the people.



Through interactive discussions and engaging activities, students were introduced to unsafe water access, poor sanitation, and hygiene-related diseases in vulnerable communities around the world.



As part of the activity, the students prepared innovative poster presentations on the various ideas.



Global WASH-bourne Hazards

Technical Solutions

- 1) We can increase filtration for reducing the contaminated water.
- 2) Using Water purification tablets.
- 3) Building more sanitary compartments.
- 4) Making pure water filters accessible for all the people.
- 5) Upgrading existing public wash rooms.

Non-technical

- 1) Making videos and posting it to the social media.
- 2) Making poster about sanitation and serv
- 3) Making awareness campaign about solut of water, sanitizati and hygie facilitie
- 4) Spreading awareness news paper.
- 5) We can do work-sh -shops in different government schools.

Rain Water Harvesting

• We know that, people face various problems, where around the world so here are some solutions to reduce the vulnerability:

Awarness for water security

- There are many people in the world. Such as,
 - 1) The homeless
 - 2) The slum dwellers
 - 3) The travellers
 - 4) The disaster affecteds
 - 5) The refugees
- Ways to provide water,
 - 1) Increasing awareness
 - 2) Supporting NGOs and government organizations
 - 3) Charitival activities
 - 4) Improving pure water supply
 - 5) Improving people's hygiene and sanitization
 - 6) Protected water supply
 - 7) Initiatives to purify water sources
- The water-borne diseases,
 - 1) Cholera
 - 2) Typhoid
 - 3) Dengue
 - 4) Malaria
 - 5) Toxic Cyanobacteria

"INITIATIVES"

Non-Technical

- CREATE AWARENESS PROGRAMMES FOR PEOPLE IN REMOTE VILLAGES.
- PROVIDING HYGIENE KITS TO VULNERABLE PEOPLE
- FACILITY MANAGEMENT TEAMS IN SLUM.
- RAISING FUNDS FOR TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT.

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

- RAIN WATER HARVEST
- TURNING WASTE INTO COMPOST
- PROPER CLEANING SYSTEMS, IN PUBLIC TOILETS.
- REUSING WASTE WATER FOR AGRICULTURE.

Wash Solutions

Instead of only equipping them with buckets to pick up the waste, they should be given automated or long handled buckets so that they don't have to jump in headfirst and harm themselves. They should be properly...

We should make their education more known to the public and give awareness to them. If they were given even a little time, they would not get into the mess. This mess seems very...

Slum Dwellers

Technical Engineering solutions

- Waste filters: Instead of tube with cloth, use mesh (sustainable)
- Introducing sustainable water purifying methods for the slum dwellers.
- Rainwater harvesting: Construct an area with rain falling the water into a tank. It can be used for drinking water or for other purposes.
- Composting: Collecting waste from the slum dwellers and use it for composting.
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Non-technical Solutions

- Awareness programs to help slum dwellers, promoting hygiene, and quality education to reduce poverty to ensure safety and health.
- Introducing hygiene facilities: Such as separate toilets, etc.
- Collecting waste from the slum dwellers and use it for composting.
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- Collecting waste from the slum dwellers and use it for composting.



Connecting Minds, Building Ideas

Research is often recognized through fieldwork, publications, & dissemination, yet some of the most meaningful progress begins in collaborative spaces where teams gather to reflect, plan, & exchange ideas. Reflecting this spirit, a daylong strategic work session and team meeting were held at MATITA, bringing together existing 3CEH members (*Dr. Nazim, Ms. Nazifa Rafa, Ms. Sadia Salim, Ms. Nur Subah Arwah, & Ms. Aysha Farid*) for discussions on ongoing projects, future initiatives, and 3CEH's evolving direction.



The meeting created an engaging environment for the team members to reconnect with the Center's activities while introducing newer members to the research, collaborations, and community-focused work currently being carried out. Discussions highlighted field activities and research initiatives in vulnerable regions, focusing on themes such as climate resilience, disaster vulnerability, WASH, urban infrastructure challenges, public health, and locally informed research approaches. Members also shared updates on ongoing publications, collaborations, community engagement modules, and future interdisciplinary projects and plans for 3CEH.

Alongside research discussions, the session explored conference participation, project proposal development, grant applications, more opportunities, and outreach strategies aimed at strengthening academic collaboration and student involvement. More than just a planning meeting, the day encouraged meaningful conversations, stronger coordination within the team, and a shared sense of purpose to continue contributing toward impactful, community-driven research initiatives.



Conversations That Shape Futures

Planning for the future can often feel overwhelming for students navigating university life, especially when the possibilities ahead seem both exciting and uncertain. From postgraduate studies and research careers to interdisciplinary opportunities across science and social sciences, understanding the pathways available is an important step toward building a meaningful academic and professional journey. Recognizing this need for guidance and conversation, 3CEH at Asian University for Women organized an interactive career talk titled “Design Your Future: Academic Career and Postgraduate Insights ” on April 11, 2026, at the AUW Mahsa Amini Campus.



Delivered by **Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin**, the session brought together students from diverse academic backgrounds to explore opportunities in postgraduate education, research, & professional development across both STEM & social-science disciplines. The discussion focused on helping students better understand the evolving academic landscape, regardless of where they currently stand in their undergraduate journey. Through insightful conversations on Master’s and PhD pathways, research careers, & emerging interdisciplinary opportunities, participants gained practical advice on building strong academic profiles and preparing for future career goals. Dr. Nazim also shared perspectives on current trends in scientific research and navigating diverse academic and professional fields. Adding to the richness of the event, alumni from Public Health, Bioinformatics, Environmental Sciences, & Social Science majors shared their own experiences with graduate studies, career planning, & research opportunities.

Their reflections offered students both encouragement and a realistic understanding of the challenges and possibilities that come with pursuing advanced studies and professional growth. One of the most engaging aspects of the session was the interactive Q&A segment, where students raised thoughtful questions about internships, part-time research assistantship (RA) opportunities, postgraduate applications, and career pathways. The discussion fostered meaningful interdisciplinary dialogue and encouraged participants to think more intentionally about shaping their long-term goals.

The event reflected 3CEH’s ongoing commitment to fostering mentorship, academic curiosity, and professional development within the AUW community. By creating spaces for open dialogue and knowledge sharing, 3CEH continues to empower students with the confidence, resources, and connections needed to design their futures with purpose.



Attending the Beijing, China Declaration



The future of sustainable water and sanitation depends on technological innovation and strong international partnerships that turn knowledge into action. This principle guided the Symposium on Innovative Technologies and International Cooperation in Water and Sanitation at the **University of Science and Technology Beijing (USTB)**, China, from 15–17 April 2026. The meeting brought together scholars, researchers, policymakers, and implementation experts from 21 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, Oceania, and South America to advance a shared agenda for global water and sanitation development.

A key outcome was the adoption of the Beijing Declaration on Promoting International Cooperation for Innovative Technologies on Sanitation and Water, aligned with UNESCO's International Decade of Sciences for Sustainable Development (2024–2033). The declaration calls for strengthened scientific collaboration, expanded research capacity, enhanced knowledge exchange, and faster development of inclusive water and sanitation solutions worldwide. Among invited experts was Dr. Sayed Mohammad Nazim Uddin, Founding Director of the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH) at Asian University for Women. As a signatory to the Beijing Declaration, Dr. Nazim contributed to discussions on evidence-based approaches to pressing global water and sanitation challenges.

Dr. Nazim presented "Tackling WASH-Borne Hazards in the Rohingya Refugee Camps: Technical and Non-Technical Interventions," drawing on research and fieldwork in Cox's Bazar. His talk examined sanitation and environmental health challenges facing nearly one million Rohingya in densely populated settlements, emphasizing innovative fecal sludge management (FSM). He highlighted the Green FSM system, a low-energy, environmentally sustainable treatment model that pairs technical solutions with community engagement and capacity-building. The presentation showed how effective water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) interventions reduce environmental contamination, improve public health, strengthen community resilience, and advance multiple Sustainable Development Goals. It stressed the need for context-specific approaches that combine scientific innovation with local participation, especially in humanitarian settings where environmental and health risks are interconnected.

Symposium themes on safe water access, sanitation innovation, environmental sustainability, and support for vulnerable communities underscore the global recognition of links between environmental change and human health. By sharing Bangladesh-based experiences and research, Dr. Nazim reinforced international knowledge exchange and helped foster collaborations aimed at building healthier, more resilient, and sustainable communities worldwide.



Welcoming NSTU at AUW

Collaboration is central to the CATA-EARTH project. In April 2026, 3CEH at the Asian University for Women (AUW) hosted Noakhali Science and Technology University (NSTU) colleagues, including *Professor Mohammad Mohinuzzaman*, Dean, Faculty of Science; *Ms. Fahmida Alam Bintu*, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Science and Disaster Management; and three Research Assistants, for the first partner meeting on the AUW campus. Faculty and project teams reviewed progress, exchanged updates, and aligned priorities for the next project phase, focusing on strengthened collaboration, planetary health education, and upcoming consortium initiatives. A major discussion area was planetary health education: teams shared curriculum development progress, interactive teaching methods, student learning experiences, and ways to deepen community engagement through education. Participants also exchanged ideas on research outputs and knowledge-sharing activities that advance CATA-EARTH goals.

Preparations for the CATA-EARTH Annual Consortium Meeting, set to be hosted in Bangladesh later this year was another priority.



Representatives collaborated on planning, coordination, and opportunities to showcase project achievements. The Annual Meeting will convene partners from Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Netherlands to share experiences and discuss the future of planetary health education.

The meeting underscored the strong AUW–NSTU partnership and the value of continued collaboration in advancing CATA-EARTH’s objectives. As planning for the Annual Consortium Meeting continues, both institutions remain committed to promoting innovative, community-driven approaches to planetary health education & research.



The

3CEH & SRCL

Partnership



RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Longstanding collaboration and mutual trust have brought 3CEH and SRCL (Sustainable Research and Consultancy Ltd.), represented by *Mr. Abu Jubayer & Ms. Jimia Tabassum Suchi*, together on various research initiatives over the past few years.

Based on this successful relationship, both organizations formalized their partnership and launched a joint internship program, which started in May 2026 with 5 interns. This initiative will allow the students to gain hands-on research experience, GIS training, and publications with both organizations. This partnership will give students opportunities to contribute to future publications and collaborations while building valuable skills and knowledge for their academic and professional work.

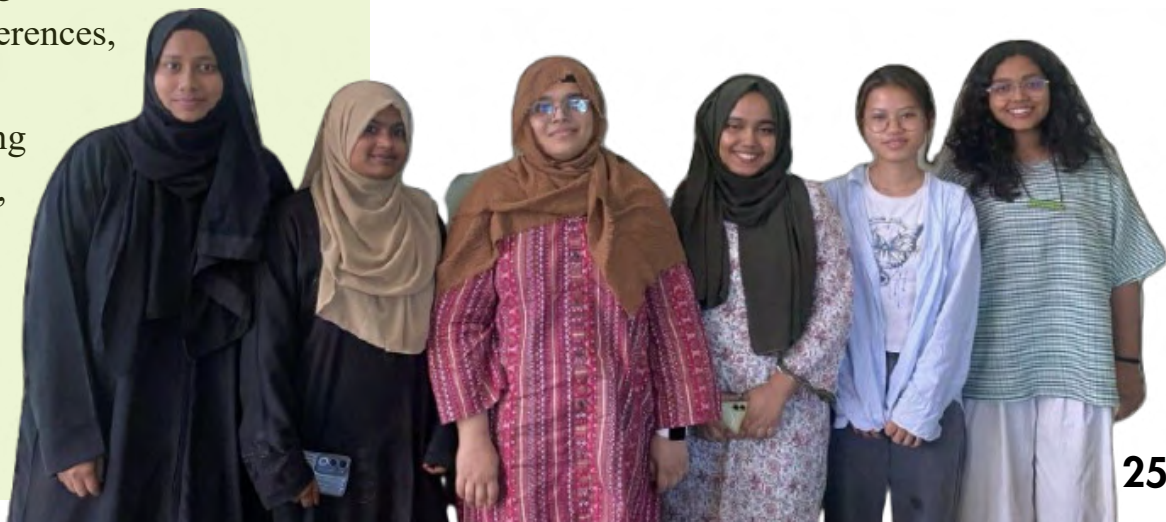


3CEH-SRCL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM LAUNCH

3CEH, in partnership with SRCL, is organizing a structured 4-month internship program for five Environmental Science students. The program is designed to provide hands-on experience in research, scientific communication, and project management while enhancing students' professional and academic skills.

Through this internship, students will actively contribute to research proposal development, grant application preparation, literature reviews, manuscript preparation for publication, newsletter editorial activities, and scientific content development. In addition, interns will support the planning and execution of workshops, conferences, and other outreach activities by assisting with event logistics, stakeholder communication, and coordination.

The internship aims to bridge academic learning with practical experience by engaging students in ongoing environmental health and climate change initiatives. Participants will gain exposure to the complete research process, from concept development and funding applications to scientific writing, publication, and knowledge dissemination, thereby strengthening their capacity for future careers in research, policy, and environmental health practice.



Accomplishment!!

“A place among the world's top is not merely earned-it is built through vision, perseverance, and an unwavering commitment to excellence.”



TOP 2% RESEARCHER LIST

2025 edition



By Stanford University and Elsevier



We proudly congratulate **Ms. Nazifa Rafa** on being recognized among the World's Top 2% Researchers in the **2025 Stanford University–Elsevier Ranking**. This prestigious recognition reflects her outstanding scholarly contributions and growing impact on global research. It is a lasting inspiration for every scholar who dares to dream beyond boundaries.



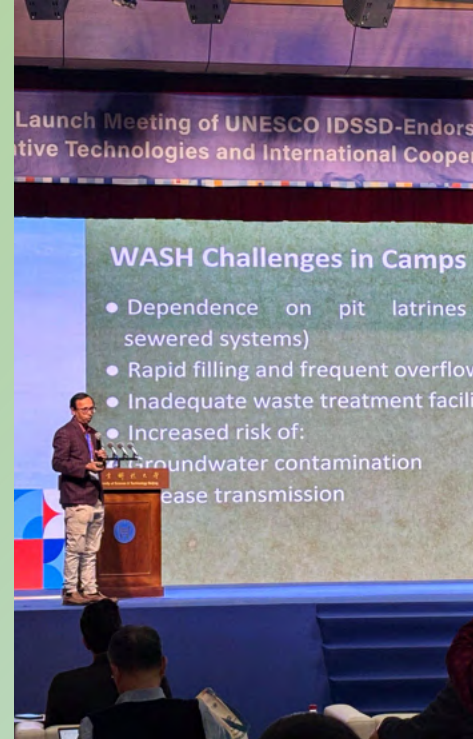
From Community Engagement to Research Leadership

Leadership is earned through dedication, innovation, and meaningful impact. We proudly celebrate the new role of **Ms. Sadia Salim** to **Community Development Officer and Research Coordinator** at the Center for Climate Change and Environmental Health (3CEH), Asian University for Women (AUW).

As Community Development Officer, Ms. Salim led community-based research, strengthened partnerships, and spearheaded field and stakeholder engagement across climate change and environmental health initiatives. Her contributions, including receiving the “Wedu Earth Advocate Award-2025” for her community-centered climate action, reflect the commitment, initiative, and impact that have earned her this expanded role.

As Research Coordinator, she is leading research design, scholarly publications, project and grant development, while coordinating global symposiums, stakeholder engagements, and strategic activities across 3CEH's national and international initiatives.

We warmly congratulate Ms. Sadia Salim on this well-deserved milestone and look forward to her continued contributions to research excellence and community impact.



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Since its launch in 2024, CATA-Earth (Catalysing Transformative Change in Planetary Health Education) has been strengthening Planetary Health education by connecting universities, researchers, and community stakeholders across Asia and Europe. Co-Funded by the European Union, the initiative aims to build institutional capacity through innovative, community-driven education that links environmental sustainability with human well-being. Through research, stakeholder engagement, capacity-building activities, and collaborative programme development, CATA-Earth promotes interdisciplinary learning and evidence-informed solutions to climate and public health challenges, helping prepare future educators, researchers, and practitioners to create healthier, more resilient communities.

Every Story Moves Us Forward.

See you in the next issue.

