

November 24, 2023

Dear Selection Committee,

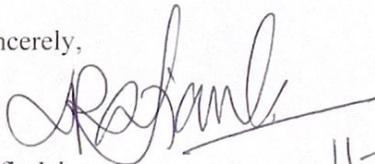
I am writing to recommend **Md Sariful (Sharif) Islam** for the Future Earth Coasts Fellows Program. I have known Sharif since 2016 when he came to Kent State for graduate studies and thus am well equipped to provide a recommendation. I give Sharif my highest recommendation.

Sharif is an exciting young researcher with great promise to make important contributions to coastal environmental problems throughout his career. His PhD dissertation research focused on coastal erosion hazard and associated vulnerabilities in Bangladesh. Beside his PhD research, he also was co-lead in a project where he studied climate change driven gentrification in the coastal East coast counties in the United States. His work involves the application of remote sensing and geospatial modeling, social science, and statistical tools and techniques to analyze satellite and geospatial data, facilitating a deeper understanding of environmental changes and their consequences. Sharif is passionately dedicated to research focused on coastal climate and environmental change issues.

Sharif is an accomplished researcher with 14 peer-reviewed publications in strong journals or edited volumes on topics of coastal hazards and environmental pollution. He has been successful in securing funding from multiple sources including NSF's Socio-Environmental Synthesis Center (SESYNC) and others to support his research activities. He desires to translate and extend his work from the peer-viewed scientific audience to broader audiences. Sharif possesses a strong suite of soft skills with which he can contribute positively to the Future Earth Coasts Fellows mission. He is a strong writer in English and has strong verbal communication skills. He is highly ethical in his approach to the fidelity of science data and the reporting of analytical results. He demonstrates commitment to these areas throughout his professional and personal life.

Sharif is poised to make important contributions. I give Sharif Islam my highest recommendation and have no reservations in recommending him for this position.

Sincerely,



Rafiq Islam  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Geography and The Environment  
University of Alabama

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