

Moanoghar Monika Chakma and Rabindra Lal Chakma Memorial Scholarship



MOANOGHAR

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Founder: Shaddharmaditya Ven. Jnanasree Mahathera
Rangapani, Rangamati, P.O.Box 4500. Bangladesh

About the Scholarship

The Scholarship was created by **Ms. Kabita Chakma** and her spouse **Mr. Glen Hill**, currently residing in Sydney, Australia as part of Moanoghar's Higher Education Loan Programme (HELP). The scholarship will be awarded annually to a meritorious student from CHT indigenous peoples' communities for tertiary level studies in the field of medicine, legal studies, education, agriculture, engineering or other fields of relevance. The initial endowment donated by Ms. Chakma and Mr. Hill is kept in a fixed deposit account in a scheduled bank of Bangladesh with Moanoghar as custodian for its administration. The interest accrued from this fixed deposit will be disbursed for the purpose of the scholarship every year.

Administration of the Scholarship

The scholarship will be administered as part of Moanoghar 'Higher Education Loan Programme' (HELP) and the overall terms and conditions of the HELP will be applicable to the recipient of the scholarship. Consequently, the recipient of the scholarship will have obligation to refund to Moanoghar the amount s/he has received once s/he enters into income generating employment after the studies. The recovered amount will be used for disbursing further loans to future candidates. The selection of the candidate will be carried out through a competitive process as laid down in Moanoghar's HELP Policy (*Attached as Annex*).

About Monika Chakma and Rabindra Lal Chakma and family

Ms. Monika Chakma (Moni) was born on 16 November 1940 (1936 according to another source) at Khaccharchhata of old Rangamati town to Mahendra Lal Karbari and Phula Bala Chakma. She was the third eldest among the six siblings. Her father belonged to Rangye goja Bhudo gutthi and her mother belonged to Mulima goja Badali gutthi. In 1955 Monika was awarded the Metriculation certificate from Chittagong's Dr. Khastagir Girls High School. In 1961 she graduated from Mymensingh Teacher's Training College with the position of first class first. She helped establish the New Rangamati Model Primary School joining as the first Head Master after finishing her teacher's training studies. The school was established in 1962 in a hurry to accommodate a large number of students from displaced families of old Rangamati town and its surroundings by the creation of the Kaptai Lake. The school was at the site of the present Abdul Ali Academy school. It was later moved to within the Reserve Bazar area. In 1967 Monika received the Best Teacher's award. She taught for a long 38 years in many primary schools in Rangamati and Bandarban before retiring from teaching in the year 2000.

According to his school certificate **Mr. Rabindra Lal Chakma (Rabi)** was born on 1 January 1941. His place of birth was at Bandukbhanga's Harekkhyong, which was submerged under the Kaptai Lake in the 1960s. Rabi was the second eldest son among seven children of Shashi Kumar Karbari and Mangal Pudi Chakma (Pharbi). Rabindra's father belonged to Borbo goja Pharat (Phra) gutthi/ dagi, and mother belonged to Cigon Cege goja, shukko gutthi. Rabi passed his Metriculation exam in 1958 from Rangamati Government High School. In 1965 he graduated from Mymensingh Agriculture University with a B. Sc. in Veterinary Science. He worked in Dhaka, Brahmanbaria, Barishal, Sunamganj, Sylhet, Rangamati and Bandarban for 32 years in the government's livestock department holding various positions and

responsibilities until he retired from work in 1998 with the rank of a Deputy Secretary. During his university studies, when Mymensingh Agriculture University went for a strike in 1964 he worked for nearly a year with the Vancouver based company Forestal Forestry and Engineering International Limited, which conducted land survey in the CHT after the Kaptai dam was built. Rabi with colleagues from Rangamati used to fly from Banarupa helipad (the site of the present petrol station), adjacent to his Banarupa home, in a Bell helicopter 47JZ with a Sioux landing. After his retirement he worked as a consultant with the ADB. He served as the honorary President of Maitree Bihar Banarupa for 10 years. After retirement from work Rabi also stayed at Bodhgaya, India to oversee construction of the CHT's Buddhist temple.

During their life Moni and Rabi travelled to many places, including Kolkata, Bodhgaya, Saranath, Delhi, Bombay etc. of India. They visited Bhutan and Australia. Rabi also visited Turkey in 1990. They mostly lived at Banarupa, Rangamati during the last part of their life.

Moni and Rabi married on 9 February 1962 at Rangamati. They were parents of five children: Kabita Chakma; Dhiraj Chakma (Bablee), married to Kalpita Chakma (Choto); Debshry Chakma (Chotobabu), married to Popy Chakma; Pushpita Chakma (Rony), married to Rupayan Dewan (Ranga); and Moni Mukut Chakma (Nini), married to Othowshi Chakma (Tinny/Chaya). They were grandparents of nine. The eldest to youngest grandchildren are Atulya Dewan, Debalina Chakma, Chakma Shanjuk Rabindra, Evan Srijum Chakma Hill, Prisita Dewan (Shreya), Sophia Belle Chakma Hill, Debottom Chakma, Chakma Ranariddhi Rabindra Ranjuk, Vivek Dewan (Tatul), Anurag Chakma, Anuvab Chakma, and Chakma Shuvoriddhi Rabindra Rijuk.

On 21 January 2008 Rabindra Lal Chakma died at his Banarupa home. Monika Chakma took her last breath on 14 March 2013 at the Chittagong Medical Hospital.

The endower Kabita Chakma is the eldest child of Monika Chakma and Rabindra Lal Chakma. She studied in Bandarban Model Primary School, Bandarban Government High School, Rangamati Government High School, subsequently in Eden Girl's College, Dhaka at intermediate level and completed Bachelor of Architecture from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology in 1989, and Master of Architecture from University of Sydney, Australia, in 1993. She worked as an architect at a number of architectural firms in Dhaka and Sydney between 1989 to 2000 and later worked at private commission. In the 2000s to early 2010s, she taught at the School of Design, University of Technology Sydney. She is currently doing research and writing in Chakma, Bangla and English on subjects include art, architecture, literature, human rights relating to the Chittagong Hill Tracts. Her only book of poetry in Chakma and Bangla *Jali Na'Udhim Hittei/ Rukhe Darabo Na Keno* was published in 1992 from Narigrantha Prabartana, Dhaka.

Kabita's spouse, Dr. Glen Hill, is the youngest of two sons of Mr. Owen Hill and Mrs Phyllis Marie Hill. Glen completed his Bachelor of Architecture at the Sydney University, Master of Project Management at the University of Technology Sydney, and Doctor of Philosophy in Architecture at the Sydney University. He worked as an architect in Sydney. He is currently an Associate Professor and teaches at the

Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning at the University of Sydney. He is the author of the book, *Design, Heidegger, and the Earth: The Unsustainability of Sustainable Design*, 2008, Germany: VDM Verlag Dr Muller. Kabita and Glen also co-authored a number of academic articles relating to many issues of the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Glen and Kabitagot married in Rangamati in 1994 and settled in Sydney. They have 2 children: Evan and Sophia. Evan is now a student of Year 10 and Sophia is a student of Year 8 at high school. Both are good at sports including swimming, soccer (foot ball) and tennis. Sophia is also playing Lacrosse. They both play piano and guitar. They have visited Bangladesh and stayed in Rangamati. But it is only Sophia who visited Moanoghar in 2011. She remembers it well and would like to visit Moanoghar again in future.