## Mr. Muhammad Nazmul Hoque (Bangladesh) 2005 United Nations – The Nippon Foundation of Japan Fellow



#### Bio-sketch

Mr. Hoque is an Assistant Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh. He completed his Graduation and Post Graduation in Physics from the University of Dhaka, and his thesis was on Pigeon Hole Imaging, an alternate way of imaging human body. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May of 2003 through the 21<sup>st</sup> Bangladesh Civil Service Examination. His first post was with the International Organisations wing, which deals with matters related to various international organisations except the United Nations. Mr. Hoque was later posted with the Administration wing, with the responsibilities related to promotion, transfer, training, budget allocation, departmental proceedings, and other administrative matters.

### Fellowship Host Institutions and Supervisors

- 1. Marine Law Centre, National University of Ireland-Galway (Dr. Ronan Long)
- 2. The Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea, Office of Legal Affairs of the United Nations

#### Research Abstract

# Legal and Scientific Assessment of Bangladesh's Baseline in the Context of Article 76 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea

The delimitation of sea areas always has an international aspect. Though a coastal State is competent to delimit its sea boundaries alone but its validity with regards to other states depends upon international law. Baselines are the lines from which the maritime zones of coastal States' are measured, and for this reason the assessment of baseline is the first step towards declaring the maritime zone of a coastal State. The scope of this research is to study the relevant aspects of international law which deal with delimitation of sea boundaries and to assess Bangladesh's baselines in the context of the same. The research will first address the development of rules concerning baselines in international law, through historic judgments and United Nations Conventions. It will also analyse existing baselines of certain coastal States, as case studies on the implementation of the relevant legislative approaches. Then it will analyse Bangladesh's existing baselines and problems associated with them. Finally, the study will attempt to provide alternatives to the existing baselines, and review implications of those alternatives, in the context of Article 76 of Law of the Sea Convention.

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