

Tree Plantation Project by Raja Yoga Centers In Hong Kong



As universal benefactors, as Baba says, we are responsible for the sustenance of the environment as well. Combined with this, since Godly service in Hong Kong last year completed its 50th anniversary, the Raja Yoga Centers in Hong Kong (Hong Kong main island, Kowloon and Tung Chung) embarked on a journey of Afforestation to plant **50 trees** on a Sunday morning in December 2022.

The chosen location is called **“PEACE FARM”** – a 35,000 square-foot farmland in Hong Kong’s Sha Tau Kok district, about 45 minutes’ drive from the city center. This property is owned by Mr. Alex Leung who is connected with the Raja Yoga Centre. He runs this project as a non-profit initiative.

A chartered bus took us from the Raja Yoga Center in Kowloon to Peace Farm. The approach to Peace Farm, is a 10 minutes’ walk from the motorway. Alex brought his pick-up truck to shuttle the seniors of the family and to carry the goods brought from the center – mainly cooking utensils, etc for Brahma Bhojan (Spiritually cooked food).



After the initial greetings by Alex and his team, we were initiated into our day’s tree plantation activity. With the priority on safety, the organizing team gave out clear instructions on do’s and don’ts. We were given the required equipment for tree planting. After that came the moment that everybody eagerly awaited. We were taken to ground zero which was earmarked for the Raja Yoga

Center. The spots where holes were to be dug in the ground to place the trees were identified by Alex and team.

Now it was time for the BK members to get busy with the hard work – digging. The younger members of the BK family were put to task to dig the ground since the shovels were heavy. This location is a hilly region. So, in many places, there were rocks embedded in the soil, giving rise to some interesting challenges while digging. Nonetheless, as Baba says – “The Courageous Children have A Helping Father” – thus all holes were successfully dug. Other BK members helped with transporting the trees from the storage area to the plantation. Children and young adults of the BK family also played a wonderful role here. It was a proud moment when each BK member placed their tree inside the dugout and covered the soil.



It was very thoughtful of the organizing team to have made name plates to be written and placed at each tree. Of course, everybody wanted a photo with their tree 😊 There was also a white paper covering part of each tree which had a special purpose, which will be explained later. The organizing team announced that the white paper is not to be removed from the tree just yet.

In parallel some BK members were involved with another interesting activity. Since the approach path to the BK tree plantation is a rough ground, we needed to prepare the path for people to easily walk to visit the spot. For this, readily planted grass carpet pieces were made available by the organizing team. The BK members ferried the grass to the pathway where other members were waiting to lay out the pieces to form a carpet, as exciting as a puzzle! Once the laying was done, it transformed the ground like magic – a wonderful green carpet hid the rough ground below, to welcome visitors to the BK tree planation.



Partly as some members were exhausted and partly since it was time, lunch was announced after the trees were planted, with Alex keeping the excitement alive by announcing that there are more interesting activities post-lunch.

BK members along with the organizing team enjoyed the Brahma Bhojan lunch that was prepared at the Centre and was warmed at the venue. In remembrance of BapDada with great feeling of reverence and gratitude for the BK family and the organizers, everybody cherished the food.



It was now well into the afternoon. Alex marshalled everybody to gather again. We followed him to the tree plantation, with one difference this time. Beneath our feet was the green grassy carpet leading to the plantation area – what a wonderful feeling! Now the organizing team let us into the secret of the white piece of paper covering each tree. It was to act like an “opening ceremony” to reveal the trees. The white “curtain” was to be removed from each tree, then everybody was to gather for a group photo. During

the photo shoot, the white paper should be thrown up in the air for a grand opening ceremony! Another proud moment of a day of achievements.

It was farewell time now. A few enthusiastic members frantically shot some more photos in small groups, around their trees, to share memories with family and friends.

What a memorable day it was. And without exertion, BK members did wonderful service to the environment and had a great sense of achievement having planted trees through their own labor.

We express our heart-felt gratitude to BapDada for such a fruitful (or shall we say “plantful”) day 😊.



About the Peace Farm: This property is owned by Mr. Alex Leung, a social worker, who bought a piece of agricultural land and created “Peace Farm”, along with a team of enthusiastic young volunteers, literally grounds up. Alex continues to be the Project Chairman of this initiative. His dream is to replicate such Peace Farms in lesser privileged countries in Asia, his favorite among these being Vietnam. Like the approach of the Brahma Kumaris, everything done at the Peace Farm is free of charge – as a community service (only cost of goods to be paid – like buying of trees, food, etc). Alex and his team welcome everybody to visit the farm and participate in this noble cause. We the Raja Yoga Centers in Hong Kong give lots of Good Wishes to Alex and his team to transform their dream into reality.

