

Harmony Tree Planting Tour

The Harmony Scholarships Scheme was launched in 2003-04 to give recognition to students for their participation in school and community services (particularly activities promoting racial harmony), academic excellence and good conduct. This year, the Home Affairs Department (HAD) organised a Harmony Tree Planting Tour to allow awardees of the Harmony Scholarships Scheme to meet each other and to share their experience of organising racial harmony activities in schools and in the community, as well as to encourage the younger generation to be responsible citizens and participate actively in community activities.



On 14 April 2019, nearly 100 participants, including awardees and their parents, from 25 primary and secondary schools, took part in a tree planting day at the Pat Sing Leng Country Park. Upon arrival, participants are astonished to see a long queue of people walking uphill with seedlings in their hands. "This is the first time I join such a community activity. It is impressive that so many people act together to conserve the natural environment in the countryside," a parent said. Young participants were so excited that they roamed around to find a home for their seedlings. Even though the awardees came from different

schools and were of different ethnicities, they helped each other to complete their tasks.

After the planting activity, participants headed to Sha Tau Kok Farm to visit some farm animals and had a traditional Chinese "Pun Choi" lunch. Some Chinese parents helped explain the different ingredients to ethnic minority participants who tried the dish for the first time. The day ended with a lot of smiles and we hope they brought home with them the message of racial harmony.

Participants not only learnt how to protect the natural environment of Hong Kong, they also took this wonderful opportunity to make new friends of different ethnicities. HAD would continue to connect the ethnic minorities with their communities. If your school would like to take part in the Harmony Scholarships Scheme, please contact Miss Kristy Yeung of HAD at 2835 1463.

