

Service Workshop Summary

Focus: The aim of the workshop was to develop strategies on transforming Sathya Sai Centres and Groups as Sathya Sai Baba's 'Green' instruments and explored methods of making existing service activities more 'Green' and environmentally sustainable. Furthermore, innovative ideas were brainstormed for new Green service projects.

Ideas of environment-based service activities

- Actions initiated to clean up rivers, beaches and parks
- Tree Planting to be carried out.
- Organic vegetables to be planted and distributed
 - Hydroponic farming carried out in SSIO-Indonesia
 - Regenerative practices in farming used by SSIO-Greece
- Projects should be initiated for recycling mobile phones, glasses and clothes
- Banners and decorations must be reused for celebrations
- Projects to repurpose materials must be launched in every Sathya Sai Centre (e.g. making cloth bags from used shirts and making incense sticks from flowers as carried out in India)

Resolutions and ideas from workshop

- Each individual from the Sathya Sai Centre/Group must be encouraged to adopt at least one 'Go Green' practice on a daily basis, which is simple and effective. Five minutes can be allocated each week at the Sathya Sai Centre to offer 'Envirocare tip of the day' and to follow up with devotees on their Go Green pledges.
- Service projects taken up by Sathya Sai Centres/Regions should be plastic free to the greatest extent possible e.g. introducing upcycled cloth bags.
- The 5R's (Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle) must be incorporated as a benchmark. At least one component of the 5R's must be integrated in every element of a service project before it is carried out.
- Devotees must be educated about 'Going Green' on a regular basis to increase their awareness.

- Focussed effort should be extended to engage children to become good examples at practising 'Green initiatives', as they are more forth-coming and are more adaptable to habit changes.
- The acronym 'PRAY' should be introduced to the devotees
 - P – Pray, prepare and prevent
 - R – Reason, repair and report results
 - A – Make everyone aware, alert and act
 - Y – Say YES to protecting the planet

Other Suggestions

It was suggested to set up a Google drive repository to compile Go Green activities undertaken by all the Sai Centres/Groups of the Sathya Sai International Organisation around the world so that ideas and know-how can be shared between different countries. Currently SSIO-Australia records all local activities as a nation-wide initiative.