

A Suggestion for
the Creation of an 'Arbor Day' for
Hong Kong

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'Arbor Day' has long been observed in many countries and regions as a day for remembering and pondering the importance of trees and tree - planting, to the life and happiness of the people. It would seem that the time has now come for Hong Kong to inaugurate such a day. Much of the land area of Hong Kong could and should be used for the production of tree crops.

Our Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has just launched a forestry program in the New Territories and has started to afforest as part of this program, all the watershed areas around the Tai Lam Chung reservoir. This afforestation work will continue for many years. For the carrying out of the program the cooperation and support of the people will be very necessary not only in the actual planting but also in the future management and protection of the areas planted.

The creation of an Arbor Day in Hong Kong at this time will bring about the cooperation and support required as well as a general public sentiment favorable to forestry, which is all important. The Day if and when created, can be profitably utilized, for all the people including farmers, students and merchants, to discuss by practical demonstration and lectures, the importance of tree planting in the rural areas, the economic, protective and aesthetic benefits of forests, how forests are related to floods, streamflow, soil erosion and the conservation of water for drinking and farming and how all people, young and old, can individually and collectively cooperate in the carrying out of the forestry program which the Government has launched for the Colony.

If China has had a 'Forest Week' (March 11th-18th) ever since 1930, with such beneficial results, why should we not have an Arbor Day here in Hong Kong to produce similar beneficial effects?

Rural Development Committee.
April 14th, 1955.

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