



Zone 5

Stone Forest National Park, China

ZONE 5 HIGHLIGHTS

COUNTRIES	CENTRES/ GROUPS	SSIO MEMBERS	SSE STUDENTS	ISSE	SATHYA SAI SCHOOLS
China	2	35			
Hong Kong	2	493	218	1	
Japan	27	341	31	1	
Taiwan	2	106	58		
TOTAL	33	975	307	2	



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China

In collaboration with Chinese authorities, the SSIO implemented its values-based education programme. The Education Bureau enthusiastically welcomed these efforts, beginning formally in April 2017 with a “Train the Trainers” session, where teachers from three provinces were trained over four days. Other sessions in Yunnan and Qinghai provinces similarly trained educators ranging from college professors to aspiring teachers. These efforts are now being systematised and monitored empirically with data and surveys. The work is attracting academic inquiry with several dissertations and publications being written on the pedagogical achievements of Sathya Sai Education in China.



Hong Kong

SSIO members in Hong Kong conducted numerous educational and service projects year-round. Grappling with increasing environmental issues, volunteers recently focused their efforts on protecting the environment. This included taking 100 students and teachers on a field trip to an organic farm in April 2017, hosting an interfaith gathering to discuss the role of religion in preserving the planet in June 2017, conducting interactive study circles on the importance of water in September 2017 and publishing a storybook on the virtues of protecting the planet in November 2017.

Sathya Sai volunteers made continued efforts to reach out to their neighbours and share their love and goodwill. They hosted various events, such as a yoga



China



Hong Kong

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session in March 2018, a Christmas party for adults living with mental illness in December 2017 and a talk on health awareness in May 2018.

On a local radio channel, SSIO volunteers, as guests, spoke of Sathya Sai Baba's teachings in English and Cantonese, followed by singing of melodious bhajans.

In September 2017, the SSIO of Hong Kong welcomed 100 Nepali SSIO members to collaborate in a Sadhana Camp.



Japan

Torrential rainfall in Northern Kyushu wrought heavy damage on the region in July 2017. SSIO volunteers joined existing volunteer programmes in support of relief efforts. Over the ensuing three months, their efforts brought aid and assistance to countless victims of the rainfall and subsequent flooding.

Volunteers again partnered with a major national organisation, Japan's Red Cross, to organise a blood drive in Kanto. The collaborative spirit extended beyond Japan, as nine students and a professor from the Sathya Sai Institute of Higher Learning in India participated in the prestigious SAKURA exchange programme in the sciences.

SSE children enthusiastically participated in a Walk for Values during the National Camp at Sai-no-Sato.



Japan

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The Ladies' Wing produced a daily calendar titled "Gems of Wisdom," featuring brief messages of Sathya Sai Baba on human values, in both English and Japanese. Volunteers also continued long-standing service efforts, such as feeding the needy and serving at local senior care homes.



Taiwan

The SSIO of Taiwan continued to help shape education throughout the region by training future teachers. Through workshops, talks and special lectures at several universities – including an address at Taiwan's National University on 12th October 2017 – experts in SSEHV curriculum introduced the fundamental principles of values-based education to parents, teachers, volunteers and students.

More than 100 students showed their grasp and appreciation of this training in an inspiring cultural programme on 21st May 2017, performing dramas and songs illustrating the role of human values in daily life. The event also reflected the principle of serving the planet.

Human values were again featured in a unique role-reversing Educare event, 20th–21st October 2017, wherein, among other activities, teachers and parents performed a skit demonstrating the dangers of litter to wildlife.



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Volunteers have thereafter put their lessons into regular practice, with 80 volunteers gathering to clean up a beach on 28th October 2017 and 46 households participating in earth hour on 24th March 2018 by turning off electricity and power sources for one hour. Students also resolved to be more resource-aware and to eliminate waste by recycling household items. They pooled their efforts on 17th March 2018 by hosting a crafts session to “upcycle” household discarded material, such as used clothing and milk cartons, into useful products such as flower pots or organisers.

They also participated in a charity bazaar on 8th April. Led by no fewer than 85 Sathya Sai students, the group sold arts and crafts and a selection of delectable vegetarian foods to the public. They donated the proceeds to the Happy Mount Children’s Home, which caters to persons with handicaps. The Happy Mount Children’s Home recognized the SSIO with a certificate of appreciation.

