



## **Afforestation to Make the Earth Greener**

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In order to promote tree-planting and greening, the Forestry Bureau organized the "Arbor Month" drive running from March 1st to 31st. During this period, the 8 forest district offices invited local governments, schools, communities, and local residents to join forces in hosting more than 200 tree-planting events annually. The authorities relayed the ideas and benefits of forestation into people's minds. With the recent extreme climate changes, it is immensely important to plant trees and carry out forestation for our future generation. The Forestry Bureau carries this responsibility and will work relentlessly to achieve this goal.

As part of the government's "New Economic Development Blueprint for Taiwan", the "i-Taiwan 12 Projects" policy which was implemented in 2008, includes Green Forestation. From 2008 to 2013, the total forestation area in the country reached 26,280 hectares. This also increased 11.42 m<sup>2</sup> of green space per capita, and is capable of absorbing 390,000 tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year for Taiwan.

In 2013 there were a total number of 4,695 communities who participated in green and forestation works nationwide. In 2014, more than 300 communities are expected to join in. Arbor Month officially kicked off from February 26<sup>th</sup>. All 8 of Forestry Bureau's district offices would work with city and county governments in organizing more than 200 tree-planting or free sapling giveaway events. All details and information can be obtained from Arbor Month's official website. In order to get closer to its users, the website invites everyone to take action and show his/her love for Taiwan through 3 of its on-line activities. Visit the page "Hug-A-Tree", upload creative pictures of your hugging a tree and become eligible for a free autographed advertisement postcard. You can also go to the "Forest Dreamworks" page and post a message, then receive "Seeds of Hope" and autographed advertisement postcards for free. Your messages can even be delivered to persons that you wish to share with through the website. Lastly, if you shared and uploaded Forestry Bureau's Arbor Month short video clip on your Facebook page, an iPad Mini or other wonderful prizes could be yours!

The official Forestry Bureau Arbor Month website: <http://www.103treemonth.com.tw/>

(Data Source: Council of Agriculture)

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