



Asian Newsletter

May /June /July 2026

SCI India



Empowering Youth and Sustaining Nature: Highlights from the Vedanthangal Volunteer Camp



The Youth Leadership Volunteer Camp organized by Service Civil International (SCI) India recently came to a successful close in Vedanthangal, Tamil Nadu. Held from 17th to 24th July 2026 under the theme "Go Green Tree Plantation Camp," the program took place near the renowned Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary, providing an inspiring natural setting for all activities.

A major focus of the camp was not just planting trees, but ensuring their long-term survival. Addressing the vital need for continuous care and maintenance of the newly planted saplings, volunteers conducted an environmental awareness and training session for students at the primary school operating within the same compound. Through this "Student Adoption Initiative," young students were educated on environmental protection and taught how to care for the saplings. The camp concluded on a meaningful note with heartening reflections and messages shared by participating college students, marking a powerful step toward youth leadership and long-term environmental sustainability.



30 April – 03 May 2026

Following the damage caused by the Ditwa Cyclone, the playground and surrounding environment of Diri Daru Piyasa (DDP), Piliyandala were left unsafe due to uprooted trees and damaged land. To support the restoration, SCI Sri Lanka organized a weekend volunteer camp with the participation of SCI volunteers, DDP children, parents, and staff.

During the camp, volunteers worked together to remove seven uprooted trees, clear and level the damaged playground, and improve the surrounding environment. Five truckloads of soil were brought in to support land restoration, while the outdoor area and a vegetable garden area were also cleaned and prepared.



The volunteers also carried out minor maintenance work, improved water access, and safely arranged the fallen tree logs. Alongside the physical restoration work, volunteers spent meaningful time with the children, creating opportunities for friendship, sharing, and learning.



The camp brought together SCI volunteers and the DDP community through teamwork and community participation. It helped transform the affected area into a safer and more usable space for children while strengthening the spirit of volunteerism and community cooperation.



Cultivating Sustainable Cities Through Permaculture: Semarang Urban–Peri Urban Community Camp 2026 Empowers Local Communities and Global Volunteers

Semarang, Indonesia – As urbanization continues to take over the urban landscape of Indonesia, the need for renewable food systems and greener living spaces has never been more urgent. Responding to this challenge, headed by Bhumi Horta's very own Mr. Sany accompanied by volunteers from UNDIP, SCI (Service Civil International) Malaysia, Bhumi Horta Foundation (BHF) as part of SCI along with the International Association of Agricultural Students (IAAS) are organizing the Semarang Urban–Peri Urban Permaculture Community Camp which is held on Wednesday, July 7th, 2026 until the 20th of July, an international volunteer workcamp that brings together young people from around the world to promote sustainable urban farming, environmental education, and community empowerment.

Through this workcamp, international and/or national volunteers will work alongside local communities located in Plalangan, Semarang. Together, they will support daily farming activities, establish new hugel beds using organic materials to improve soil fertility and water retention, and assist in seedling production to strengthen local food security initiatives.



Beyond hands-on farming, the program also emphasizes education and cross-cultural exchange. Volunteers will collaborate with local schools to introduce sustainable farming practices and inspire young people to care for the environment. Interactive eco-education and language workshops will provide opportunities for children and youth to learn about sustainability while developing intercultural communication skills through meaningful exchanges with participants from different countries.

Volunteers of this workcamp also assist the community in everyday activities and engage with the local culture to help build a deeper understanding and appreciation for the local culture, and connect the youth with wisdom from the locals, regarding traditional agriculture to everyday life.

Through the spirit of IAAS' very own motto, "Think Globally, Act Locally," the Semarang Urban–Peri Urban Permaculture Community Camp showcases how the younger generation and international cooperation can inspire positive environmental change and strengthen communities from the ground up.