

Hong Kong arborist presented with ISA's Practical Arboriculture Award

AWARDEES' CORNER - 2

Samuel MA spreads arboriculture knowledge throughout Asia

Samuel Ma of Hong Kong is the recipient of the 2018 Millard F. Blair Exceptional Contribution to Practical Arboriculture Award from the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA). This Award of Distinction honors individuals for providing outstanding service in promoting practical arboriculture in their work.

Ma, now an ISA Board Certified Master Arborist®, is the owner of Kassod Arbor Tree Consultancy and Services Limited in Hong Kong. In addition, he owns an arborist and tree technician training company and arborist gear company in Taiwan. He was also responsible for organizing the first official Hong Kong tree climbing championship, held by ISA Hong Kong Chapter in 2014.

"Samuel has been instrumental in developing the ISA Hong Kong Chapter," says Paul Ries, ISA board president. "He has been able to utilize the tree climbing competitions to promote best practices in arboriculture and promote education in the Asia region."



Traveling and working throughout Asia has allowed Ma to educate others, and in turn, take new techniques back to Hong Kong. Ma even traveled to Hawaii to pursue his ISA certification. "After I became an ISA Certified Tree Worker, I came back to Hong Kong and applied my new knowledge," says Ma. It was at that time that he began helping the Hong Kong Chapter with chapter development and organized their tree climbing competitions, as well as starting his own training company.

"One of the reasons that I wanted to start a training company in Taiwan is that they wanted to know more about arboriculture and best practices there," adds Ma. He is dedicated to assisting non-English-speaking arborists, teaching them how to respect their job and improve their own skills. "There is a challenge with the language barrier. Because I could speak four languages, I was able to work with various people where others could not."

Ma says he is most proud of all mentors and friends he has met so far in this industry, all of whom he says have taught him a lot. "It is encouraging to know I have friends worldwide who respect what I do and the contributions I have made," says Ma. In referencing past winners of the practical arboriculture award, Ma expresses his humility but agrees that they share a common thread. "I think we are similar in our passion to help the industry and make our hometowns better, and make tree care practitioners in our regions better." Ma was recognized during the opening ceremony of the ISA Annual International Conference and Trade Show on Sunday, August 5 in Columbus, Ohio. "By recognizing individuals who have a positive impact on arboriculture, ISA helps provide role models and learning opportunities for all of us," added Robert Bartlett Jr., chairman and CEO of Bartlett Tree Experts. "We applaud Samuel Ma and all of the honorees for their contributions in research, education and mentoring."

ISA serves more than 30,000 members and credential holders worldwide, and has been honoring members and industry professionals with the Awards of Distinction since 1963. The winners are selected by the ISA Awards Committee, a diverse group of experts in arboriculture, and are approved by ISA's Board of Directors.

