

# On Tees, Trees, and Honeybees

Written by Earl John Gallarde

Greetings from Manila!

I hope and pray that everyone is doing well amidst the ongoing world crises – the food insecurities in Africa and the Middle East, the climate change, the Russo-Ukrainian war, and the looming chance of a global recession; add to that the fact that we just barely got out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Amidst all these terrors, we are convinced that we still have a lot to be thankful for. Being part of the AI Apps family means our team gets the chance to work and connect with the finest in the industry. In the past Program Increment, Ava, our team worked with amazing folks from DataFox and HCM, which led to the delivery of automated testing for their products and features. Similarly, we expect to deliver the same for ERP this B-9. We are also grateful for the successful conclusion of Oracle CloudWorld 2022, as this means that AI Apps is yet to deliver even more amazing AI solutions and features to our customers.

By now, you're probably wondering why the title is as such. Well, I'm here to share with you some fun stuff our team has been doing to stay afloat amidst all our substantial work and the hardships that life brings. Being grateful and hopeful is one thing. Staying connected and engaged is another.

Just recently, we held a team building activity where the QAA Team played virtual golf. Everyone was new to the sport, so we had an enjoyable time sucking at it (which made it more fun!). More than the competition, it was a time of learning, bonding, and unwinding. The night ended with a dinner buffet over long talks, bottomless drinks, and endless laughter.



For us, being engaged doesn't always mean going out to lunch or dinner together, nor do we equate it to physically meeting at the office regularly. It can be in the form of joining Oracle Volunteering projects or supporting Oracle's sustainability efforts – and that's another way we've kept ourselves engaged! Surprisingly, Oracle Philippines did not have an official Green Team; and guess what? The first and official **Green Team for Oracle Philippines** was formed by none other than **AI Apps' QAA Team**, led by **Auriel Flora**. On November 4, the team went on a Tree Planting activity in Anda, Pangasinan, my very own hometown. We were able to plant 30 trees, support local establishments, spend time with the locals, and explore nature. By keeping ourselves engaged, we're able to focus more on work and stay resilient amidst all life's uncertainties. It is my desire that you and your team take the time to do the same.



I hope you enjoyed reading what I've shared as much as I've enjoyed sharing them with you. As I end, I'd like to part with you a quote by Simon Sinek, an American author and inspirational speaker:

***"The goal is not simply to 'work hard, play hard.' The goal is to make our work and our play indistinguishable."***

Oh, and as for the honeybees... well, I just put it there. We could all use a little rhyme in our lives.