



Sunday 6th December

World Climate Summit

World Climate Ltd, a global climate stakeholder platform, in partnership with Sustainia, arranged a one-day forum with business leaders, climate experts; financiers and policy makers. It was held in the Chamber of Commerce of Paris, close to the Champs-Elysee. Sonja and Golo were invited due to previous connections with Sustainia via the India-One Project.



The Sustainia Awards Ceremony started with setting the rules for the meeting:

- No doom and gloom language
- Use language everyone understands

H.E. Hakima El Haite, The Environment Minister of Morocco, ended her key note speech on an unusual tone for a business event. She said: “Climate Change has no border, no religion, no nationality. If our country is vulnerable today, your country will be vulnerable tomorrow. We need courage, solidarity and love. We need to love for each other and humanity. We need more love”.

Sonja gave her a Brahma Kumaris blessing card with a heart on it. Hakima very much appreciated that and showed it to the audience.

Some points from the presentations:

- Climate change is the biggest change ever.
- How can non-carbon economy become mainstream economy?
- It is now not necessary to own everything, but rather to have access to everything. We can share our commodities.



Solutions COP21



Photo: Alexandre Castel for Station Energy, Nadège Payet for the Solar Engine, Antoine Héron for ICDD, for the Brahma Kumaris Golo Pilz (India One), Marie Edery and Angelica Castro (also ICDD).



During COP21, a number of corporations and organizations presented sustainability ideas and projects in the Grand Palais. The organisations Energies 2050 and ICDD invited Golo Pilz to be part of this round table about “*The alternative uses of solar energy.*” The participants of this event were the Solar Engine, Station Energies and India One. The Solar Engine and Station Energies are projects developed in Africa for the local communities. Golo presented the India One solar thermal plant. He highlighted the innovative technology and the participation of the local community.

Photo: Visitors to the Grand Palais having a vision of the future.

Centre Programme

In the afternoon, Sister Jayanti and Julia met students from the Brahma Kumaris centre in the west of Paris called Convergence, near the Eiffel Tower. This was a chance to see the centre, which has been open for only a year, where Veronique (Rani) Angers and Solange Harcourt live and coordinate activities. The centre has a simple elegance and is filled with light; reflecting the quality of those who both live and gather there.



Those gathered that afternoon, were interested in both meditation and its effect on their personal lives and the world.

Sister Jayanti spoke of 'Mansa Seva' (serving through the mind). She spoke of how to prepare the mind as an instrument to serve. A clean, clear and peaceful mind is needed if we are to remain uninfluenced by the negativity of our inner and outer worlds. We have to clear our minds of waste and conserve the energy of our minds so that it becomes powerful and concentrated. We need to nourish our minds with spiritual knowledge to cultivate deep understanding that makes sense and



has meaning. This allows us to use our minds at a higher level than ordinary thinking, thus enabling things to happen quickly and easily. A mind filled with ordinary thoughts will remain very busy but not so productive and that will be reflected in our actions. A mind that cultivates this higher level of awareness and noble thinking creates a deeper connection with the Divine thus enabling the transformative energy of the Divine to be transmitted into the world. Anyone can do this; no one can say they do not have time, money or the health to do so.

Julia related a little of her journey of becoming a Brahma Kumaris UN Representative in New York and how we work at the UN giving a spiritual perspective on global concerns. Climate Change, of course, was on everyone's minds and so both Julia and Sister Jayanti answered questions concerning COP21 and the Brahma Kumaris perspective.

Montreuil

Programmes regarding the environment were being held regularly at the “Salle du Conseil” of the Mairie de Montreuil, in the town hall.



Coalition 21, a civil society movement working with the COP, invited the Brahma Kumaris to produce a workshop. Brahma Kumaris members Valériane, UN representative in Geneva, Juan, youth representative at the COP, YOUNGO and COY, and François Becher, co-ordinator in France, and others took part. The workshop was entitled: “Reversing climate change: what is our relationship with the environment?”

In the first part of the workshop, Rachel Berger a

Quaker activist from the UK, Juan and François held a round table discussion. Each one shared about the spiritual basis of their work with environment and ecology.

Afterwards, Valeriane introduced a dialogue process where people examined ways of thinking to feel empowered in our relationship with the environment and to see how we could to have an impact on climate, individually as well as collectively.

The four working groups dialogued on:

- the choices we have,
- the emotional relationship we have with the environment,
- the vision and the spiritual relationship we hold for the environment.

Joaquim of Brahma Kumaris did drawings during the workshop to portray the different things he had heard.



Spirituality Religion and Climate Change.

This event was held in “Place to B”. It is both a youth hostel, a café, an amazingly vibrant place to be and a dynamic hub for youth and activists! It is close to Gare du Nord

On the panel there was:

- Muhtari Aminu-Kano from Islamic Relief,
- Rev Flecher Harper, Greenfaith, Executive Director\l
- Martin Kopp, Lutheran World Federation, responsible for advocacy for climate justice and
- Valeriane. Brahma Kumaris.



They were each interviewed and the first topic was their understanding of how to tackle Climate Change from their perspective. Valeriane spoke of the spiritual understanding of unity in terms of humanity being one family, sharing the same home and facing the same problems. To see things from a new perspective needs a change of consciousness.

At the end, there was an intervention by a musician who shared with the public her concern for climate change and the importance of music in creating a bridge between us.

She played the harp giving a magical atmosphere to the audience.





A view on the way home from Sustainia Awards – Champs-Élysées.

Website: eco.brahmakumaris.org

(end of report)