



**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015**

## ***COP21 Solutions at Grand Palais***



In the afternoon, at the Grand Palais, Golo was invited on the stand of Energie 2050 to present the India One project. Energie 2050 is an NGO working on the field of renewable energies and a contact of Angelica Castro.

Golo had one hour to explain the background and technology of the project and concluded briefly about the consciousness and political will necessary to implement the change. He asserted that money and technologies are already there but the human aspects are missing.

Golo had the opportunity to continue the conversation with someone from the audience

who was obviously very informed and curious to know more on the differences between the different Solar energy systems.

See the flyer for these events at: <http://www.solutionscop21.org/>

## ***Radio Paris Plurielle***

After this programme, there was an interview by Radio Paris Plurielle of Francois Becher from the Brahma Kumaris, and the organiser of the event, Mr. Antoine Heron from ICDD (Innovation Citoyenne et Développement Durable). They were particularly interested in renewable energy. The radio station asked: how well can we transfer to clean energy and what are the challenges of the energy situation? The interview will be broadcast 11<sup>th</sup> December.



*Francois, Golo and friend leaving the Grand Palais*



## Interfaith meeting



The meeting was introduced by Daniel Violet, Head of Staff of the UNFCCC. He said there was a constructive atmosphere around the COP21 agreement. 150 heads of states had come to bring a strong political push to the negotiations at the beginning. There was unprecedented movement around the “action agenda” creating a palpable positive atmosphere. There was hope to finish by Friday but it was not guaranteed. There were still significant issues over differentiation and finance. Mr Violet thanked the faith

community for their support for COP and for all the inter-faith events. He could see the mobilization of so many individuals who felt a moral imperative was needed at the centre of discussions.



He raised the question of what happens after Paris. He said it was a question for faith communities to consider. The agreement provides a structural framework for action and a sense of direction. It created an incentive for more and more actors to come on board in each country to implement changes domestically and nationally.

The agreement will take time to digest. It will change global economic systems for a long time and it will affect individuals too.

Mr Violet took some questions and in response said that partnerships between UNFCCC and faith-communities provide platforms to exchange information, to give visibility to the faith-communities and to allow organisations to put many requests and demands to the secretariat. Other agencies like the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) will also be more visible. He acknowledged that the campaigns of faith groups can reach millions of people who can themselves make a





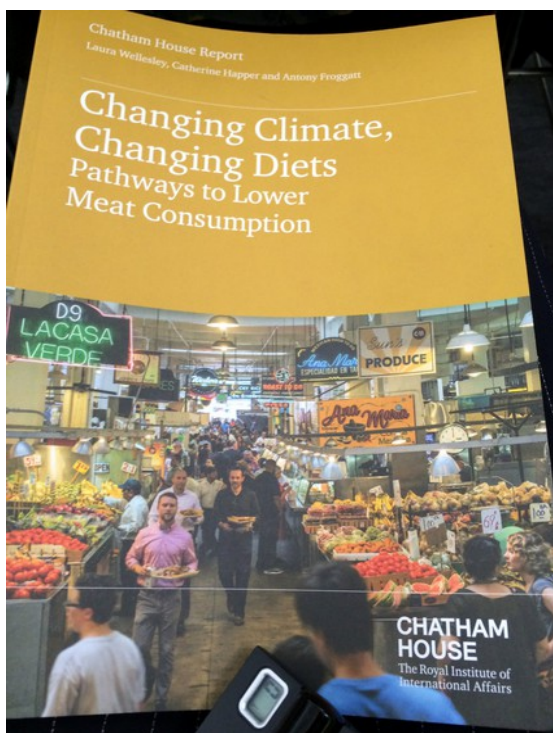
difference. Faith based organisations are not on the side-lines; they carry the voice of many stakeholders. They have been increasingly recognized, as is evident at COP21 in Paris.

## **Side event on diet**

For the first time ever in COP, there was an official side event from the established research community on the topic of plant-based diet! The initiative came from Professor Johan Rockström from Sweden and the invitation drew attention to the on-going discussions among leading experts and government officials. These discussions included the climate impacts of meat and dairy consumption, public awareness and the potential policies and solutions to change behaviour. In order to fulfil the urgent need for an integrated agenda spanning food, health and sustainability, the EAT Initiative was established in 2013. It is an international platform for interaction between stakeholders across science, policy, civil society and business.

The speakers were:

- Johan Rockström, EAT Initiative
- Jo Leinen, Member of the European Parliament, Germany
- Alexandra Clark, Humane Society International (concerned for animal welfare)
- Wanqing Zhou, Brighter Green Meat production.



Professor Johan Rockström introduced the event and said meat production is the sector creating the most greenhouse gasses. All research to date agrees on this.

Antony Froggatt, Chatham House presented a new publication from Chatham House “Changing Climate, Changing Diets – pathways to lower meat consumption”.

He asked two questions:\

- Why meat needs to be on the public agenda?\
- Why meat and dairy is a difficult agenda?

He said that there is a lack of awareness of the connection between meat production and climate change because there is little media coverage of the livestock sector. There is a disassociation between our food and how it is produced. Meat has a huge cultural and social significance. The retail and our social environment encourage meat-eating options. However, everyone is looking to their government to take action.

He said that we need to mobilize a change in awareness. However, awareness-raising campaigns would not be enough on their own. In his opinion, these campaigns are the least effective of communications tools. Governments need to expand the vegetarian marketing by introducing sustainability labelling and reconsidering meat subsidies. Price signals are the most effective intervention.

Summarising, he expressed the view that unless global meat demand is addressed it will not be possible to meet the Paris target. Meat production also causes a loss of biodiversity and a loss of land as forests are cleared for cattle farming.



Alexandra Clark, Humane Society International, gave a very professional presentation. She was able to communicate facts about animal suffering to a hall full of academics and researches in a clear way. She finished by a powerful statement: Meat is the elephant in the room in COP, or the chicken or the pig in the room.

Sister Jayanti, Sonja and Julia attended this event. They noted that this was the first positive essay regarding the importance of vegetarian diet that they had seen in the 7 years of the climate change conferences they had attended.

## ***Interviewing Sister Jayanti***

Having a team assembled at COP also gives opportunities for interviews with others in the team. Here, Vikram interviews Sister Jayanti for the Mauritius centre.







## ***Golo Meeting a Minister***



*Golo at the German stand*

Golo met the German Environmental Minister Dr Barbara Hendriks and briefed her on progress of India One. Golo invited her for the inauguration of the solar project at the end of 2016.

## ***Report of the Interfaith Liaison Committee***

The committee reported on progress from the COP held last year in Lima to the present one in Paris.

The faith-based organizations had gained visibility and were keeping good relations with the UNFCCC secretariat. The local French interfaith co-ordination was managed by Martin Kopp and Estelle Grenon. Working within the UN system was a challenge. It was hard to get new players on board. It is a truism that when organizations are looking to get the best result for themselves then it is hard to create change. It is therefore important that a model of co-operation and team efforts are created within the faith-based organisations.





*View of the roof of the Grand Palais*



View of the Grand Palais