



## Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December

### ***Film interview about collective consciousness***

John Dennis Liu, is a Chinese American film-maker and ecologist. He is also a researcher at several institutions. In January 2015 John was named Visiting Fellow at Netherlands Institute of Ecology (NIOO) of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences. He is also Ecosystem Ambassador for the Commonland Foundation based in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

During COP21, John Liu has been staying at Chateau Millemont outside Versailles. In this calm setting far away from the frenetic COP in Paris, he wanted to interview the Brahma Kumaris. He wanted to walk in nature and have a profound conversation, recorded on videotape, that encompasses Brahma Kumaris' position, climate change, peace, sustainability and spirituality. He wanted to have very calm, reasoned thoughts about collective consciousness rather than the “marketing” of self serving ideas.



Sonja went to the Chateau leaving Paris early morning at 7 am and, 2·5 hours later, finally found the Chateau of Millemont hidden in the mist of French countryside. Sonja said the 1 hour long interview and conversation with John Liu was very meaningful and rewarding. It was an opportunity to share how the outer world is a reflection of the inner world.



## ***Meeting with Professor Rockström***

Jayanti, Golo and Sonja with well-known environmentalist Professor Johan Rockström from Stockholm Resilience Institute. We shared with him our work on “Consciousness and Climate change” and our solar initiative.



We asked him how to give a message of hope, when the science suggests there is not much hope. He said his hope lies in the ability we have to scale the sustainable solutions. He liked India One very much because it is scalable. He said that this crisis is the only one where all the solutions are available.

They work on two tracks: one slow and one fast. The slow track is the transition of mindset, consciousness and

spirituality. The fast track would be to use the available technology. We have 2-3 years to bend the curve.

He is using science with photography, art and poetry as a contribution to the slow track. He is working with Mattias Klum of National Geography Photography. He said that we need to preserve the remaining beauty of our one earth. All cultures know what beauty is, it is inherent in us.

Johan Rockström will go to India next year and was interested to visit India-One.

## ***Film screening***

The Climate Generation area was bubbling with activities, even on this second last day of COP. Sonja and Golo by chance walked into a film screening by David Gelber, executive producer of “Years of Living Dangerously-Season 1”. The first season of the film has been completed. James Cameron is the main producer of the film and it features Harrison Ford, Matt Damon and other famous Hollywood actors. The documentary is the compelling narrative interwoven with an incredible interview with Barack Obama. They have framed the second season as a race against time and increased the focus on the expected migration of refugees due to climate change.

A co-producer stated powerfully that only when we reach the emotional bottom-line will people be motivated to change their life style.

See more at: [www.yearsoflivingdangerously.com](http://www.yearsoflivingdangerously.com).



## ***Climate Change and Human Rights***

Valériane, the Brahma Kumaris' representative at the UN in Geneva writes: On 10<sup>th</sup> December 1948, in the aftermath of World War II, representatives from around the world met in Paris to sign the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Sixty-seven years later, representatives from around the world are again meeting in Paris to negotiate another auspicious agreement: an international deal on climate change.

It may not seem like these global events are related but, in fact, climate change is one of the greatest human-rights challenges of our time. The signatories of the Universal Declaration agreed that all people have the right to basic sustenance, protection, and freedom; including rights to food, health, shelter, and self-determination.

There can no longer be any question: climate change is a human rights issue. Rising seas threaten the residents of small island nations. South American and Himalayan communities are losing their only sources of freshwater as mountain glaciers melt, while intruding seas contaminate groundwater in coastal communities. Millions of people in low-lying areas are the victims of increasingly severe floods and storms. Melting snow and ice threaten the food and security of Arctic peoples. These and other effects are destroying the culture of indigenous and other people around the world.

The UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UN Human Rights Council, and others have recognized that climate change is not only an environmental issue but also a human rights issue for the millions of people and communities around the world experiencing these adverse impacts. To prevent further human harm, the UNFCCC has emphasized that “Parties should, in all climate change-related actions, fully respect human rights.” By recognizing the Parties’ existing human rights obligations, the UNFCCC has determined that rights considerations should guide the development, implementation and monitoring of the climate policies, institutions and mechanisms established under the UNFCCC.

According to [climaterights.org](http://climaterights.org), with the 2015 climate agreement under negotiation, now is the time to fully integrate rights protections in the climate regime but most of the people negotiating the text to be signed in Paris do not want to engage in the human rights of the people suffering the consequences of climate change.

So today at the COP many side events and meetings were responding to the human rights impact of climate change. Mexico, one of the countries interested in maintaining human rights in the Paris agreement, held a special meeting with the observer organisations to share their strategy and ask for the support of civil society.

Brahma Kumaris has been part of the inter-constituency group on climate change and human rights and have been involved in the reflection on human rights in the French agreement. More information is available at: <http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/cop21/events/2015-12-11-18-30-ciel>





## ***Art Exhibition and Reception***

In the evening, our friends from COP and other French contacts were invited to an art exhibition and reception at the Rue Orfila Brahma Kumaris centre. Around 50 guests came. They they were welcomed with hot drinks, and then they came together for a welcome and a short chat. Paintings for the environment had been on display at the Centre for several weeks. They had been painted by 9 artists. Some of them were present at the event and so were recognized and honoured. Then there was a meditation for the planet, after which there was a fantastic reception with lots of amazing food items, and a chance for conversations. Much networking happened.



Sister Jayanti welcoming everyone, with translation from Rani.



The food was a work of art in itself (and tasted great)!







Some of the Brahma Kumaris family from the centre and visitors who were assisting at the event.



## Scenes from COP21



The tree of good wishes



An activist for Vegan diets





Golo earning a free juice for pedalling above 140 Watts for a minute. This provided power for the adjacent pedal-powered audio system.

Sister Jayanti and Laura being interviewed by a TV station at the stand





## Active Activists



A small demonstration inside COP



Activists being checked by the police

Website: [eco.brahmakumaris.org](http://eco.brahmakumaris.org)

(end of report)