



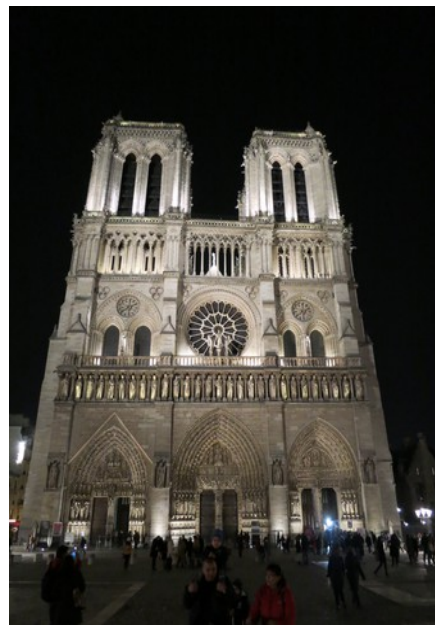
Thursday 3rd December

Ecumenical Service – Notre Dam

The Ecumenical service was hosted by the Catholic church in Notre Dam (Our Lady) cathedral which is 700 years old and sited on the Isle de la Cité, a short walk from the Louvre. It is a majestic setting for any event and this beautiful event was specifically dedicated to the environment. The Catholic cardinals, Anglican archbishops, Russian Orthodox archbishops and others from the different branches of Christianity were all gathered together. There was a wonderful, colourful procession of people in the orange, purple, red and white robes, music, scripture readings, in French and in English. There was a display of different material goods representing the gifts that nature has given us and how we have to care for them. There were amazing huge tapestries with beautiful floral designs on the walls that really were a reminder of Paradise.

The message from the Council of Christian Churches of France (CÉCEF) for the COP21, read by the Archbishop of Sweden, included the words:

“We are particularly concerned for the weakest and poorest among us. Aware of the impact of the lifestyle of the most developed countries, we need to call into question the logic of our consumption and to allow our attitudes and actions to experience conversion, practicing restraint and simplicity, not as a form of heroic renunciation but as a form of joyful sharing”





Youth Day



Xiuhtezcatl Martinez and Juan Milling and a sign of peace



The Youth and Future Generations Day is a special day during COP21. It is one way in which the UNFCCC celebrate the commitment of the different actions of young adults to mitigate and to adapt to climate change. A panel of young participants was the main activity for this day. Xiuhtezcatl Martinez began the dialogue with a powerful speech of hope saying that the we have to awaken the light that lies within each of us; that which contains the power to create a better world. Manon Botoù-koad, co-ordinator of COY11, stated that COY11 was the most positive and innovative of all the previous conferences of youth. The discussion also included contribution

from Christiana Figueres, the general secretary of UNFCCC. This day was a great opportunity to share the Brahma Kumaris message, perspective and position with many other young people and influential people from the COP21 administration.



Brahma Kumaris exhibition stand

The Brahma Kumaris stand was visited by the minister of Environment from Peru. He was asked what he had to put into practice in his life to help in climate change. He suggested the idea of "being positive." He left with a bracelet on his wrist that included that motto. The bracelets have been proving to be very popular.



The team supporting the stand for the day arriving at the COP21 space.



Participants of COP21 were able to recharge their telephones at this cycling station (you really did have to pedal to be able to make more calls!)



RINGO Meeting

Valériane went to the RINGO meeting. This was another good opportunity to meet other researchers to share ideas around the subject of climate change and their research. On this occasion, they were also able to discuss how the negotiations have been going.



Going home

After being at COP, the team made their way home, crossing the Seine with a great view of the Eiffel Tower



Website: eco.brahmakumaris.org

(end of report)