Day 11  
12th September

Our day began with the daily CSO meeting. The main agenda for the day was to prepare the final statement for the plenary session of the COW (Committee of Whole at the COP High level Segment) and signing of a common youth declaration by joint youth bodies. Sister Jayanti sent a beautiful and powerful message for the delegates of COP14, which we shared in many social media groups.

BK Shantanu gave his interventions to be drafted in the final statement of the CSOs. The two interventions made, were incorporated in the final statement that was read in the plenary session.

BK Aneta was approached by the representative of CSO from Bangladesh who expressed his high interest and gratitude for what he heard from BKs, especially about yogic farming and on behalf of the Minister from Bangladesh, he extended an invitation for the BKs to help with establishing such a system there.

Message from sister Jayanti for the participants of UNCCD COP 14:
At this time it’s very clear that human impact on the environment has created a situation not only of Climate Change, but also of reduction in Bio-Diversity, and also Desertification across the world in many different places. On first sight, there is a question mark about how Spirituality or Consciousness is connected with all these subjects, but when we begin to reflect a little, we see that as is our consciousness, so will be our choices, and we then move either in a direction in which we support nature or we go in the other direction in which we exploit nature.

Unfortunately for millennia, we have simply being using from nature, and taking from nature rather than understanding how to have a relationship of respect with nature, so that she is able to share with us her abundance, but we also take good care of nature.

I am sure this Conference is going to make people more aware of their responsibilities to move towards a simpler lifestyle so that we are able to respect nature and not exploit nature any further. It’s a very important subject, and I am sure there will be many beneficial outcomes.

With all good wishes,

BK Jayanti
Later in the afternoon BK Shantanu and BK Aneta attended the first screening of the documentary Great Green Wall of Africa made by Inna Modja, an activist and musician from Mali. It was a narrative that opened eyes of viewers on what exactly desertification, land degradation and climate induced migration meant for human survival; showing both the current despair and hope for a better future. Some of the guests who attended the screening later on came to our booth to just relax to find some peace. One of such guest was Dr. Bijay K. Nanda (Founding Member, Asia Region, The World Bank, USA DC).

Early in the afternoon 2 delegates from FAO, two organic farmers and four undergraduate students visited Happy Farm where BK Vivek and Raghav informed about the activities and plans for the farm. BK Ndiritu described yogic farming, some basics of meditation and conducted a short meditation for the group.

Other delegates who visited Happy Farm that day were from Vietnam, Cambodia and India. They got many of their questions answered, on both yogic agriculture and meditation. Among them there was Mr. Mandal, the retired Chief Secretary of Jharkhand, state in India. They all appreciated the experience of quiet meditation and serving the nature through the mind.
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Later in the evening BK Aneta, BK John and BK Shantanu met with sisters from all the centers who have helped the UNCCD delegation with food, accommodation and other logistics. They thanked them for their tireless efforts and gifted beautiful rubber plants with angels, as a token of loving appreciation.

The same day, good news came to us, that Brahma Kumaris will be hosting the official LCOY (Local Conference of Youth) for India, this year.

One of the last days of COP14, Marcos Montoiro from the UNCCD Secretariat, who was very cooperative throughout our whole UNCCD journey, came to our booth to say that we must send our good vibrations, so that a big agenda of land tenure would get approved in the COP High Level Segment meeting. Later he thanked BK Aneta and the entire team for support all along the conference. He said it was one of the most successful ones for them. Land tenure was adopted which means a lot for vulnerable people. He said it was a pleasure working with the BK delegation.
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On the last day of the Conference, many people including the Vice President of Bolivia visited our booth. Some guests also visited Happy Farm and enjoyed the yogic atmosphere there.

With early good bye to the class in Greater Noida, BK Aneta, BK John, BK Parul and BK Shantanu left for New Delhi, for an International Seminar on Science, Environment and Spirituality. The seminar was organized by the Eco Club of Shivaji College of Delhi University. Around 300 students from different colleges were present for the day-long seminar, with presentations by all the above BK delegates and poster presentations by some students also. The auditorium was full with students and faculty members.
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BK Aneta showed some powerful slides and brought the participants attention to the present conditions of the world and how one can deal with this. She also spoke about the role of consciousness in changing the world by showing the example of India One Solar Power Plant.

BK John Ndiritu made a presentation on sustainable yogic farming and his research on the effect of meditation on crop yield and nutritional value and on seedling development. He invited the students to come up with innovative ideas, where they could experiment in their respective fields on the effect of consciousness and pure intentions on the elements of matter.

BK Parul energized the whole gathering with some joyful dancing and experience sharing on a sustainable lifestyle. She also strongly motivated the participants based on her experience from the past 2 weeks at COP 14 that the world is seriously in great danger unless we change our ways. She shared with the gathering that she didn’t understand earlier the reason behind people going vegan, but she declared to the audience that after her 2 weeks experience and study, she had now decided to take vegan lifestyle to bring change to the world. Truly the UNCCD COP 14 was transformational in so many ways, and one of such example was BK Parul, who is not just a Shiv Shakti but Eco Shakti, a great instrument to motivate people for the cause of the planet.
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After a tea break, BK Shantanu conducted a session on Hope and Empowerment for Youth. He spoke about the importance of hope in life and how one can empower themselves. During his session he showcased a short movie for audience to interact and understand the topic more.

The seminar concluded with meditation, inviting everyone to ignite their hope through rediscovering the self and serving the Mother Earth through their peaceful and powerful thoughts.

In the end the gathering was welcomed to put few drops of water mixed with good vibrations on two kadam plants kept in the auditorium. Kadam is an indigenous and auspicious tree from that area. Everyone received blessing cards from BK Aneta and BK John.
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Later the BK delegation and students planted the kadam tree in the college compound, thus creating a memory that would provide cooling shade and comfort for the future.
In the evening BK John left for South Africa and BK Aneta left for Madhuban. BK Shantanu met the BK family at Satkar Bhawan in Delhi on the 14th morning and brought to everyone’s attention the lifestyle changes that every person should consider, to make this planet what it was originally.
We would like to thank the One, who made it all possible and to share our deep gratitude for BK Asha Didi Ji, for BK Raju Ji, BK Jay Prakash Ji & BK Sumanth from BK Rural Development Wing and for the whole BK family of Greater Noida, for their complete dedication and tireless service during the UNCCD COP14 event; big thank you to BK Vivek, BK Asha, BK Vanita, BK Raghav, BK Anita, BK Lalita, BK Priti and all other sisters and brothers for their big hearts and unlimited vision.

Thank You and Om Shanti.