

Living in Harmony

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



COP19 Report of Sunday 17th and Monday 18th November 2013

Visit to the New BK Centre

The whole BK international group visited the new centre in the outskirts of Warsaw. The area is called Piaseczno and it is beautifully located in a very green area. After morning class, the whole group went for a long walk in the forest.

Afternoon Conversation with Friends



The Warsaw centre had invited friends and contacts to a very nice afternoon gathering at the Smolna Meditation Gallery located very centrally in Warsaw.

The afternoon was moderated by Beata and started with a round of introductions. The group included several high profile individuals. Sister Jayanti shared how we have to create a more harmonious and functional relationship with the environment. Then she explained the link between spirituality and the environment.

At the moment "we are the only species that does not clean up its nest". When sharing about the different practical projects we are involved in, she asked Golo Pilz to explain why he did what he did with the solar project. He explained that meditation makes you creative and gives power to think on a larger scale to include the benefit of the whole humanity and the environment.



The special gluten-free vegan meal was prepared for this event by Jola Sloma and Mirek Trybulak, fashion designers, creators of the tv culinary program *The Atelier of Taste*, and authors of books on vegetarianism and a healthy lifestyle.

On the Road to Paris 2015

World Climate Ltd arranges a yearly two-day business forum in connection with the Climate Change Conferences. This year's business forum called Climate Solutions was held in the Marriot Hotel in central Warsaw. For the first time they gave five tickets free to selected NGOs in order to fulfil their statement of collaborating with civil society. From the Brahma Kumaris, Francois Becher, Sonja Ohlsson, Nonie Reaño, Aneta Loj and Golo Pilz participated.



In one of the plenaries, it was strongly expressed by the leaders themselves that the business community can do more for the environment: *We businessmen can't just sit here on the stage sharing all the good things we do in the world - we need to work together. One global answer for everything doesn't exist. Only through collaboration can we succeed. Who out there would like to take the lead in this? Can I have a show of hands of three international companies who can take leadership in this?*

The news were released that the next Davos meeting will dedicate one whole day to climate change.

World Peace Meditation

The monthly BK Word Peace Meditation coincided with the COP19. Sister Jayanti visited the long established BK center in Jasielska for this important meditation event. Desert Rose, the band from South Africa that specializes in Sacred World Music, had been invited to the centre to do their last COP19 performance. Their deeply spiritual music, songs praising the One Supreme Light and chanting took the audience further into meditations and brought many souls into realization that no matter from where the music comes and from which religion, we are all united as children of the One Perfect Parent.

The Desert Rose commented on their experience: we were very pleased to experience the light of the Brahma Kumaris presence in the COP19 in Poland.

Catholic Mass

This cold and winter-like Sunday in Warsaw finished with a Roman Catholic Mass for the climate in the Cathedral Basilica of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist. It was the first time in the recent Polish history that an orthodox and a protestant priest participated together in a Roman Catholic ecumenical prayer.



During the mass, a word of greeting was given by Archbishop Jeremiasz,

President of Polish Ecumenical Council and Lic. Elias Abramides from the World Council of Churches, Argentina. The Bishops shared blessings for justice and for the climate. From the BK community, Ewa Keller, Asha Rekawek, Julia Grindon-Welch, Valeriane Bernard and Juan Milling joined the mass and the prayers to share our common hopes.

Monday 18th November

Briefing for New Delegates by RINGO

Present in the room were delegates from research institutes, university students, humanitarian organization, think-tanks, barristers, engineers and the Brahma Kumaris. This was the first daily meeting of the second week of the conference for the Research and Independent organizations - RINGO constituents, of which the Brahma Kumaris are a member. It was a very practical and



useful briefing of negotiations so far and of how to get the best out of the experience of being at UNFCCC, with guidance on how and where to get meeting information, documents and free coffee! This was very helpful as the BKs had 4 new delegates participating for the second week, Francois Becher, Julia Grindon-Welch, Marek Frydrych and Aneta Loj. The Chairperson reminded everyone that RINGO is not an advocate constituency except to advocate the use of good science. They do not

take a particular position, but they do have a shared concern. It is important to explore ways that the humanities and social sciences can work together with natural sciences and technologies. The

participants were advised to focus on solutions and not just the problems and to see how to bring values into the conversation, as there is still so much work to do in this area.

Each constituency is allowed a 2 minute statement at the closing general plenary of the COP19, so this will be worked on this week. It is RINGO's opportunity to make a statement to the negotiators and the world.

On the Road to Lima

The BK international delegation got together in the afternoon in a think-tank format to discuss what is the next step in explaining how inner change creates outer change. A new BK statement under the theme Consciousness and Climate Change is in the pipeline for COP20 in Lima in 2014.

Latin America Youth Meeting for COP20

With a great sense of responsibility and hope, more than thirty Latin American young people met in order to generate ideas and proposals for the coming events of the next year: the Pre-COY (Venezuela) and COY (Peru). The group was organized to achieve their proposals to be considered in the negotiations. They agreed to work on the regional level in South America for COY and PreCOY, showing the need for unity in order to achieve the force necessary for change. One representative of an umbrella organization of environmental organizations in Peru expressed his interest to work with the UN Youth for the next year's conference. He was also very interested in the Brahma Kumaris view on the environment and their activities in Peru.

BK participating: Juan and Nonie.

Read more at www.environment.brahmakumaris.org

