

Living in Harmony

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



Report from Climate Change Conference COP20 in Lima

Friday 5th Dec. - Sunday 7th Dec.

Picture: *Inka Gold*



The head of the delegation in COP 20, Sister Gayatri Naraine, UN representative for the Brahma Kumaris in New York, arrived Thursday the 4th Dec. Her first day in Lima started with a roundtable at the congress of Peru.

Roundtable – The role of the family and the Andean communities in caring for the environment at the Congress of the Republic of Peru.



Gayatri Naraine and the BK delegation met three representatives of the Congress of Peru to discuss the role of the family in the protection of the environment. The focus of this meeting was the elimination of violence against women and re-learning peace to protect the environment.

Picture: Moira, Nonie and Gayatri from Brahma Kumaris, Maria Magdalena Lopez Cordova from the Andean Peoples and environmental commission.

“Domestic violence generates consequences to the environment because it is the woman who are the primary force that make decisions in relation to the emotional stability of the family” said Gayatri.

Then, referring to governors she said: *“the problem is that they are constantly thinking in relation to agendas and not as mothers or members of a family. They are dealing with agendas, and not thinking about the living system. But, what if they were to enter into negotiating with a more holistic thought? Which would be the*

awareness that would put them beyond the agenda? The trajectory of thought should be from the level of awareness, to perception and vision and then act on the basis of this.

Can we develop habits of the heart? Can we combine the intellect with the heart? When there is love in the intellect to reach for something that is meaningful for all, then the heart knows how to direct that action. One of the habits of the heart is to see that small is beautiful. To see the world as astronauts see it from space: Let peace protect this beautiful blue pearl."

Picture: The BK delegation Nicola Hasmunth, Angelica Castro, Nonie Reano, Gayatri Naraine and three representatives of the Congress of Peru: Maria Magdalena Lopez from the Andean Peoples and the Environment commission, Aurelia Tang from women's commission and Federico Pariona from the Afro-indigenous and Andean peoples commission.



Saturday 6th Dec.

COP20 Interfaith Pavilion.

For the first time in the Climate Change Conference, the interfaith groups were given their own room. Nonie Reano from the BK centre in Lima looked after the Interfaith Room on Saturday and had many meetings; the main representative from the Islam religion was there and they shared a meaningful time together and with others. Nonie conducted meditation and gave information about Interfaith in Peru. She also shared the work of the Brahma Kumaris with the negotiator from the Peruvian Delegation.

BK Green delegation: INKA

Market - After one week of intense COP participation the BK delegation decided to take Saturday afternoon off to see more of the city of Lima rather than only the conference venue! We went to the INKA market to learn more about INKA handicrafts and find some nice Christmas gifts.



Half-way team meeting: The team met to feedback and share with the newly arrived BK delegates about how the week had gone, and what to focus on for the coming week. One thing that has worked very well is our stand at the COP. Many individuals have been attracted to the personal "blessing cards". Others were attracted to our side event flyers addressing "Ethics at the Heart of Climate Change" and both government delegates and civil society are in general very interested how consciousness affects matter and the practical activities that are born from that such as our Solar Energy initiatives and Sustainable Yogic Farming..

Brahma Kumaris Exhibition at COP 20





Music and Energy: Saturday evening finished beautifully at the local center in San Isidro. Around 50 friends of the centre turned up, at a days notice, to experience an alternative Saturday evening. The Music group Desert Rose set the tone with a soft chant connecting the audience to the roots of all ancestral roots.

Golo Pilz then picked up the thread on how to bring the civilization back to its roots of living in harmony with Mother Earth and its resources. As always the pictures from the solar power plant 'India-One' presently being constructed at the spiritual headquarters of the Brahma Kumaris in Rajasthan spellbound the audience.

The evening finished with another performance by Desert Rose and a meditation by Sister Gayatri.

Sunday 7th Dec. The green team and BK family time



COP is closed on Sundays to prepare for the second wave of negotiators and ministers who arrive for the high-level segment of second week.

The BK delegation had a well-earned day off together with the Peruvian BK family. We were invited to Nonie's mothers house by the Pacific Ocean in San Bartolo, a one-hours drive from Lima. Many from the Peruvian family joined us. We had our morning class to the sound of waves and spent a wonderful day walking along the beach and at the Beach house.





Read more at: www.environment.brahmakumaris.org