



## Climate Change Conference COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2016



**MARRAKECH COP22 | CMP12 | CMA1**  
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE 2016  
مؤتمر الأمم المتحدة لتغيير المناخ

The whole world has gathered here in Marrakesh for the opening of the 22<sup>nd</sup> Climate Change Conference (COP22). The COPs have a long history - the first one took place in 1995 in Kyoto, Japan. The Foreign Minister of Morocco, Mr. Mezouar, acts this year as the president of the conference. The Paris Agreement came into force much faster than expected, but there is still huge gap between what is needed to keep temperature rise below 2 degrees and what has been promised by the countries. So the Big question is how to create more momentum, how to raise the funds and to implement the required drastic changes in economy and lifestyle. It remains to be seen if a consensus on this hotly debated issue can be found.

### BKs inauguration of the COP with meditation

The BK green team had a powerful beginning with a meditation parallel to the official opening. Valériane organised this via the faith-based community dialogue at the “One-day Oasis” space. Sister Jayanti led the meditation, to create an atmosphere of hope among the delegates.

Interestingly the weather changed suddenly and we experienced rain in the desert, an auspicious sign!



### Exhibition



Our exhibition was well received. This year we share our stand with ISMUN – International Youth and Student Movement of the UN. Our colourful wristbands and blessing cards are immensely popular among the visitors and give us an easy opportunity to engage in a conversation on lifestyle, awareness and spirituality.

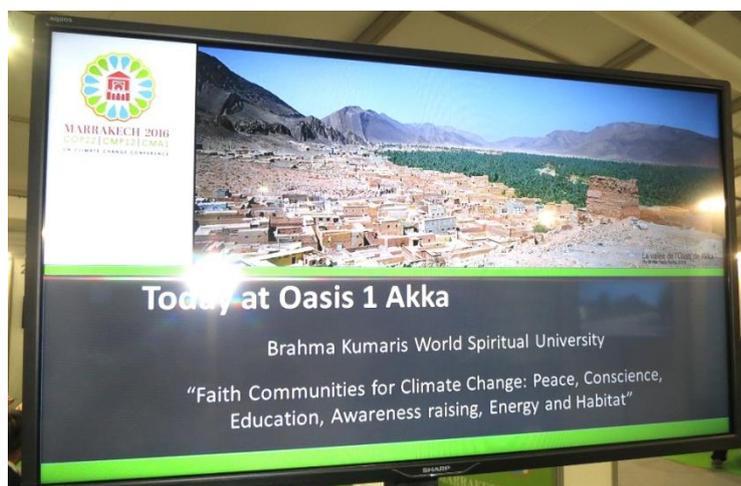


Picture: Vikram busy and the 3 climate veterans Valériane, Sonja and Golo who have been to many COP meetings.

### One-day Oasis

After the meditation, the Lutherans conducted a dialogue on education, engagement and awareness. This was followed by a conversation with Valériane on Peace and Spirituality. People of Jewish, Christian and Baha’i faith joined in. All agreed that faith leaders must inspire the people to rethink their personal consumption and inspire politicians and business people change their outlook.

At 15.30, Golo conducted a lively dialogue in the Oasis space on " Energy and habitat" - Faith-based promotion of renewable energy and eco-living together with Kosha Joubert, the Executive Director of the Global Ecovillage Network. An interesting discussion developed on how to change consciousness and behaviour and thus creating a better world.



A student from Brussels University interviewed Golo afterwards . She was especially interested to know how to keep hope and happiness in times of the threatening climate change. Golo emphasized that upon the realization of our full spiritual potential, fear and despair will disappear and the clear understanding of the power of our mind helps us to face and change reality.



### **The chance for Networking**

The first day is usually quite busy and we met many old friends, contacts and colleagues. Everyone is trying to orient himself and find his way around the vast conference space.



Sonja meeting Serafim Kykotis of the Greek Orthodox Patriarchate of Alexandria and all Africa



Sister Jayanti and Golo meeting members of the German delegation.

### **From the Youth**

Today was also the "Youth Day" at New Nordic Climate Solutions Pavilion. The Youth Constituency "YOUNGO" had organized a panel discussing how to implement the Paris Agreement. Although many of the youth leaders shared their disappointment with previous negotiations they also saw hope in the growing role of civil society.



Juan was asked to join the panel as one of the youth leaders and share their expectations for COP22. He mentioned how the "Fez Climate Conscience Summit" marked the start of a greater awareness of faith in young people and in the good will of COP delegates in general. Action and change is based on this awareness of good will in the common good.

Ronald Jumeau, the former Minister of the Environment of Seychelles and now Seychelles Ambassador for Climate Change and Small Island Developing State Issues, is very keen to support young people. He took part in a panel that discussed: How can we strengthen the relationship between youth and their elders to unlock the necessary action on climate change. Ronald shared that engaging youth in political decisions is a fundamental step to youth involvement in environment protection. He also offered support to young people for future COP conferences.



COP22 Evening

Read more at: [www.eco.brahmakumaris.org](http://www.eco.brahmakumaris.org)