



Climate Change Conference COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco

Tuesday 15th Nov. 2016

COP23 in Germany

Today the UNFCCC announced that next year's COP will be hosted in Bonn and this was a bit of surprise to everyone. It is the turn of a country in Asia to host the conference, but as no country stepped forward, the conference was automatically assigned to be held in the headquarters of the UNFCCC in Bonn.

Innovation in Action - Whats new!

At every COP, Climate Action and UNEP organize "The Sustainable Innovation Forum". This time, it was held at the 5-star Four Seasons Resort. The 2-day Forum attracts participants from various sectors, including business, government, UN, NGOs and civil society. Sister Jayanti and Golo were asked to host a roundtable discussion on "A new mindset is required to accelerate sustainable investments".



Beforehand, Sister Jayanti and Sonja met the well-known Lord Nicholas Stern of the London School of Economics and informed him of the activities of BK. Sister Jayanti invited him to Mt. Abu, as he told us that he often travels to India. Later Lord Stern opened the afternoon session and said: *"The more alternative investments made, the more sustainable future we get. We have to set a story of smart and clean innovations - low carbon is the future. He asked the audience: Who wants something congested and dirty? You have to show and communicate the possibilities, before you can ask people to follow."*

Afterwards, the young pupils of the Green School in Bali, presented a powerful rap dance, dressed up in used plastic bags. Their performance was very powerful and the last verse especially moved the audience: *"Destruction is just a manifestation of the status quo. It is the physical manifestation of humanities reluctance to see the oneness in everything. We are the plastics, we are the trees, we are the fires and we are the seas. There is no more you or me, there is just us."*

Then the audience of more than 200 was divided into 8 roundtables. Golo opened our roundtable with a short introduction of BK and its long history in sustainable investments. Sister Jayanti spoke on the spiritual awakening required for a change. In the emerging discussion, good ideas for the new mindset came up :



- Awareness shall not differentiate between you and me; understand that you belong to one family.
- Treat the whole world as you treat your home.
- The mindset shall be inspired by nature, which does not create waste, all is recycled!
- Information and rational understanding alone will not change our mindset; compassion and a generous heart is needed.

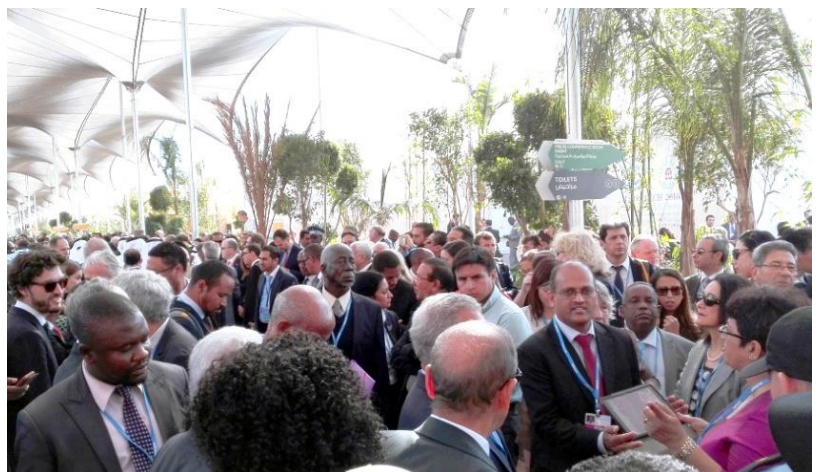
After one hour of discussion Sister Jayanti presented the 3 main points to the whole audience:

- We need education in values to support sustainable investment, for the young and for adults. Ethics can guide us more effectively in the decision-making process.
- Attain a different perception through meditation; we are one global family and live in one world. The conversation to increase understanding has to be improved.
- Build trust in sustainable investment through transparency and honesty.

Waiting for the King

Today, accompanied by heavy security, the King of Morocco arrived at the climate conference. Valériane queued up for more than an hour but was not able to get the required special ticket to attend the welcome speech by the King and Banki Moon.

There was some commotion at the entry as some delegates had the wrong tickets. Valériane was able to pacify them and, interestingly, was therefore finally allowed entry.



Evening side event

The Indigenous Peoples & Communities Pavilion in the green zone hosted the side event “**Traditional knowledge: ecology of care** - Creating a better future with sustainable yogic agriculture and increased awareness of health and nutrition”.



Valérieane shared our positive experience with yogic agriculture. Once you meditate with the seeds and the land and free your mind, the crops grow faster and the yield is better. We can give many such good stories about farmers who have love and pride in the work they do. BK Davindree Chellum from France, took the audience on an inner journey, explaining that our emotions effect the elements and the body. She highlighted the fact that your relationship with yourself is reflected in your interaction with the environment.



Finally, Kosha Joubert, Executive Director of the Global Eco-Village Network (GEN), said that GEN is connecting communities to each other with the values of solidarity, generosity and abundance. She added that communities also have to identify with higher possibilities, solution and the divine.

The presentations invoked some good questions from the audience - how to keep hope, how we can find spirituality in the negotiations – and a good discussion followed.

Yogic Agriculture

Piero Mussini from Gubbio conducted a side event in the green zone and shared his experiences with Yogic agriculture at his farm in Italy. He emphasized that positive thoughts have a measurable impact on the quality of the soil, the seeds and the yield.

Afterwards Vikram gave an interview to the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM) and introduced Sustainable Yogic Agriculture (SYA). Before coming to the issue of SYA, he shared how organic farming made its way in Mauritius and the various reasons why the island is embarking on an organic pathway.

BK Manoj, who accompanied him, was also interviewed and elaborated on the techniques used in organic farming. He particularly talked about the preparation of 'Jiv Amritam', a microbial fertilizer made from cow dung, and how cow urine helps the regeneration of damaged soil. The interview will be available soon at www.ifoam.bio



In the evening, BK hosted a superb dinner for the owner of our villa, friends from the Sindhi community and officials from the Indian embassy. The evening was graced by a beautiful performance of Desert Rose.





View of the
Atlas Mountains
in the afternoon



BK delegation
happy at the
end of the day



Dance from the
Green School at
Innovation
Forum

Read more: www.eco.brahmakumaris.org