

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative

Climate Change Conference COP22 in Marrakech, Morocco

Tuesday 8th Nov. 2016

Action has started

Today Valériane was attending the first meeting of the Constituency for Research and Independent Organizations (RINGO) with whom Brahma Kumaris (BK) is affiliated. Over 50 people came together; working on topics of adaptation, climate funds, the implementation of the Paris agreement and capturing carbon emissions.

Later in the day, the first faith based organization coordination meeting took place which was attended by 30 people from various faiths. Valériane and Nigel Crawhall, one of our old friends from the engaged Buddhist network, organized and chaired this gathering. After a meditation, they shared news about the Fez Summit of Conscience and that a declaration by the Muslim community on climate change will be shared next Friday in all the mosques of Morocco.



The Indigenous People & Communities' Pavilion





For the first time, BK is working together with the Indigenous Pavilion hosted by UNDP (UN Development Program). The Pavilion is in the Green Zone, which is in two huge exhibition tents. It is open to the public. Golo presented "Transition to innovative and clean technology demands a new mindset" to an audience of around



35 people. Renewable energy has always played a key role to help indigenous communities to live sustainably over longer periods of time. This presentation explored the connection between a traditional spiritual knowledge base and the broad usage of clean technologies. Many good questions came up on the connections between technology, values and meditation. Afterwards, Golo gave a short interview to a science journalist from Romania.

Climate Change Studio



Sister Jayanti gave an interview "Creating Inner Resilience in Challenging Times" in the Climate Change Studio. She elaborated on resilience and stability which can be found through an inner journey despite being in a world of change and chaos.

On the question of how we teach people resilience, Sister Jayanti advised that BK gives free courses in 110 countries worldwide where we teach people Raja yoga meditation, positive thinking and inner values.

Sister Jayanti also explained that our role in the Conference is incognito and quiet. As an NGO, we cannot interact directly in the negotiations. We see our part more in creating an atmosphere of peace, so that the decision makers are able to take the things forward in the right direction.

Interfaith Dialogue: "Faith Communities on Climate Actions"



The Interfaith Dialogue session was hosted by the Indonesian Ministry of Environment and Global Muslim Network in their beautifully decorated Pavilion. *Nana Firman* from the Global Muslim Climate Network moderated the panel and asked Sister Jayanti to share her views on the transition towards clean technology. She emphasized the spiritual principle of sharing: how we develop solar technology and how we train up other people for its replication.

Dr. Hayu Prabowo, from the National Council of Ulama, Indonesia, described the fatwa being issued for the protection of forests from fires. He said we are in a moral crisis if we consider the forest an object to exploit.

Peter Pavlóvic, World Council of Churches shared that faith is about transformation. That includes personal change and changing quantities, quality, production and consumption. He took up five 'P's: Prayer, Personal, Parochial/Community, Political, and Planetary.



Nigel Crawhall, from the Engaged Buddhists, talked about the essence of Buddha's teachings which is to let go. Attachment to technology and wealth has caused this crisis. We must change, so that we can all live together.

Ciara Shannon, from Green Faith, thanked Indonesia for this special program, as, so far, no other country has hosted a similar event. She said that, by now, nearly every religion has issued a climate statement and is in process of shifting their investments towards clean technologies.

Arts and Culture space

Myrthe Romeijn from Holland played a moving and inspiring song on the ukulele, an instrument of Hawaii. Myrthe explained that despite of multiple differences, music has the power to connect people as one human family. The musical session ended with a workshop full of joy and unity.



Read more: www.eco.brahmakumaris.org

