



## Climate Change Conference COP23

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017, Bonn, Germany

### World Climate Summit

Klaus Peter and Dagmar participated in the World Climate Summit, an international platform for solutions to climate change and accelerating the green economy, at Kameha Grand Hotel, which is very grand. Ashok Sridharan, the Mayor of Bonn, who is of Indian origin, warmly welcomed the delegates. He said that cities and regions from all over the world have come together not to demand but to deliver solutions. Princess Abze Djigma, Burkina Faso Climate Ambassador, shared that "I'm not just giving a message to you, I'm here to serve my brothers and sisters". Klaus Peter was interviewed by Japan's NHK World TV and he highlighted the fact that a change of awareness and attitudes will lead to a change in habits and lifestyle, and thus reduce our carbon foot print.



### Ringo Meeting

For many years BK has been part of the Research and Independent Non-governmental Constituency (RINGO) and this morning, Valériane participated in their daily briefing. RINGO is bringing study and research to the Climate conference. This year the climate conference aims to finalize the "Application of the Paris Agreement" and hopefully next year's COP in Katowice, Poland can approve the so-called "Rule Book". Only 3 out of the 120 scientists participating in the RINGO meeting, can observe the negotiations and share the latest progress and trends.

### Solar Impulse Foundation



Emissions from transportation, and in particular flying, are a big contributor to climate change. Following the success of the first solar flight around the world, Pilot Bertrand Picard has initiated the Solar impulse foundation. Today was the launch of the second phase of "1000 solutions" which aims to protect the environment in a profitable way. Prince Albert of Monaco, the Mayor of Paris and Ms. Patricia Espinosa participated in the launch. Ms. Espinosa praised the value of those who are working hard to find solutions to the climate crisis. More information is available from <http://aroundtheworld.solarimpulse.com/>.

## Climate Action Summit

President Trump has said he wants USA to leave the Paris agreement. So, many important regions, cities and states in USA have initiated a campaign called: "We are still in", under the leadership of Jerry Brown, Governor of California. An important Climate Action Summit will be held September 2018 in San Francisco and more information is available from <https://globalclimateactionsummit.org/>.



It was announced that Patricia Espinosa, Michael Bloomberg, Anand Mahindra, Chairman Mahindra Group, will co-chair the summit. Valériane, as a representative of the faith-based groups, attended the summit briefing. She made the point that it is most difficult to change the mindsets of people and that is one of the reasons why the negotiations are not progressing as they need to. Prior to the COP 21 in Paris and the COP 22 in Morocco, the summit of conscience addressed this from a spiritual, religious and human science point of view. The California Summit could probably benefit from these perspectives and Valériane suggested that Nicolas Hulot, minister of environment for France, should be involved.

## Round table discussions

In the "Sustainable Innovation Forum" the business community gathered for a two-day program being held in an award-winning, inflatable tent. It is powered by food waste converted into clean energy. Brahma Kumaris was invited to moderate a round-table discussion on "The challenge of changing mindset". Sister Jayanti and Golo introduced the topic and had a lively discussion with interested participants. Later, Sister Jayanti shared the main points with the whole audience:

- a positive mindset works
- In a fear driven mindset, we take wrong decisions
- Mind is the seed and it is the start of everything
- Where does systemic change actually start?
- It requires courage to go from linear to circular mindset







*Sister Jayanti and Nik Gowing*

Nik Gowing, the moderator of the forum, ended the day by saying: it is going to be tough, maybe tougher than we think!

### **Visionary Leadership for the Future**

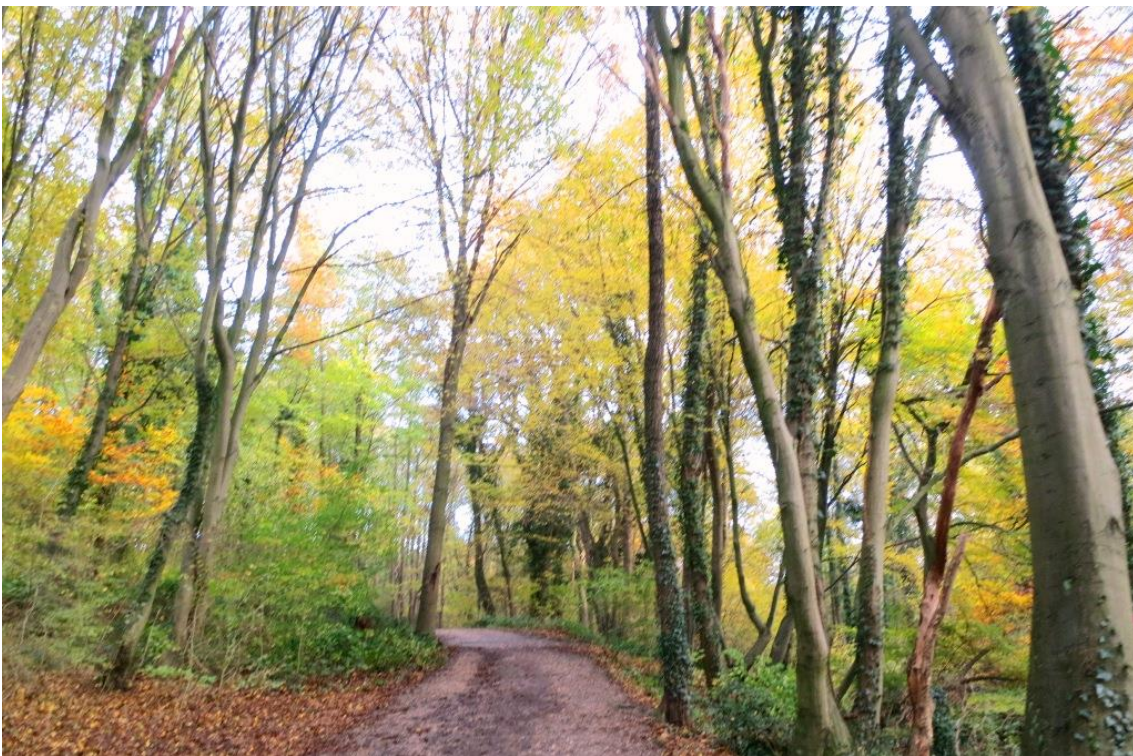
Brahma Kumaris organised a public programme in the Rheinisches Landesmuseum. The programme was recognized by the City of Bonn as a special COP23 event. Gopi and Caro warmly welcomed the 40 participants. Thomas Bruhn of the Potsdam Research Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies moderated the event. His passion is to connect people from the “knowing” scientific community with “caring” people from civil society.



Golo talked about Dadi Janki's (Brahma Kumaris' leader) inspirational and supportive leadership which ultimately led to all the solar installations at the Brahma Kumaris. Anne Barre, founder of Women Engage for a Common Future, talked about the importance of gender equality in tackling climate change. She was amazed by the ignorance of the local knowledge base which could play a vital role in helping local communities.



In her talk, Sister Jayanti highlighted respect and simplicity. When we lose touch with ourselves, there is emptiness inside. Many compensate for this with shopping and over consumption. She said that the foremost quality in a leader is humility and being able to let go of false ego. A genuine humility comes and then it is easy to give respect to others and to the earth. Women can be instruments to bring compassion and love. This is leadership from inside - out. When the pressure from outside increases, the leadership from within needs to be supported by silence.



*The local forest – a beautiful silence*



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