

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



Climate Change Conference COP23 in Bonn, Germany



The Road to Bonn: Approximately 25,000 delegates from around the world, representing governments, civil society, the private sector, inter-governmental bodies and other non-Party stakeholders will gather in Bonn for the Conference of Parties (COP) to advance the aims and ambitions of the Paris Agreement. It is the biggest conference Germany has ever hosted and this year Fiji is the political host, bringing the voice of the small island states into the negotiations.



COP23 | FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017

The COP in Bonn is the 9th climate change conference that Brahma Kumaris has actively participated in. This year we have a strong presence of German BKs, all with a genuine interest in the environment.



"India-One" part of poster campaign

In a miraculous beginning, Brahma Kumaris' environment efforts have been highlighted prominently by the German Environment ministry choosing "India One" as part of its campaign ["Ready for the Future"](#). Minister Barbara Hendricks officially presented the posters to the public.



India-One at a bus stop in Bonn.

As Germany is actively engaged in the climate change conference, BKs have conducted environment programs in several German cities. The aim is to raise the awareness of the connection between spirituality and the environment. The first city was Hamburg.

Hamburg 2nd Nov

In Hamburg, Juan from Canada performed a Hummingbird, an experiential workshop on personal empowerment. The participants had a chance to open their hearts and explore new possibilities to improve their relationship with the world around them. He was also able to meet and connect with Hamburg family.

Bremen – Friday 3rd Nov.

Around 25 people participated in "World in Transition" a program conducted by Golo in Bremen. The program was organized by Bri and the local BK team and took place at the House of Science in the centre of the city. Golo described the latest scientific evidence of climate change, presented the solar work of the Brahma Kumaris in India and then made the connection between our inner and outer world. The program was concluded by a meditation for the environment, blessing cards and sweets.



Golo presenting 'The world in transition'

Climate March - Saturday 4th Nov.

About 25,000 demonstrators gathered in Bonn ahead of the UN climate negotiations, demanding that governments step up action to halt global warming, starting with a rapid phase-out of coal-burning power plants.



Valeriane with Franciscan colleague Budi from Indonesia and others from Africa.

Decked out in red to signify their "Stop Coal" campaign, the protesters chanted and beat drums as they marched through the former West Germany capital towards the UN centre that will host the 12-day, 196-nation talks. These nations are tasked with implementing the landmark Paris Agreement. Many young people and many of the environment organisations participated in the demonstration. Around 300 participants came by bike from Belgium. It took them 3 days and they highlighted the connection between food production and the climate crisis. There was an overall atmosphere of joy but also concern for the future of the planet.



Sunday 5th Nov

Getting ready: The delegation and the support team arrived in Bonn. The local host team from Bonn/Cologne - Gopi, Heidi, Antje and Simone welcomed Sonja (Denmark), Valeriane (Switzerland), Golo (India/Germany), Marek (Poland) and from Germany; Thorsten, Hilde, Carolin, Bri and Dagmar. Didier from France manages the kitchen and makes sure the diet is vegan, supported by Rita, Uta and others.

The preparations were intense with setting up the stand, logistical meetings and the registration. Sister Jayanti arrived in the afternoon, warmly welcomed by the team. Everyone shared their hopes and feelings for the conference and was briefed upon the latest scientific findings and the inside story of the climate negotiations.



Sister Jayanti shared her vision that the heart will come back into the centre of everything we do. The peaceful and bright future should be visible in our faces and actions. We shall inspire confidence, simplicity and lightness.



On behalf of our very active team of youngsters, Juan officially handed over the candle of responsibility to Sister Jayanti. He promised to prepare an early extra report on their participation in the various programs and sessions of the conference of Youth (COY) which always happens before the actual COP.

Now the team is set to go!



Thorsten, Juan, Marek, Carolin and Hilde at registration.



Steffi from Vienna together with the Prime Minister of Fiji during the Conference of Youth

We also like to mention and thank Peter in Oslo who is polishing the reports and gives them the final shape.