

Earth Charter Netherlands conference

On Monday 29th, Sister Jayanti of Brahma Kumaris joined a conference in the Netherlands entitled 'One Earth Community, One Common Destiny'.

The full-day conference, a celebration of the 15 years of completion of the Earth Charter in the Netherlands, took place in a beautiful estate in the middle of a forest called 'Zonheuvell'.

Hotel Zonheuvell is a 100% climate neutral location with the quality label 'Green key gold'. Accommodations with a Green key meet rigorous standards in terms of sustainability and the environment which focus on use of energy, gas and water, waste management, sustainable purchasing etc.

Around 100 people were present at the conference. Steven Rockefeller, one of the Earth Charter Commissioners, was a keynote speaker spoke about Democratic Equality, Economic Inequality and the Earth Charter. Other speakers were Mirjam Vilela (Earth Charter Costa Rica) and Kartikeya Sarabhai (Co-Chair Earth Charter International Council, Centre for Environment Education, India).

There was a Earth Charter Dialogue with Rev. Dr Thabo Makgoba (Archbishop of South Africa) and Mary Evelyn Tucker (Member Earth Charter Drafting Committee, Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology).

In one of the thematic dialogues, Sister Jayanti had a deep and interesting conversation with Ruud Lubbers, former PM of the Netherlands, Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, and several other participants. The topic was 'Everything we treasure: for a world free from nuclear weapons'; the message Sister Jayanti shared was about inner peace and non-violence, inner disarmament and relationships.

In the plenary session 'Towards a shared future with the Earth Charter and SDGs' Sister Jayanti shared a platform with Jan Pronk (former Minister of Housing Spatial Planning and the Environment who had also held various posts at the UN) and Rabbi Soetendorp (Earth Charter commissionaire and Council member Charter of Compassion).

Sister Jayanti explained that Brahma Kumaris worldwide work firstly at a personal level in the area of human dignity and human rights: When I change, the world changes.

Going inside we will come to know our own core values; when we respect ourselves we will also respect others and naturally all aspects of life.



Participants created a painting together



Tree planting ceremony



Co-creation at the dialogue tables