



Environment Programs in Kenya

The United Nations Environment Assembly took place in Nairobi, Kenya 23rd-27th May. After a busy week, part of the Brahma Kumaris delegation visited other cities in Kenya for some environment programs.

The first stop was Mombasa, located by the coast of the Indian Ocean. Pratibha Patel, Golo Pilz and Sonja Ohlsson stayed 4 days in a beautiful resort on the north coast. After a long break, Pratibha returned to Mombasa, so she was busy meeting her many friends and students. On Tuesday 31st May we had two programs arranged by Bina Dimani.



County Government of Mombasa host program

The County Government of Mombasa hosted a presentation by the BK Environment Initiative on renewable energy for the future and living in harmony. The program took place in the board room of the Department of Energy and Trade on the 9th floor of the Bima Tower in the city centre. About 15 people participated, a mix of government officials and BK's. Everyone was interested in the topic, as there is a great need and big potential for renewable energy. We had an interaction on the deeper reason for the state of the world at large today. We finished with a guided meditation and a reception with tea and snacks given by the department.





NGO Networking

In the afternoon the environment team paid a courtesy call to "Coastal Oceans Research and Development – Indian Ocean (CORDIO) East Africa". CORDIO is a very active knowledge based NGO researching coral bleaching and the effects of climate change on the coastal area. Just outside of Mombasa is one of the world's largest coral reefs. It was a happy sharing of the work that we each do (<http://cordioea.net/>).

Mombasa BK Class

The BK's in Mombasa enjoyed a presentation on our world in transition and a meditation linking mind and environment. It was a new experience for most of them, and everyone enjoyed it a lot.





Kisumu

The second stop in Kenya was Kisumu, Kenya's 3rd largest city, situated by Lake Victoria. Before heading to the public program, the visiting group of Golo, Sonja, Urvashi and Dorcas was given a beautiful welcome lunch at the Kisumu Sailing Club at Victoria Lake.

Maseno University

Maseno University hosted the program called World in Transition – Renewable Energy and ethics for the Future, in partnership with Brahma Kumaris and SusWatch (Sustainable Environmental Development Watch Network, Kenya). Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Joseph S. Chacha, warmly welcomed us in his office before the presentation.



The audience of about 50 students, professors, and civil society appreciated Golo's talk very much and they were interested in a partnership with Brahma Kumaris. As a result of the presentation they will try to allocate funds to install a solar installation at the campus and become a role model for others.

The Equator

The Maeson University claims to be only university located right on the equator, so we of course afterwards visited the nearby equator landmark.



Kisumu BK Class

The local BK's were keen to understand the link between the environment and meditation. They listened with great interest and were inspired to change to a more environmentally friendly lifestyle.

Visiting Makina Village

Dorcas arranged a special visit for Golo, Sonja and Urvashi to visit her family home. It is a 3 hours' drive from Kisumu, close to the Ugandan border. It was a unique opportunity to meet her father, an old school teacher, his wife and the extended family. We were welcomed by prayer to their house, located in a peaceful and green environment in the middle of the bush land. It was a sweet sharing about life, God and the environment.



Nairobi - World Environment Day

The last public program was dedicated to the World Environment Day, held in the Serve Africa Retreat Centre in Nairobi on Sunday 4th June. Golo's presentation "Living in Harmony – Creating Inner Resilience in Challenging Times" was attended with interest by 75 people, with many guests from the previous UNEA conference. At the end Sonja guided a green angel meditation and Sister Vedanti emphasized the need to connect to God in all situations.

Sonja received a last minute invitation to talk on faith and environment on Monday the 6th at the local United Religions Initiative's program for the World Environment Day.

A Day dedicated to Nature



On Sunday 5th June, the World Environment Day itself, a group from the Nairobi BK centre went to Rift Valley to visit a farmhouse. On the way we stopped at a piece of land overlooking Naivasha Lake. The idea is to develop the location to be an eco-friendly village. Later we had meditation for the environment with a group of visiting doctors in a nearby farmhouse.



In Gilgil village we visited BK Mary. She is running a nursery and school for abandoned street children. It was a very touching experience to meet all the kids, share best wishes and hear some of their stories.

We say thank you for a wonderful tour with a great opportunity to link spirituality with sustainability in Kenya.

