

# Living in Harmony

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



## Report from Climate Change Conference COP20 in Lima

Friday 12<sup>th</sup> Dec.

We are reaching the end of COP 20 and the end of the many programs in Lima. Approximately 25 programs were arranged over the two weeks between the local center and the international team in Lima.



### University - "Paths towards Sustainability to face climate change"

Brahma Kumaris' final program contributed towards a 3 day seminar: *"International encounter - Paths towards Sustainability to face climate change"* arranged by the University Ricardo Palma in co-operation with other organizations. The program was called *"Alternative technology in the context of climate change and civilization"*.



Golo Pilz presented *"Experiences of using Solar Panels in India"*. The panel drew approx. 60 students and professors to the event. Another panelist, Mr. Nelthon Friederich, from ITAIPU in Brazil, had shared a panel with Golo before, back in 2012 during Rio + 20. Mr. Friederich also talked about changing minds and touching hearts.

### Activities mobilized and motivated by the active local BK center



**CUMBRE DE LOS PUEBLOS**  
**frente al cambio climático**  
Lima, del 8 al 11 de diciembre 2014

The local BK center had a one-day exhibition at the Peoples' Summit on Climate Change at the Exposition Park (Parque de la exposición) in Lima, which is very close to Lima central, the historic colonial centre of the city. The park is large with streets that run alongside. The exhibition was called: *"Spiritual Consciousness and Climate*

*Change"* - This space held dialogues, reflections, both dynamic and meditative, videos and information about Brahma Kumaris projects for environmental care. Many people came and were interested to take the initiative, with a focus on how to change our thoughts, to other regions in Peru. The young people liked the '10 Ways to Change the World'. Many leaders from other organizations made their way through the People's Summit. Read more at:

<http://cumbrepuebloscop20.org/about-us/peoples-summit-on-climate-change/>

## Voices for Climate fair - Art exhibition and Interfaith



Artist Mercedes Delgado Santolalla is connected to the local BK center in Lima. She brought beautiful subtle art into the Climate Change Arena with an art exhibition called "Indigenous Pavilion at the Voices for Climate Venue". During the 2 weeks period, a BK from the local center was invited to share our Environmental Initiative blessing cards with visitors. As mentioned in previous report the local BK center had a one day exhibition at the fair "**Voices for the Climate**" at the interfaith stand and more than 300 people visited that day.

**MARCHA MUNDIAL  
EN DEFENSA  
DE LA MADRE TIERRA**

**10 DIC**  
**09:00 a.m.**  
**Campo de Marte**  
Cruce de las avenidas: De la Peruanidad,  
28 de Julio y Salaverry (Jesús María)

CONVOCA: **CUMBRE DE  
LOS PUEBLOS**  
frente al cambio climático

**#YoMarcho10D #Marcha10D**

www.cumbrepuebloscop20.org  / CumbrePueblosCOP20  @PueblosCOP20

Many local BK's participated in **People's Climate March on 10th Dec.** See more here:

<http://cumbrepuebloscop20.org/peoples-climate-march/>



**Experiences from the BK Core team:** We have experienced so much respect for the BK's from the organizations with which we worked throughout this year preparing for COP. We are happy that we were able to serve. We felt the joy and the power of the messages on our posters: *Environment of Peace - The Power of Change - Rediscovering your Values - Love that Heals*

**Past Events:** Along with all the wonderful things happening inside COP, there have been a plethora of events outside of COP . . . 25 at last count! Three of them happened during the past days and are being slipped into this final report.

**Growing Collective Consciousness** - conversation with filmmaker John D. Liu. The evening started with an interview with Rajendra K. Pachauri, chairman of IPCC. Then there was a deep and meaningful conversation amongst the panelists which included Sister Gayatri. Francois who was in the audience thought that it was one of the best interviews during the COP, with a basic and holistic human and spiritual approach to climate change, which was needed and very much appreciated by all present. Due to it being a very late evening program on one of our busiest days we will have to wait until the film is out for more details. We eagerly await!

The poster features a blue background with a mountain range at the bottom. At the top left is the Lima COP20 CMP10 logo. The title 'GROWING COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS FROM THE VOICES FOR THE CLIMATE' is in large white letters, followed by 'Conversations with John D. Liu y Tiahoga Ruge' in smaller white letters. Below the title is a row of six portraits of the panelists. Under each portrait is their name and title. At the bottom, the event details are listed: 'Lima, wednesday december 10<sup>th</sup>, from 20H00 to 22H00' and 'VIVERO Auditorium, Jockey Club - Voices for the Climate'. The footer contains logos for PERU, Environmental Education Media Project, AVAAZ.ORG, WeForest, #tagboard, and libétula.

**GROWING COLLECTIVE CONSCIOUSNESS  
FROM THE VOICES FOR THE CLIMATE**  
Conversations with John D. Liu y Tiahoga Ruge

**RAJENDRA K. PACHAURI**  
Chairman of the IPCC

**YOLANDA KAKABADSE**  
President of WWF

**FREDDY EHLERS**  
Minister of "Buen Vivir" (Good Living) - Ecuador

**GAYATRI NARAIN**  
Representative of the Brahma Kumaris at the UN and UNICEF

**ISRAEL MALDONADO**  
General Coordinator COY 10

**HERNAN BLANCO**  
Expert in Conflict Management

Lima, wednesday december 10<sup>th</sup>, from 20H00 to 22H00  
VIVERO Auditorium, Jockey Club - Voices for the Climate

PERU Environmental Education Media Project AVAAZ.ORG WeForest #tagboard libétula

## Filmed interview on food

Tamasin Ramsay was invited to participate in a filmed interview with distinguished environmental director John Liu and famous Peruvian Chef Gaston Acurio. The filming took place in Gaston's Peruvian restaurant 'La Mar,' a wonderful open fresh space with big wooden tables and a thatched roof, creating a beautiful indoor-outdoor feel. Gaston spoke about his love for cooking and his deep appreciation for all aspects of food, including the contribution of energy and life that takes to create a meal.



Although his restaurant is not vegetarian, he is cooking with less meat and fish, and sources it carefully. He was very honest when he shared to Tamasin - off camera - his inner dilemma about this. Gaston also purposely sources his vegetables, fruits and grains from smallholder farmers and those from lower income areas. Two other COP participants spoke with Gaston. Then it was Tamasin's turn. Sensing his gentle and deep-thinking nature, she asked Gaston:

*"You obviously have a sense of reverence and appreciation for food. What do you think about the effect of mood on food, and one's state of mind during cooking?"* He replied, *"If my mood is not filled with love, it's quite simple - I do not cook. Cooking for me starts with my emotions. If my heart is in a good place, everything works beautifully. It is like a dance. In the past, when I have tried to cook and my mood hasn't been right, nothing works. I know now. The love comes first. Everything else then comes easily."*



### **Meeting Ms. Figueres**

In the beginning of COP Valeriane had the opportunity to briefly meet Executive Secretary to UNFCCC Ms. Figueres and convey personal greeting from Sister Jayanti.

## **Interfaith - Climate change and human rights at the heart of the WCC's work at COP 20.**

Climate justice has been the focal point of the World Council of Churches (WCC) advocacy strategy at 20th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which concluded on 12 December in Lima, Peru. **See more Appendix 1.**

## Final meeting of the Interfaith Group with UNFCCC



### Small sustainable practices in the BK group at COP20:

Many went on bicycle to COP, we got blessing cards and gift bags made by recycled paper, no throw-away material used for lunch packs.



### Feedback and Preparing for COP21

The BK delegation had their last meeting Friday 12th Dec. We made 2 rounds of constructive questions as feedback on the COP itself. Q1: What has been your most positive experience of COP20?



Hurrah for our local BK family and excellent COP host.



Peru will forever be connected to Paris!

What are your positive suggestions for the Climate Change Conference in Paris 2015?



## Celebrations

The fantastic BK center in Lima had prepared a grand celebration the last evening of COP. The living room was transformed to a stage and the BK family from far and wide circled around the new performance stage. Local artist performed, Lakshmi came to grant blessings, the speeches were many and even Father Christmas made his way there.

## Macchu Picchu - Cusco

Half of the group set off for a final adventure together - a magical visit to the holy ruins of the Incas in Macchu Picchu and to old Inca headquarters in Cusco.



## Final count of activities:

Public Programs: 18, Gatherings: 25, Media interviews: 5

**Special thanks** to Mr. Stuart Scott who shared the stand with us, and to Desert Rose who brought music to COP.



**COP20 concludes with a decision, after a day of drama, see appendix 2.**

Read more at: [www.environment.brahmakumaris.org](http://www.environment.brahmakumaris.org)

(Appendices below)

## Appendix 1:

Overall, the WCC's participation at the UNFCCC aims to broaden and deepen the discussion and understanding about climate change and human rights. At the official side events at COP 20, in meetings with government delegations and throughout activities held at the Peoples' Summit, the WCC initiatives has been raising awareness on climate justice and supporting the work of other partners and networks.

**"Climate change threatening human rights: challenges and actions"** was an official side event held on 10 December at the COP 20 promoted by the WCC in partnership with Religions for Peace, Quaker United Nations Office, Centre for International Environmental Law, Earthjustice and Friedrich-Ebert Stiftung. The event was inspired by the conviction that the increasing impacts of anthropogenic climate change are a grave danger to humankind and nature, severely jeopardizing human rights and life on Earth.

**John Knox**, UN independent expert on environment and human rights, speaker at the event, believes that human rights mechanisms are a helpful tool for the work on climate change and to clarify the rules on climate policies. *"Laws on indigenous people can also have impact on climate refugees,"* he said.

The reason for the continuous participation of the WCC in the UN led process on climate change is based on the pursuit of justice, ethics, solidarity, equity and Christian love. These values for God's good creation, environment, neighbours and the endurance of life in all its forms on our planet earth, were being affirmed through the activities. For over two decades, the WCC has struggled to bring to the international negotiations the voices of the marginalized, advocating for a life to be lived with justice and dignity.

A strong testimony from **Victoria Tauli-Corpuz**, UN special Rapporteur on Indigenous People, gave evidence that the absence of the state among indigenous people is an aspect that directly increases the destruction of the environment. *"The voices I heard here at COP 20 show that environmental integrity is violated every day and that indigenous people are the first one affected in nearly all contexts where nature is suffering,"* she said.

## Appendix 2:

Lima, 15<sup>th</sup> December — The UNFCCC's twentieth session of the Conference of Parties (COP20) adopted the 'Lima Call for Climate Action' as the outcome of the two weeks of climate talks under the Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP), a feat that was felt impossible as the talks verged on collapse.

The ADP is the body dealing with the process to arrive at a new agreement to be concluded in Paris next year under the UNFCCC, which is to take effect in 2020.

The final decision did not come easy, and several iterations of the document had to be prepared before Parties could adopt it. Previous versions of the draft decision, prepared by the ADP co-chairs, did not reflect the views of several developing country

Parties and there were issues on which Parties remained deeply divided (See TWN Update 8: [‘ADP: Crisis over method of work on draft decision text’](#)).

The COP20 President Manuel Pulgar Vidal, the Minister of Environment of Peru, stepped in and assumed charge. On Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> December, ADP Co-chairs: Artur Runge-Metzger (European Union) and Kishan Kumarsingh (Trinidad and Tobago), under the guidance of Vidal, prepared a draft decision and distributed it to Parties late evening. On Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, when the ADP convened, most developing countries spoke in a loud and resounding voice rejecting the text prepared by the co-chairs, as they said it was imbalanced and did not reflect key issues such as differentiation between developed and developing countries and principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibility (CBDR).

Other major sticky issues were the lack of any financial contribution for the post 2020 period, disagreement over the scope of the intended nationally determined contributions (INDCs) in lieu of the 2015 agreement and a process for review of the INDCs next year, failure to include issue of ‘loss and damage’ and very weak pre-2020 climate action. (Separate article on this exchange to follow).

In rejecting the ADP Co-chairs’ draft decision, the developing countries also appealed to the Peruvian Minister to intervene and to restore balance in the decision by reflecting the concerns of developing countries. Developed countries on the other hand wanted the Co-chairs’ text to be approved immediately at the plenary.

With the talks in crisis, what followed were closed-door meetings and negotiations of groups of countries with the COP President for the next eight hours. In these meetings, the COP President attempted to find out what Parties could live with and what their red lines were. Meanwhile, the weather outside had taken a turn and it had become chilly as observers and other attendees waited in nervous anticipation of what the next steps would be and how would difficult issues get resolved. Many delegates were on the way to the airport or had already left.

The COP convened again around 11.30 pm on Saturday and the draft decision prepared under the charge of Minister Pulgar was handed out to Parties. With the words, “it is so decided”, the COP President gavelled the decision—without any Parties raising any objection—thus adopting Lima Call for Climate Action. The decision now was viewed as having more balance, with language on CBDR, reference to ‘loss and damage’ and with the scope of INDCs not being mitigation centric. Language to the effect that the INDCs would not pre-judge the Paris agreement is also there. There would also be no ex-ante review of the INDCs prior to Paris. (Separate article on analysis of the decision to follow).

Welcoming the decision, groups of Parties gave brief statements appreciating the manner in which COP President had handled the work and how Lima had paved the way for the Paris agreement.