

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



23rd May 2016 - First Day of the United Nations Environment Assembly UNEA-2, Nairobi, Kenya



The Opening of the United Nations Environment Assembly

The Assembly, around 170 member states and the civil society, were asked by the President of UNEA Dr. Sanjaasuren Oyun to give one minute of Meditation to Mother Earth and to all those who has lost their lives in protecting the environment. It was a powerful opening. The Executive Director of UN's Environment Programme, Mr. Achim Steiner said in his opening address, that the world is looking at us now and they have their hopes in us to make a real difference. We have to enter the meetings with good will, and start focusing on the things you agree on before discussing the things you don't agree on. The real game changer is that we are now 7,5 billion people on this planet .



The President said later that it is now time to deliver; the time for talking is over. She ended by saying that when we are busy in conferences and technical policy issues, we sometimes forget the environment itself. I encourage you all to remember where the water in your offices actually comes from, to take a moment to appreciate the resources of Mother Earth and teach your children the same.

The Brahma Kumaris (BK) UNEA delegation were all present: Pratibha Patel, Urvashi Vithal and Dorcas Alusala from Kenya, Golo Pilz from India/Germany and Sonja Ohlsson from Denmark.

The Exhibition

During the whole day, the Brahma Kumaris' exhibition was very busy and well visited. The 10-ways to change the world cards are extremely popular and a good opportunity for personal exchange in a sometimes impersonal setting. Dorcas was quite busy during the day attending many of the sessions.



Prof. Jared Onyari, CEO National Council of NGOs, Nairobi, Kenya meeting Pratibha and Urvashi

Planning Climate Change Conference in Morocco with Climate Action



Networking and meetings are in the DNA of any conference. Sonja and Golo met with Anna Watson from Climate Action over a cup of coffee and had an interesting conversation on the role of spirituality in business. Climate Action and BK have been collaborating for some years during the Sustainable Innovation Forums at the climate change conferences. Anna will explore the possibility for co-operation with the Brahma Kumaris at the next climate change conference in Morocco

Tuesday 24th May - Side event:

“Exploring the contribution role of faith communities in delivering the Sustainable Development Goals”

On the second day of UNEA, the faith-based organizations gathered for their first side-event in UNEP’s history. The hall was full well before the event started. The gathering was a diverse gathering of many Christian groups – Anglican, Catholic, Protestant, Presbyterians, Adventists – plus a few from Buddhism, Islam and spiritual groups like the Brahma Kumaris.



Opening remarks were given by Peter Denton, Minister of the United Church of Canada. He observed that the faith based organizations are already playing a crucial role; working on a daily basis to enable the poor to have a better life, going beyond material things. The faith organizations already demonstrate care and compassion for others, but governments need to be more aware of that.

The representative from the youth catholic network, David Munene, shared about the work of his organization. He said that others often describe Africa as vulnerable, but we believe Africa is very capable. There is a new publication by the “The Faiths and the Sustainable Development Goals” called “Faith for the Future”. His end remark was that climate change doesn’t care about which religion you belong to.



Golo commented that we are all aware of the rapid environmental degradation and its fundamental consequences for the future of human life on earth. However it is also quite obvious the present approach based solely on strategy and technology is too one dimensional. It has become clear that the inner spiritual dimension of all of us, the soul and its relation to the Divine has to be brought into the equation. We have to reach out to people and inspire them. We must infuse them with hope and faith. We must become an example of the change we want to see in the world. In order to do so, people need to be strengthened and empowered to take the right decisions and choices. Here we see yoga or meditation as a very powerful tool for such self-transformation.

After sharing about the of renewable energy projects in Brahma Kumaris spiritual headquarters, Golo concluded by saying it would be a great step forward if all faith based organizations and communities could agree on a common agenda to implement renewable energies on a large scale. We believe that spirituality and technology should join hands. The fusion of both will drive us towards a better future. Let us strengthen to achieve a common vision of a paradise. Let us jointly work together on this.

Peter Denton finished this successful and unique event by saying that all major shifts in society have been started by individuals, never by groups. So, never underestimate the power of a single person.



The role of ethics and renewable energy in sustainable development

Strathmore University, which is run by Opus Dei, had arranged an afternoon talk for Golo at their Energy Research Centre. The manager Geoffrey Ronah introduced Golo to a small and very interested audience.

It was an excellent opportunity to introduce the renewable energy projects of the Brahma Kumaris and their connection to our spiritual lifestyle.

There were questions on how to get funding and Golo shared his experience that you have to move step by step and that dedication, patience and a spiritual lifestyle helps a lot. There were also deep questions about yoga and meditation. It became a good discussion on how meditation can give back hope and make you strong.



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