



Report Bonn, SB48 Climate Change session 7 - 8 May 2018

From Sunday, 06 May to Thursday, 10 May

Brahma Kumaris (BK) used an exhibition space under the Capacity building for education, training and public awareness of energy and sustainable development.

Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficial technologies and sustainable lifestyles, based on integrity and care. BK showcased the "India One" Solar Power Plant and highlighted ways to support the shifts in awareness and attitude needed to bring about behavioural change.



The exhibition allowed the team to interact with many different kinds of people and to describe the work of BK. They shared insights on how climate change is the result of humanity's collective consciousness; how positive, benevolent thoughts and attitudes could have positive impacts on our decision making and on our planet.

Monday 7 May, 2pm in the WCCB Interfaith coordination meeting



Daniele Violetti, from the UNFCCC, who was an Executive Officer, liaising with faith-based groups, has a new function (finance and capacity building). So, faith-based groups are going to be under the Global Climate Action team for coordination and interaction with each other and other constituencies. Daniele confirmed that we should engage with the Conference Affairs Team concerning space for meditation during the COP 24 and having negotiators on board would certainly help. He advised that we engage with the Polish government and religious leaders on this too – noting that negotiators are also pushing for this. It is not only a push from civil society faith groups. The UNFCCC Executive Secretary will be in Greece for the inter-faith conference at an inter-religious conference in June organized by the orthodox Greeks.

Action by Churches Together Alliance (ACT - a coalition of more than 140 churches and church related organizations) suggested that religious organizations could have their own Talanoa Dialogue so that our collective voice could be included in these processes. Many are already doing this. This could give birth to a possible statement for the COP24. ACT USA will hold a Talanoa Dialogue at the Global Climate Action Summit to be held in California, September 2018. This is intended to lead to a substantive outcome.

BK will also consider writing a statement for the COP24 to find ways to encourage this voice to be heard by politicians. Many government policy makers do not believe people would be willing to change behaviours for the help of the common good. Therefore, it is necessary to make clear messages on what moral and ethical achievements are desired to come out of Poland during COP24. BK did this in previous COPs and it made a difference.

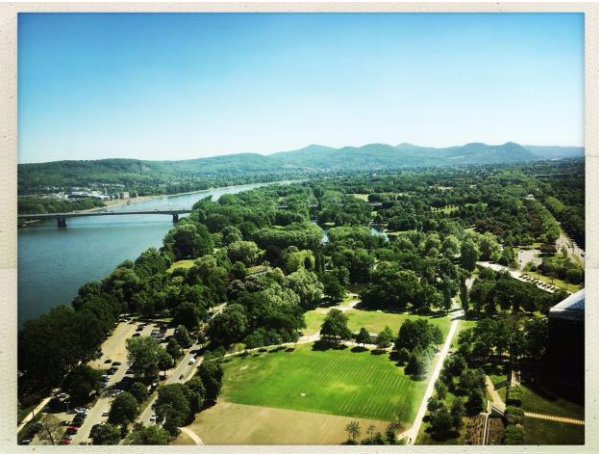
ACT, Quakers United Nations office (QUNO) and BK would help in drafting this. Consideration is needed of ways to create a statement that weaves in the achievements made at the COP24. This should include finance, loss and damage compensation for victims of climate change (called L+D) and sustainability to support those whose lives are too poor to even consider the 3 basic requirements of diet, waste and energy. These are already significant feature of lives in the most vulnerable communities. The International Alliance of Catholic Development Agencies (CIDSE) identified ways to weave technical and the sustainable aspects of lives together into the COP24 proposal. BK supported this bridging of the actions of the wealthiest and poorest to achieve what is most important. CIDSE also offered to administer the different strategic actions before COP24

Tuesday 8th, 10 am: Living the change

This global, multi-faith initiative, held in the Marriott Hotel, was to discuss sustainable living. BK took part in this initiative that was launched at COP23 in Bonn. It brings together a broad coalition of faith-based organizations and communities. BK promote climate mitigation through individual behaviour changes at scale in the areas of plant-based diet, eco-friendly transportation and renewable energy use. Testimonials and Stories of Change can be seen here: <https://livingthechange.net/index.html>



Tuesday 12.30pm: Linking Data and Aggregation Deliverables



This workshop was held at the premises of the UN Climate Change secretariat in Bonn on 8 May 2018. From there, the Rhein and Bonn look amazing.

The participants looked at data aggregation against 2018 Key Moments, as part of the ongoing collaboration on Climate Action Methodology, Data, and Analysis.

Methods were created to show the global impact of climate actions around the world.

Tuesday, 3pm. Earth witness



“Why aren’t we really mitigating?” Honest conversations for effective climate action.

Brahma Kumaris, QUNO and Quakers took part in this side event. The discussion was to find the most effective and ethical mitigation approaches for climate change, and to ask why are they not being sufficiently implemented? Which approaches help us shift from resource exploitation to ecological integrity? Which approaches help us avoid reliance on unproven geo-engineering, which may fail to address root causes and may cause damage to ecosystems?

Tynday Centre for Climate Change:



Dr Kevin Anderson said that there is an ongoing litany of technological fraud. There is a need for a change of paradigm. Action has to be taken instantly. Real mitigation means:

1. Implicit change in behaviour and habits of high emitters
2. Use every means to raise energy efficiency.

Dr Anderson's presentation was through video that can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cpy0ivgn32U&feature=youtu.be>

Centre for Alternative Technology:

Paul Allen said we have all the technology needed to take action and meet mitigation demands. Why don't we go for zero carbon, powering up alternative energies? A global transition to 100% renewables is feasible and realistic. We have to stop short term thinking with short term revenue prospects.

Maryknoll Catholic Community:

Father John Brinkman said a spiritual transformation to sustainable lifestyle is needed. We have to be awakened out of this cultural pathology that started about 200 years ago, Philosopher Rene Descartes declared human intellect as separate from nature subjecting the environment to human will. The research of the psychologist Sigmund Freud has shown that the purpose of life of the human beings is to fulfil their needs. The marketing has been figuring out how to make people want what they don't really need. Confusion and alienation of the earth community is the result of this. Regaining a sense of the sacredness will save us.

Finding Sustainia – Think and Action Lab:

Santa Myer-Nandi said what makes it so difficult to switch to a sustainable lifestyle? We have an autopilot mode of our habits. So, we stick to eating meat, driving cars etc. So why don't we value the enjoyment of time instead of trying to enjoy only products? Also changing habits is said to reduce the chances of Alzheimer. Do something different, do it again and make it a habit. Value your time spent with nature.

The full presentation can be seen at: <https://vimeo.com/268544744/165fbc2d88>

The Nature Conservancy:

Guy Lennox said we must use nature's capacity to regenerate and restore itself; to unlock its inherent potential to contribute to climate solutions. We need to protect intact ecosystems and restore native ecosystems.

UNFCCC - Former FAO

Martin Frick Senior Director said for re-greening the planet there are 5 interdependencies:

1. Simplicity – just one generation ago our life was basically waste free.
2. Use existing technology to protect life and environment instead of investing huge funds in new technologies that might also be having harmful effects.
3. Sustainability of current interventions are not enough. We should also think of undoing the damage
4. The energy revolution has just started in terms of using and producing renewable and clean energy
5. There are constant price drops for example in buffer and storage technology, you can build up capacity every day and finally energy is for free.

Aiming at changing energy into a decentralized system rewards many stakeholders whereas the centralized system we have now rewards few stakeholders with a lot of money.

We should no longer speak of “co-benefits of climate action”. Clean air is not a “co-benefit”, neither is healthy food. These are natural rights. Pope Francis recently apologized for the Bible saying, “conquer the world”. It actually meant, “steward the world.”

National Congress of American Indians:

Frank Ettawageshik described how in his tribe they have the four directions representing the four seasons. Their concept is to stay in the middle, so you can be in balance. And have a strong notion of respect. A loss of respect leaves a gap – it is the loss of the sacred. They don’t interfere with nature, they work with it. All indigenous people share the view that they do sacred duty when they deal with nature. What is written in books, can easily be put aside. We are facing a lack of respect for the sacred. The problem is not outside there, it is right here in our hearts. Let it back in and you can turn the tide.

Brahma Kumaris

Valériane Bernard guided a meditation for 5 minutes on being grateful to nature, fulfilling one’s own personal responsibility, tapping into inner resources and the Source’s energy.

The full side event can be seen at:

<https://join-emea.broadcast.skype.com/unfccc365.onmicrosoft.com/b8a76b8b0af442e68690391219f3b718/en-US/>