



Sister Jayanti visit to Copenhagen 2016

Seven years after Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative was formed and our first participation in a Climate Change Conference (COP15), Sister Jayanti returned to Copenhagen on the 30th November for 2 special environment programs. The special atmosphere of friendship and cooperation that colours the COP conferences was continued during Sister Jayanti's short but compact visit.

10 Ways to Change the World

This time, the topic for the BK program was selected by our friends and contact souls. Rather than guessing what they were interested in, we sent out 3 suggestions and "10 ways to Change the World" won! Mickey Gjerris, Professor of Bio-Ethics and Laura Storm, old friends since COP 15, supported the event with their contributions.



An audience of around 200 people came together this cold winter evening in a beautiful banquet hall in the old city.

Laura Storm is the former director of Sustainia and had received rewards as a Young Global Leader etc. She shared her story of how busy she was and that she always wondered what the Brahma Kumaris, as a spiritual organisation, was doing at the climate conferences. A year ago, she had an accident and used meditation to become fit again. This entirely changed her perspective. She emphasised that meditation is a way to heal the self and the planet. Laura has written an article on [Why Spiritual Leadership is Key to Solve Climate Change](#).



Mickey Gjerris confessed in his interview that his motivation to come was a bit selfish - he was quite concerned about the future and hoped that Sister Jayanti would be able to create a powerful and positive vision. He was wondering if we can sit back and relax after the climate agreement in Paris.

Sister Jayanti emphasized the need for individuals to change; that happens when they see the whole world as their family. We should treat everyone the same way we would treat our families and treat the planet the same way we treat our homes. We need to realise that "me" must include everyone. The power of people will change things. Sadly, the negotiation discussions revolve around economic growth. We must remove this concept from our minds, replace it with compassion and grow our spiritual potential. The hope for the future lies in our minds - once we are focused, we can do anything. When we set our minds to create a world of harmony, things will start moving in that direction.

Sister Jayanti ended the event with a powerful meditation and shared the 10 ways poster as a Christmas gift to everyone.

[Link to the recordings of the event here:](#)



AMBITION Conference - The 17 Sustainable Development Goals

The next day, Chora Connection, a new organisation having a vision to achieve a sustainable and resilient Denmark, arranged a work camp for the UN proclaimed Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's). The event took place at the Theatre Island in the outskirts of Copenhagen. Sister Jayanti was invited by an old friend, Karen Blincoe, Director, to deliver the key note speech. The setting for the program was quite dramatic - a room whose walls, ceiling and floor were completely black. The 100 participants seated in 2 rows in a circle and in the centre an island was created from white sand. A huge tree branch bearing red berries completed the decoration. Everyone put a lit-candle in the white sand and it created a very special illumination.



The program was opened by Richard Olivier, Artistic Director and Thought Leader, from UK, and he delivered a powerful narrative: We are caught in between two stories and it is difficult to find the right direction. Many prefer to identify themselves with an old failed story rather than none. The new story will not be supported until people can see it. Karen Blincoe shared her view that the 17 SDG's are the new story, it is the manual for the way forward plus a warning: Which part of your old self do you want to shed by coming to this special event?



Danish Politician Mogens Lykketoft, the former the President of the UN General Assembly elaborated the 17 SDG's in the international context. A group of 9-year-old children narrated their visions for the future. They had been studying the SDG's at school for the last year and came with beautiful ideas.



Usually in winter everyone in Denmark dresses in black. Adding the completely black room to that, Sister Jayanti did stand out strongly. She related to the personal perspective of the SDG's in the context of Elimination of Poverty, Gender Equality and Climate Change. She was very open about the need and importance of spirituality and emphasized that mind is primary and matter secondary. To change our habits is the crucial task and therefore we need the power of spirituality. Towards the end, there was a pin drop silence when she shared that she is certain that the new world will come because there is goodness within all of us.

Martin Lidegaard, former Danish Foreign & Climate/Energy minister said he has the same beliefs as Sister Jayanti and that it's not easy to capture the audience after such a powerful talk. He talked about how he initiated the climate action plan in Denmark and the principles behind it, namely:

1. Reach out to your enemies - try to understand the reasons they put up barriers.
2. Fear or catastrophic thinking doesn't make things change; hope and conviction make things change.
3. Learn to communicate that and show it in action.



The audience was engaged in all the talks, and really appreciated the program. Afterwards, the children wanted photographs with Richard Olivier and especially Sister Jayanti. They asked Sister Jayanti if she could teach them to fly! The evening ended with an entertaining dinner; vegetables lit up with spot lights and the waitresses emerging from the sea outside. There was a queue of participants who wanted selfies with Sister Jayanti.

We say lots of thanks to Sister Jayanti for coming to us and give greetings of love from the whole Copenhagen center.