



## Global Climate Conference of Youth - COY12

Marrakesh 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> November 2016

### What is it?

Marrakesh hosted the 12th annual global Conference of Youth (COY12) for Climate Change which takes place every year before the Conference of Parties (COP) and is run by youth organisations of the COP host country. For 2016, COY12 was hosted by the Moroccan Youth organizations and it was a three-day event. Around 1800 young people from 37 countries united to present the voice of youth for the Climate Change negotiations. COY's aim has always been to give young people a platform to share skills, connect and be part of a movement towards a more sustainable society. Read more about COY at <http://www.coy12.com>

### Brahma Kumaris (BK) Youth Delegation

The BK Youth delegation included Romina Melwani (UK), Juan Vazquez (Canada) & Myrthe Romeijn (Holland) as well as some local youths who chose to participate with the Brahma Kumaris.



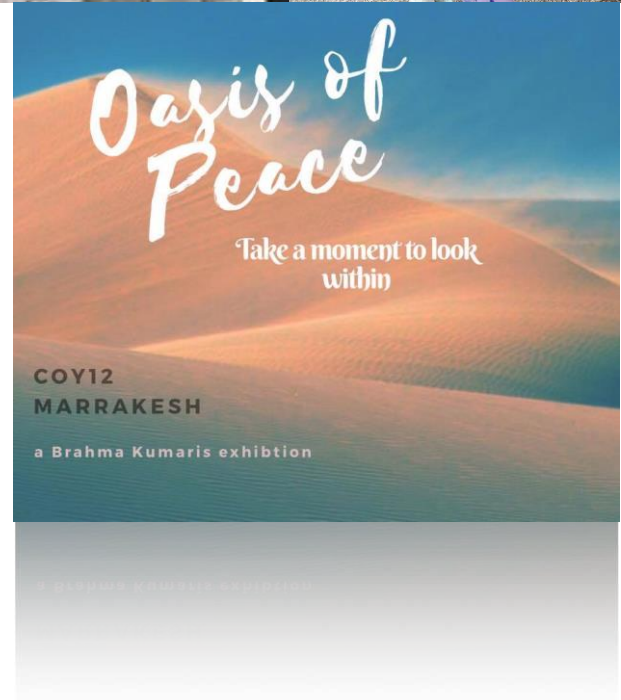
## Highlights of COY12

- The participation of Patricia Espinosa UNFCCC Executive Secretary
- Oasis of Peace welcomed more than 250 people throughout the two days of the exhibition.
- Desert Rose's vibrant performance at the closing ceremony.
- Presence of known activists and politicians

Patricia Espinosa and Juan



Myrthe with Shima



## Our Contribution

The BK exhibition Oasis of Peace was located at the heart of the university conference area, surrounded by olive and fruit trees. This beautiful outdoor space was used for meditation sessions and an art space, as well as some hatha yoga sessions from our partners.

The team worked several months to create unique activities that aligned spiritual teachings with the issues of Climate Change.

- The workshop "Generation of Change Harnessing our Highest Potential"
- An intergenerational dialogue: "Co-creating a Future to Believe In"
- Oasis of Peace exhibition space

Youth meditating at the Oasis of Peace





## Day 1: Highlight

Numerous meditation sessions were held at the Oasis of Peace space throughout the conference. Romina and Juan explained how meditation and relaxation help you feel more peaceful, loving and aware. These feelings are essential to care for ourselves, each other, our home planet earth and our entire human family.

Juan was invited to the Green Debates where he shared how to inspire hope in the mindsets of young people.

The musical meditation session was received with much joy and appreciation. Myrthe gave a delightful performance playing her ukulele, a traditional instrument from Hawaii. She explained how the power of music brings people together, the audience then sang "this little light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine".

Romina sharing in the Oasis of Peace space



A beautiful smile from Shaima



Myrthe and ukelele.







## Day 2: Highlights

An inter-generational dialogue: “Co-creating a Future to Believe In”, was designed so we could hear each other’s perspectives and form a common vision of the future. Romina Melwani moderated the panel composed by a diverse group of young people as well as Laura who shared her considerable experience. There was a collective vision of a hopeful future; that inner strength is necessary, that differences makes us stronger and that spirituality is not only important but it is essential to cope with environmental issues. At the end, all shared their most important values: humility, hope, coexistence, equality and faith; values that will sustain this vision of the future, and for us to be aware of a wider vision: one earth, one human family.

## Our beautiful panel

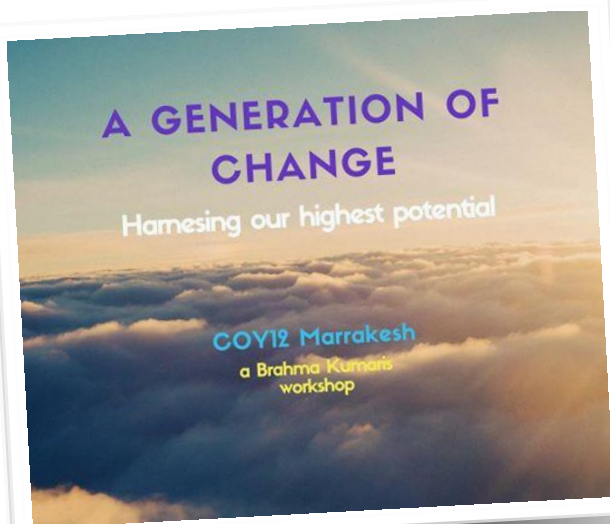


## The workshop Generation of Change: Harnessing our Highest Potential

The workshop was led by Juan and Myrthe and about 20 people attended. This workshop was inspired by the words of the Justin Trudeau, the Prime Minister of Canada. The workshop's aim was to turn the climate conversation towards looking at the self.

Juan described the idea of 'Inner Sustainable Development' to resolve the climate change issue. Some interesting and thought provoking questions were put to the audience such as 'How can I sustain the (positive) vision I have for myself? When we remove the 'inner pollution' within the self, then we can sustain others and the world. The audience was very moved as we closed with a meditation and a group photo.

Happy smiles after the workshop





## Closing Ceremony

The COY12 closing ceremony was a high-level event including the participation of Patricia Espinosa, the new Executive Secretary of United Nations Framework Convention on Climate - UNFCCC, Mr Salaheddine Mezouar president of COP22 and other eminent people. The evening was transformed thanks to the uplifting music of Desert Rose and the vibrant energy of the youth. It was inspiring to witness the support of Patricia and other personalities who highlighted their responsibility for future generations and the new leadership that young people will need to demonstrate for managing climate change and its effects.

