



# Vision-Unity- Action

Reconnecting with Mother Earth



20 January 2024 - Global Cooperation House

This event was a collaborative event organised by the [Brahma Kumaris Environmental Initiative](#), [The Yoko Forum](#) and [The Green Heart Foundation](#). It was an inspiring couple of hours highlighting flourishing and growing environmental projects. There were 60 members of the audience who had come to GCH for the first time and 100 people attended on the BK Webcast.

The evening was opened by **His Excellency Mr Vikram Doraiswami, UK Indian High Commissioner**. He spoke on how spirituality and environmental preservation are deeply interconnected and are in fact both on the same side of the coin.



*His Excellency Mr Vikram Doraiswami, UK  
Indian High Commissioner*



*Mr Ody-Marc Duclos, Vice President, Green  
Heart Foundation with translator, Raphaëlle  
Jalloh*

**Mr Ody-Marc Duclos**, Vice President, Green Heart Foundation introduced the Great Green Wall Project, one of several reforestation projects it is supporting. The Green Heart Foundation was founded in 2017 and brings 200-250 young people from all over the world to Africa once a year to help plant the Great Green Wall. After planting, they then support the local communities to look after the planted area and educate them on how to make it economically sustainable. They plant, for example, Acacia trees which can then be harvested for Gum Arabic.

**Ody-Marc** also spoke about the connection between our 'parched hearts' and the parched landscape, and how when our hearts become lush and overflowing

once again, so will our landscapes. The Foundation also educates its young volunteers about the inner change needed to support a flourishing ecological transition by having an attitude of gratitude towards nature and learning to live harmoniously with nature and each other.

We need to re-establish our relationship with the natural world and become aware of how our thoughts and actions impact nature. We have systematically objectified and commercialised nature. Now, we need to return to a more spiritual approach. True change happens with a change in our innermost attitudes, this then translates into practical actions for how we live together in nature. The ideal is a shared gratitude for Mother Nature and to let this transform itself into a spirit of service.



**Sister Jayanti, Additional Head of The Brahma Kumaris**

**Sister Jayanti**, Additional Head of The Brahma Kumaris, highlighted sustainable environmental projects initiated by the Brahma Kumaris, which are now flourishing and showing what is possible when we change our attitude towards nature. Brahma Baba, the founder of the Brahma Kumaris, taught about the sacredness of all living things and how to live non-violently in the world. He had a vision for a better world and epitomised the living of a simple life. He taught that outer change comes only after inner transformation. She gave an overview of the environmental projects that just keep growing, such as, the Solar Cooker, India One, Yogic Farming and tree planting projects. Meditation is an essential component of these projects' success. There has been a published research paper detailing the success of yogic farming and currently 4 Indian

Universities are researching into this further. We need to have a live and let live attitude, a non-violent approach and to recognise the sacredness of all life.

## Questions and Answers

**Maris Tebecis**, Associate Director, Climate and Sustainability, Global Counsel, then lead a 'Question and Answer' session with both speakers. The questions covered how to practically create a healthier attitude towards food and the story behind the name 'the children who bring the rain.' On the first question Sr Jayanti explained how we can start to practically make changes by changing the food items we buy from the supermarket; experiment with cooking dishes from scratch and fostering gratitude for the food on our plate. Ody-Marc also emphasised the importance of appreciation and gratitude. In closure, both Ody-Marc and Sr Jayanti said that inner change comes first and then we will see outer transformation.



*The story behind 'The children who bring the rain' is very lovely and is told in the 'Question and Answer' session. Please look out for the link to the recording to hear it in full.*