

Monday 7th December

Brahma Kumaris event:

Climate of hope for our planet:

What is the future of humanity on earth?

The Raja Yoga Centre in Paris sponsored a public program for the Parisian Community called *Climat d'espoir sur la Planete!* This event was held at very elegant hotel called *Salons Hoche*. Opening with a meditative concert by *Desert Rose* the event continued with messages of hope from different faiths followed by a presentation from a scientist, *Alain Cirou*, Director General of the French Association of Astronomy and Scientific Consultant of *Europe 1* (radio), and a spiritual leader, *Sister Jayanti*. Their remarks were connected to the *Climate Change* deliberations going on in Paris.



Alain Cirou gave a clear synopsis of the *Climate Change* scenario: Man's journey to the moon and the images that came from that space travel gave a new perspective instigating a new awareness of our planet, its fragility and environmental concerns. There is no plan B because there is no planet B. 50 years later the temperature of the atmosphere continues to increase – It has already increased 1 degree since the industrial revolution; the atmospheric pollution is in a state of emergency, a sixth of the species of the planet are extinct and the oceans are increasing in acidification. The science is clear and available. We know what we have to do and it is our responsibility both as countries and individuals to do so. Collective and personal responsibility to change our lifestyles is imperative.

The *COP21* negotiations are complex. Why? Because of the common and differentiated responsibilities. It is not just a social and economic problem. We need a different narrative. On a personal level we need every individual to play their part; to reflect on personal ways of consuming and acting in the world. If we can raise the awareness of the importance and urgency of this, and make the necessary links to change our behaviours, then there is hope.

In answering the question: “What is the hope for the future?” Sister Jayanti listed a number of rays of hope she had experienced during the Climate Change discussions:

- At Saint Denis, faiths came together to celebrate the culmination of different faiths who had marched or walked from their countries to present nearly 2 million signatures to Nicolas Hulau.
- At the opening ceremony of COP21, 150 leaders gathered in the same place and the politicians sounded more like preachers.
- This is the first COP where religious leaders have been welcomed.
- Al Gore agreeing with Sister Jayanti when she had opportunity to respond to her own question of how to bring the will to change: If people take a moment of silence to listen to their inner voice there could definitely be a change.
- UNESCO researching the role of ethics in climate change. It is really a spiritual statement: solidarity, justice, fairness. These matters don't happen through legislation; they happen through the heart.
- Religious/spiritual leaders have the means to mobilize people through touching the hearts of the people – this is how change can happen. Cristina Figueres came to a small side event in Bonn saying she chose to come because what is happening out there (the rest of the COP) is the head and what we need now need to move the process forward is the heart.

We have to go beyond limited interests of me and mine. Each spiritual tradition reminds us that it is one spiritual family. With this consciousness, we must recognize that we truly need to take care of



each other. Climate change is an opportunity to change our way of life. A small committed minority are able to change the thoughts of the majority. If we, a small group decide to change our awareness and habits we can make an impact.

A main aspect is to simplify our life. What is the difference between what I want and what I need? We need to de-clutter; both things and also our minds. Why do people buy, buy, buy? It is an

indication of emptiness of spirit. We forget about the inner treasures we carry within: love peace and joy.

So turning inwards, we can access treasures. We can connect to our own conscience and connect to the one above and feel the presence of the creator. There is no plan B or planet B, but after darkness there has to be day. When we switch on the light within, then we can create a better world. We can draw the power from up above but it is our hands and feet that must do the work.

After the program the owner of the hotel came especially to speak with Sister Jayanti as she became interested in the topic and had joined the event. She was very happy that such a program had taken place in her hotel.

COP Space

The COP space is open only to badge holders and is a place for informal meetings and discussions. The Brahma Kumaris stand is in this zone.

Julia was interviewed at the Brahma Kumaris stand in COP21 by Aditi Tandon, from the US delegation. Aditi works for the US mission in Mumbai, India and was interested in the spiritual perspective of Climate Change.





The COP21 team passed this way recently – Arc de Triomphe

website eco.brahmakumaris.org

(end of report)