

Living in Harmony

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



Monday 11th Nov. 2013 - Opening Day of COP19 in Warsaw



The opening day of COP19 has been one of great concern in that the typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines has devastated the country. The lead negotiator from the Philippines gave a passionate, emotional speech at the beginning of the 19th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP19) on Monday. After his speech, Mr. Sano said: "It is always hard to attribute a single weather event to climate change, but we know that the science is also clear that climate change will mean more intense typhoons, potentially. And even if we cannot attribute Haiyan to climate change directly, my country refuses to accept a future where super-typhoons become a regular fixture."

Side event: What to expect from Warsaw

The head of the Brahma Kumaris delegation, Sister Jayanti Kirpalani arrived in Warsaw (for the welcoming committee, see the enclosed picture). Sister Jayanti went straight from the airport to a side event arranged by the Third World Network: What to expect in Warsaw from the negotiations. The civil society was very clear of their role in the COP negotiations:

- If we were not here, it could be worse.
- We are here to stop bad things happening.

The lead negotiator from the Philippines also shared in this panel that the civil society is the conscience of the politicians, referring to the selfless rescue work many NGO and volunteers are doing in the Philippines this very moment.

The panelists shared very clearly their **hopes** for COP19: that steps are taken to reduce pollution and that there will be some money on the table. There is a gap in mitigation, in finance and in confidence. The fact that everything is interconnected also got expressed in a strong statement: Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed. There will be no progress in finance, if there is no progress in other areas. The negotiations need to be **open, transparent, inclusive and fair**.

Exhibition

Brahma Kumaris exhibition booth has an excellent location right in front of the elevator, so it is a very busy stand. Our new Personal Cards with 10 ways to change the world are very popular. The exhibition is described as follows:



Shifts in consciousness and systemic thinking open the doors to beneficent technologies and sustainable life-styles grounded in integrity and care. We showcase the sunrise technologies of Sustainable Yogic Agriculture and India One's Solar Power Plant as examples of such innovation and thinking.



Poland's Independence Day

Next arrival in the delegation was Golo Pilz from Germany/India. He came into Warsaw train station at the same time as thousands of demonstrators had gathered for a march through Warsaw City. 11th November is Poland's Independence Day and it coincided with the opening of COP19.

Briefing in the BK delegation

The experience of the first day of the conference was that the panelists in the side event earlier that day were very frustrated, almost angry. Hope for the future is lacking. We have to reinforce the transformation from within and invigorate the message that there is a beautiful time ahead of us. At the same time, the old confrontational world view is softening and many new partnerships and collaborations are formed.

Keywords as hope, equity and leading by example have been emphasized in the preparatory meetings.

Warsaw City hosting welcome reception

On the night of the opening, on Poland's National day of Independence, the Polish Government organized a welcome reception on the occasion of COP 19/CMP9. His Excellency Mr. Marcin Korolec, President of COP 19/CMP9, invited all participants to the Warsaw University Library, a beautiful modern building where the reception took place.

Nonie and Valeriane went there and bumped into Christiana Figueres, the Executive Secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, and had the opportunity to compliment her on her opening speech that morning. They listened to some Polish Music, and an interesting feature was that one of the bands was playing music instruments made of recycled bottles and tubes....



Read more at www.environment.brahmakumaris.org