

Living in Harmony

Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative



Brahma Kumaris preparing for Climate Change Conference COP20 in Lima

The Brahma Kumaris delegation has arrived in Lima. They have flown in from all over the whole world to participate in the climate change conference 2014. Some have been to other countries in South America for programs on Living in harmony with the self, others and the environment. The official delegation is:

François Becher, Director of Brahma Kumaris, France

Valerian Bernard, Brahma Kumaris' Representative to the United Nations, Geneva

Julia Grindon-Welch, Brahma Kumaris' Representative to the United Nations, New York

Juan Vázquez Milling, Brahma Kumaris' Youth Representative

Gayatri Naraine, Brahma Kumaris' Representative to the UN, New York

Sonja Ohlsson, Co-ordinator Environment Initiative

Rocio Olaya, Brahma Kumaris' Youth Representative

Golo Pilz, Adviser, Renewable Energy, Brahma Kumaris

Tamasin Ramsay, Anthropologist, Brahma Kumaris' Representative to the United Nations, New York

Nonie Reaño, Organizational Psychologist and Consultant for Corporate Universities, Peru

Christophe Richon, Brahma Kumaris' Youth Representative



A total of 22 programs are lined up for the coming 2 weeks! Some of them are taking place at the UN event, but most of them are happening in venues outside the COP. This is the result of an incredible wave of service that the Brahma Kumaris center in Lima has created. They have been part of the planning committee for the youth, interfaith and civil society.

The center in Lima has been preparing for this event for one year, with lots of help and co-operation from the centers in the region and the international environment team. Sisters from Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador have flown in to help with translation and cooking.

The Youth Conference on Climate Change took place from 28th-20th Nov. and a separate report will be sent about that.

Saturday 29th Nov.



On Saturday evening the **BK International Delegation met with the Peruvian family**. BK Nonie Reano, the Coordinator of the Brahma Kumaris in Peru welcomed everyone and BK Julia Grindon-Welch, BK UN Representative in New York, shared about our environmental work at the UN and some history of how we have been working with the Climate Change issues since 2009.

We also had the opportunity to hear from BK Patricia Iturregui, who presently works with the UK government in Peru on the issue of Climate Change and is a former climate change negotiator. She gave us a very clear picture of where the present negotiations stand and the hopes for this COP and also the meeting that is taking place in Paris next year, which is an important benchmark in the Climate Change process. BK Tamasin Ramsay, then gave a short over-view of our BK perspective and statement which speakers to the Ethical Heart of Climate Change.

Each one in the gathering then answered the question: "When someone walks into our Exhibition Stand at the UN conference what would we like people to take with them? Some of the responses included:

"I would like the person to take away a sense of empowerment. They are the creator of their future, and so there is hope."

"I think that there is a disconnect between people being aware that they are a link in the chain of events of the things that are happening in the world, and that by becoming aware of this they can be part of the solution".

"I would like people to be aware of how the spiritual trajectory of awareness, attitude, vision, action, and world works, and that this trajectory can support a real change in behavior. Also, that the living system of the mind and consciousness has a direct effect on the living system of matter".

"I would like people to become aware that the work we are doing in the world, such as Yogic Agriculture and Solar energy are a direct result of our spiritual consciousness of living in harmony with nature."

We all felt that this gathering was very beneficial for all of us and was a good start to the service we were about to embark on. We then did meditation together and shared blessings.

Sunday 30th Nov.

Faith Based Organizations - First meeting

The international faith based movement met with Interreligious council of Peru, in the Alianza Cristiana church. The Interreligious council of Peru are comprised of the Jewish faith, the Muslims, Religions for Peace, Brahma Kumaris and many others that all participated in organizing awareness raising events prior to the COP. And about 25 people came, many dressed in their religious attire, all went for the Parque La Floresta where the Vigil for the climate happened.

"The life of the Planet is in Our Hands" - Vigil and concert



At the start of the vigil, UNFCCC Executive Secretary Christiana Figueres, and the minister of environment Mr Pulgar who is the president of the COP in Lima joined us. As a welcome gesture they were offered green candles to symbolically enlighten the COP 20 negotiations. The following day at the start of the COP both, the minister and Christiana Figueres had to argue with security to get the candle in the room of the negotiations.

Following the official speeches, a peaceful march took place with about 500 people.



Afterwards, we gathered at a local park in the twilight for a concert with "Desert Rose" from South Africa, remarkable sacred musicians who - through song - have the capacity to bring the audience to an experience of God. Desert Rose has also represented interfaith and music in Poland and are good friends of the BKs. Pochi, a famous reggae musician from Lima also sang some very inspiring songs. It was a blessed experience all around.



**Board: God gave us paradise,
what happened?**

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www.environment.brahmakumaris.org