



Last on the UN Climate Change Conference COP27

16th-18th Nov. 2022 – Egypt



Today is Saturday, and yesterday evening the conference officially ended. Slowly and steadily, our team is leaving, and the house gets empty. It's always a bit of an emotional moment. Sonja and Golo are the last to leave on Sunday early morning. At this point, I like to say a big thank you to all our sponsors, the kitchen crew (yummy food), the organising crew, the social media team, the presenters, and last but not least to you, the audience, for your interest and your good wishes. Without the tireless support of many and the blessings from above, this service would not be possible.

We just received an email from the UN office that the negotiations have been extended. Everybody hopes that by Sunday latest, there will be a document agreed upon by all parties. That's also one of the major flaws of the UN process; any binding document has to be approved by everybody. As per drama, the countries often have opposite interests, and the documents usually settle on the smallest possible action. As expected, the big issue is the loss and damage; who will pay for the damage caused by climate change? After all, the rich west has industrialised, through which the climate has been severely damaged. Hence the third world is asking for "climate justice ". Also, there has not been any breakthrough in emission reduction. Many countries face energy and cost of living crises and feel in the present geopolitical circumstances, and there are other priorities. The reactions of science, the press, NGOs and civil societies are devastating. Everybody



understands that the window of opportunity for meaningful actions is closing rapidly. As George Monbiot stated in his guardian article: Our leaders had a final chance to halt climate breakdown. They failed each and every one of us! More info on the outcome can be read here: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2022/nov/18/cop27-talks-continue-over-eu-climate-loss-and-damage-fund-proposal>



Hence the transformation of planet earth falls into the hands of us yogis and healers. It is our task to change our hearts and minds further, generate a field of pure love and compassion and initiate the shift towards the golden age. What a wonderful and heroic task lies ahead. The BK environment team had quite a run in the last days with many programs, presentations, and even meditation in the cryosphere. In between, we took chances and did not miss the local beaches for snorkelling; the reefs are truly spectacular. On Thursday some of us visited the famous Greek orthodox St. Catherine monastery behind Mt. Sinai. Apparently, this is very much the place where God appeared to Moses in the burning bush.

The editing team Sonja, Golo and Jignesh (Sweden) would like to thank everybody for their cooperation and help to fabricate these little reports. More info about our work at www.eco.brahmakumaris.org
We would be happy for your feedback and suggestion; please email them to eco@brahmakumaris.org

Wednesday 16 Nov

The Human Face of Climate Crisis - the Role of Faith

Valeriane moderated an open dialogue in the IASS space with actors discussing overcoming fear and establishing trust. The discussion centred around cooperation/ community versus greed /selfishness. The participants mentioned that if you meet people at COP who are in a positive and peaceful mindset, other will automatically be attracted. The dialogue ended with a beautiful song on the environment, and all felt that music can bring feelings of hope.



Interfaith coordination meeting

Valeriane, with Henrik Grape from the World Council of Churches, coordinated the second meeting of the faith-based community in COP27. The future approach for COP28 in UAE was also discussed, and an idea to go for an Interfaith pavilion was born. Such a pavilion could be used for silence, prayer, workshops etc. The Interfaith Talanoa Call was also presented. Maureen, Muna and Awatif also participated in the meeting.



Reflections from COP27 and personal stock take for COP28

In the well-designed Education Hub, Shantanu and Aneta conducted an experiential reflection session. The participants listed or drew symbols of prominent situations, incidents or movements that might be relevant to the COP process. The sum of their experience will be transformed into five values that will be a resource for their next COP, a personal stock take.



Awatif, Shantanu, Aneta with participants at Education Hub

Generating Trust through Authenticity and Love

A Spirit of Humanity Forum Dialogue took place in the IASS Pavilion with Maureen Goodman and Thomas Bruhn

Reception

On Wednesday evening, the Brahma Kumaris held its second reception in our nice villa. Around 30 delegates attended the event, and luckily our living room has more than 70 m², and we could arrange a nice buffet and reception. Sonja shared warm words of welcome, and then Maureen did a powerful guided meditation. Afterwards, everybody enjoyed the yummy snacks and drinks and had a nice conversation in small groups.





Thursday 16 Nov

International Solar Alliance Pavilion

Sister Rashi from Mumbai presented her research project, a hybrid energy storage solution applied in Om Shanti Retreat Center near New Dehli. She was invited by International Solar Alliance.



Care, Share and Inspire

Sonja facilitated a powerful workshop at the IASS Co-Creative and Reflective Dialogue Space. The aim was to create the courage to follow your heart in restoring trust in people and communities. Sonja asked a couple of questions about the importance of trust in the context of the COP. Everybody got time to reflect and share their ideas in the smaller group. The dialogue that followed was honest and deep, bringing the human aspect into COP.



Care, Share and Inspire workshop with Sonja, Golo, Caro, Awatif, Muna and others

Meditation for Adaptation and Resilience

In the evening, BK got the chance to organise a mediation session at the Cryosphere Pavilion as part of their Cultural Evening Events. The cryosphere is an all-encompassing term for those portions of Earth's surface where water is in solid form, including sea ice, lake ice, river ice, snow cover, glaciers, ice caps, ice sheets, and frozen ground (which includes permafrost). This was the first time in our history that BK could organise a mediation program at the COP. Prof. Mark Lawrence, Scientific Dir. at the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) Potsdam framed the need for meditation in a scientific context. He said: "don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good - but do strive for the good that you can be, and explore whether some form of meditation can help bring you closer to that kind of existence ". Maureen continued and guided a deep meditation despite the rather noisy COP background noise.



Last day at COP

As the air conditioning in the COP gets often seriously out of control, we take the chance to get out and warm up in the nice winter sun. The Bedouin tent hidden between 2 halls is the right spot, and with a glass of mint tea, soon the world looks all right.



Carolyn's Birthday

Caro had a birthday, and as usual, with a rather low-key celebration, a vegan cake was cut, and candles were lit. Then Caro received blessings from everyone.



Biodiversity of Sharm El-Sheikh

The southern Red Sea is among the richest and most diverse marine ecosystems. The reefs are home to over 300 types of coral and more than 1000 species of colourful fish. The Brahma Kumaris Environment Initiative undertook several research expeditions to various local beaches in order to first-hand study the impact of climate change on the local reefs. After many rounds of tough snorkelling and even some scuba diving, we can say with heart and soul that the reef is in tip-top shape. The collected memories and data will stay forever. Apparently, the red sea is one of the few places in the world not yet affected by coral bleaching.



Visit to Saint Catherine

5 people in the team went for a day trip to Saint Catherine Monastery in the Sinai Mountains. Built between 548 and 565, it is the oldest continuously inhabited Christian monastery and is world famous for the burning bush where god handed to Moses the 10 commandments.



Friday 18th Nov

On Friday morning, we had a lively and productive feedback meeting, sharing experiences, magic moments and ideas for the future. Sister Jayanti joined online and shared her latest green service.



From left: Anasuya, Salwa, Muna, Awatif, Sonja, Maureen, Carolin, Valeriane, Golo, Shantanu, Priya, Aneta

Event in Cairo

Piyush conducted an evening program called Inner Power of Global Youth at Lotus House Meditation Center. The program was attended by enthusiastic young Egyptians wanting to learn more about the self, values and respect. They were asked to reflect upon 1. What is one value you associate with yourself, 2. What makes you unique?, 3. What is your biggest fear?, 4. Whom do you go to when faced with a challenge? In the end, the candle was ignited, reminding all that we are the light in the darkness and all we need to do is ignite from inside. The session ended with a beautiful tolis from sister Sahar from the Cairo centre and blessings from the environment team.



Overview of the number of programs

In total we had 26 programs in the official COP area, plus another local 11 programs in the region. 15 interviews with various media were given.



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