
Addressing Climate Change By Awakening to Oneness

World Spiritual Leaders Gather for the
COP15 – The United Nations Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen

Organized by the Global Peace Initiative of Women

**December 7th – 13th, 2009
Copenhagen, Denmark**

This gathering is held in support of the United Nations Conference on Climate Change (COP-15,

GPIW is grateful to the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University for partnering with us on this initiative and to ITRI Japan for its continued support.

Climate change poses an unprecedented challenge and opportunity for the human community. Much will depend on how we respond over the next few years. We cannot afford to leave these decisions to governments and business interests. Too much is at stake. What is perhaps most greatly needed is the guidance of our spiritual traditions, the wisdom and the love that comes from deep prayer and contemplative practice. Throughout our time together we will seek to access this inner spiritual guidance, leaving time for silence and communion. Climate change, more than any other issue, has the potential to unite us as a human community. It also has the potential to divide us. But we will succeed only if we are able to tap that which unifies so that we can come to know more deeply our Oneness, the underlying source from which all life is drawn.

To create a contemplative space for our reflections, all sessions will begin and end in silence, with periodic moments of silence between our words.

Monday, December 7th

Closed to GPIW Registered Delegates

Tuesday, December 8th

Closed to GPIW Registered Delegates

Wednesday, December 9th

8:00 – 8:45am

KLIMAFORUM 2009 – MORNING AT THE DGI BYEN COURTYARD

(This early morning meditation is optional for GPIW delegates and is offered to participants at the KlimaForum.)

Meditation led by Sraddhalu Ranade, Scientist, Educator & Teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, India

8:45 – 9:15am **Talk with Sraddhalu Ranade:** “Spiritual Perspectives on Climate Change”

9:30 – 12:00pm Participation in NGO Forum

2:20 – 3:15pm **WINDOWS OF HOPE – PANEL IN CHRISTIANIA**

“Conflict and Climate Change – a Spiritual Perspective”

Moderator: Zarko Andrecevic, Chan Buddhist Teacher, Croatia

Dialogue between:

Sraddhalu Ranade, Scientist, Educator & Teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, India

Sufi Rehman Bawamuhaiyaddeen, Sufi Leader, Pakistan

1:00 – 3:00pm **KLIMAFORUM 2009 – PANEL AT THE DGI BYEN**

“Sacred Activism” – Mobilizing Spiritual Communities to Address Climate Change

Action without wisdom will not lead to long term positive outcomes. Wisdom without action also will not yield the needed results. The environmental crises demands that we join wisdom with action, that we tap our collective wisdom, innate in all the spiritual traditions, and work together to develop concrete steps to reverse the damage we have caused our earth and life systems. What are the guiding spiritual principles to help create life sustaining societies?

Moderator:

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Former Sec. General, The National Council of Churches, USA; Co-founder, Religious Partnership for the Environment; Chair, Global Peace Initiative of Women

Discussants:

Sister Joan Chittister, Benedictine Nun, Renowned Author, Prominent Voice in Interfaith Affairs

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Theravadin Buddhist Monk & Scholar, Co-Author of A Buddhist Declaration on Climate Change, USA

Richard Cizik, Fellow at the Open Society; Founder, New Evangelicals, USA

Swami Veda Bharati, Vedic Scholar and Yoga Meditation Disciple of the Masters, India

Andrew Harvey, Spiritual Teacher & Author; Architect of Sacred Activism, UK/USA

Thursday, December 10th

11:20 – 11:50pm **WINDOWS OF HOPE – PANEL IN CHRISTIANIA**

“The Divine Feminine: An Essential Force in Addressing Climate Change. An East-West dialogue between”:

Sr. Joan Chittister, Benedictine Nun, Renowned Author, Prominent Voice in Interfaith Affairs

Swamini Pramananda Saraswati, Spiritual Teacher & Educator, India

Facilitation by:

Straddhalu Ranade, Scientist, Teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, Andrew Harvey, Spiritual Teacher & Author; Architect of Sacred Activism, UK/USA

12:00 – 12:55pm

WINDOWS OF HOPE – PANEL IN CHRISTIANIA

“Buddhist Responses to Climate Change”

Facilitating the discussion:

Acharya Judy Lief, Author, Buddhist Teacher, Kagyu Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, USA

Discussants:

Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi, Theravadin Buddhist Monk & Scholar, Co-Author of A Buddhist Declaration on Climate Change, USA

Zarko Andrecevic, Chan Buddhist Teacher, Croatia

Bikkhu Buddharakkhita, Founder, Uganda Buddhist Centre in Kampala, Uganda

Venerable Dharmeswar Sraman, Representative, Supreme Patriarch of Bangladesh

Venerable Chang Wen, DDMBA

2:20 – 3:10pm

WINDOWS OF HOPE – PANEL IN CHRISTIANIA

“Spiritual Perspectives on Climate Change”

Facilitating the discussion:

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Former Sec. General, The National Council of Churches, Co-founder, Religious Partnership for the Environment; Chair, GPIW, USA

Discussants:

Richard Cizik, Founder, The New Evangelicals, Fellow of the Open Society, USA

Swami Veda Bharati, Vedic Scholar and Yoga Meditation Disciple of the Masters, India

Rev. Dr. Michael Kagan, Co-founder of the Jewish Climate Initiative, Israel

Venerable Bhante Buddharakita, Uganda

Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands (tbc)

Friday, December 11th

10:00 – 12:00pm

KLIMAFORUM 2009 – PANEL AT THE DGI BYEN

“Working with the Forces of Nature to Heal the Planet”

The environmental crisis is really a moral and spiritual crisis, a crisis of consciousness. Modern society has come to regard the earth, her resources and the forces of nature as products, commodities to be used as we will, for our own benefit. Until we change this mindset and address the root cause of the problem, we will not be able to reverse the damage done. The earth can heal herself. All we need to do is recognize the living system that we are part of and allow the healing forces to do their work. This change in consciousness will bring about the needed changes in behavior and lifestyle that will reduce the waste and degradation that modern life entails. How can we help support the earth's healing energies?

Moderator: Zarko Andrecevic, Chan Buddhist Teacher, Croatia

Opening Statement and Blessing:

Moishe Pinhanta and Benki da Silva Pianco Ashininka, Indigenous leaders, The Amazon, Brazil

Proposed Speakers:

Swamini Pramananda Saraswati, Educator & Leader in pollution reduction of the Ganga River, India

Hanne Strong, Founder, Manitou Institute, Denmark/Canada

Sensei Alan Imai, Spiritual Teacher and Environment Leader, Japan

Acharya Judy Lief, Author, Buddhist Teacher, Kagyu Lineage of Tibetan Buddhism, USA

Sufi Rehman, Sufi Leader, Pakistan

Rev. Doju Freire, GPIW Coordinator Italy, Brazil/Italy

Sant Balbir Singh Ji, Sikh Leader, Environmentalist & Activist known in India as Eco-Baba

1:00 – 3:00pm

KLIMAFORUM 2009 – PANEL AT THE DGI BYEN

“The Inner Dimensions of Climate Change”

To reverse the damage to our environmental and effectively address climate change, every individual will need to take responsibility. It must be a collective grassroots effort. Governments alone cannot do what needs to be done. It will take a massive civil society movement. Already shifts are happening. Spiritual practices – meditation, prayer, reflection – are key to changing perceptions and behavior. What inner transformations need to take place? What are the principles that must guide our actions? How can these practices effect outer change?

Moderator:

Dena Merriam, Convener & Founder, GPIW

Speakers:

Sraddhalu Ranade, Scientist, Teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in Pondicherry, India
Prof. Dr. Phra Dharmakosajarn, Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, Thailand

Sister Jayanti, European Director, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, UK

Sheikh Saliou Mbecke, Founder, Faith for Peace in Africa, Sufi Leader, Senegal

Closing Statement:

Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Peace Laureate & Founder Green Belt Movement, Kenya

Saturday, December 12th

10:30 – 12:00pm

WINDOWS OF HOPE – GROUP GATHERING IN CHRISTIANA

“Global Spiritual Leaders Gather for Prayer and Reflect on Oneness”

End of GPIW Program