
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),
for which GPIW has received official observer status.*

*GPIW is grateful to ITRI Japan for providing financial support for this initiative
and to the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, Denmark, for serving as our local partner*

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. We will succeed in responding to the unfolding climate scenarios 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

Morning Arrivals, Check-in and Registration

2:00pm **LUNCH AT THE SAHAJ MARG CENTER**
(Located at Holbergsgade 15, Copenhagen)

3:30pm-6:00pm **SETTING THE TONE FOR THE WEEK**
Silent Meditation (15 minutes)
Ven. Guo Chan, DDMBA, USA

(Optional)

Opening Sacred Song (5 minutes)

Michael Dunn, Self-Realization Fellowship, USA

(Optional)

WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND GOALS

We have come to Copenhagen knowing that the political negotiations among the governments will be difficult and that a climate change agreement may not be reached during this conference. The final treaty that emerges is likely to fall far short of the actions needed to halt or slow the effects for climate change. Thus the responsibility for shaping our response to climate change, for creating a more sustainable world community, will fall to civil society. As people of deep spiritual commitment and practice, we have come together to call for a redressing of the imbalances and excesses that have led us to this juncture.

At the center of the agenda for addressing climate change must be the renewal of our relationship with Earth and all creation, the coming again into a respectful and loving relationship with our Earth. Only by changing our mental attitudes can the necessary changes in behavior come about.

What are the principles that must guide us?

What is the shift in attitudes that we must seek?

Facilitation by:

Dena Merriam, Founder and Convener, The Global Peace Initiative of Women (GPIW)

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Chair, GPIW and Co-Founder, the Religious Partnership for the Environment

Closing Silent Meditation

6:30pm

DINNER

“Please note that this portion of the program is only open to registered delegates”

Tuesday, December 8th

8:00am

BREAKFAST

OPENING PROGRAM AT MOLTKE'S PALACE

(Located at Dronningens Tværgade 2)

9:00 – 9:15am

Gathering the Energy through simple Qi movement

Pamela Hiley, Director, NorskTaiji Center

(Optional)

9:15 – 9:45am

Silent Meditation

Ven. Guo Chan, DDMBA, USA

(Optional)

9:45 – 10:00am

Opening Sacred Song

Michael Dunn, Self-Realization Fellowship, USA
(Optional)

10:00 – 1:00pm

Morning Session: A New Partnership between Science and Religion

10:00-11:30am Part I: The State of the Science -- Likely Climate Change Scenarios

Facilitation by:

Andrew Harvey, Spiritual Teacher & Author; Architect of Sacred Activism, UK/USA
Sr. Joan Chittister, Benedictine Nun, Renowned Author, Prominent Voice in Interfaith
Affairs

There is in general a lack of information about the degree and likely timetable of climate change, as well as the implications for the human community and, in fact, all forms of life on Earth. The first part of this session will include presentations by climatologists, followed by an open exchange on the impact of climate change and ways to alleviate or respond to this impact, from the scientific point of view.

11:30-1:00 Part II: Scientific Advances to Address Climate Change

Facilitation by:

Sraddhalu Ranade Scientist, Educator & Teacher at the Sri Aurobindo Ashram in
Pondicherry, India
Rev. Dr. Michael Kagan, Co-founder of the Jewish Climate Initiative, Israel
Prof. Preben Maegaard, President, World Wind Energy Association, Denmark

There is still little information on new and emerging technologies that will help us evolve societies that don't degrade the Earth and that will alleviate the impact of climate change. A partnership between the spiritual and scientific communities could facilitate the breakthroughs needed.

1:00 – 2:30pm

LUNCH AT MOLTKE PALAE

2:30 – 4:00pm

Afternoon Session: The Role of Contemplative Practice and Prayer in Addressing Climate Change

Spiritual leaders have a unique contribution to make in the search for ways to address climate change. We understand the power of thought, prayer and meditation. We know that change first begins with the inner and then moves into the outer world.

We stand at a juncture where major transformation is needed to heal our world. We will need to draw upon all of our spiritual resources to create this shift. And we will need intercession and assistance. Many people attest to the power of individual prayer in healing and transformation. This same dynamic can work collectively. How do we mobilize collective prayer/meditation energy, across traditions and continents, for the healing of the Earth, and what is the mechanism at work?

Facilitating the discussion:

Tho Ha Vinh, Head of Global Training in the International Committee of the Red Cross
(ICRC) in Geneva, Founder Eurasia Foundation
Sister Jayanti, European Director, Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, UK

Beginning the discussion:

Swami Veda Bharati, Vedic Scholar and Yoga Meditation Disciple of the Masters, India
Richard Cizik, Fellow at the Open Society; Founder, New Evangelicals, USA

Sufi Rehman Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, Sufi Leader, Pakistan

Rabbi Warren Stone, Chair, Central Conference of American Rabbis' Committee on the Environment

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

Closing message from Bangladesh:

Venerable Dharmeswar Sraman, Representative, Supreme Patriarch of Bangladesh

4:00 – 4:30pm

TEA BREAK

4:30 – 6:30pm

Working Collectively for Inner Transformation

The human community is being called to move beyond narrow and limiting identities, which divide us, and to begin to think and act as a single human community with a shared framework of values. We are being called to a more universal worldview and to a greater understanding of interdependence. This includes acknowledging the truth and validity of the world's many religious traditions. This shift is connected to the change in the way we relate to and view the natural world. As we come to respect one another more, and know our interconnection, we will also come to respect the natural forces, which are the living energies of the Earth.

Such a transformation will help shape economic and social systems that are more in keeping with the principles of sustainability – and that are more equitable and compassionate. We cannot address climate change without evolving new ways of living with each other and with the natural world. How can we work collectively to create this transformation in mindset and worldview, with the goal of evolving a more caring and compassionate way of relating to the whole of the natural world?

Facilitating the discussion:

Dena Merriam Founder & Convener, The Global Peace Initiative of Women and Sheikh Saliou Mbecke, Founder, Faith for Peace in Africa, Sufi Leader, Senegal

Closing Statement and Sacred Song by:

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

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Wednesday, December 9th

8:00am

Breakfast

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

12:00 – 1:00pm **LUNCH**
(Located at the DGI-Byen Center)

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 Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, 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 crisis 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

7:00pm **DINNER**

Delegates are welcome to join in small groups to visit local restaurants.

Thursday, December 10th

8:00am

BREAKFAST

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:

Sraddhalu 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

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

Venerable Chang Wen, DDMBA

1:00 – 2:20pm

LUNCH

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
Bhante Buddharakita, Founder, Uganda Buddhist Centre in Kampala, Uganda
Rabbi Awraham Soetendorp, The Netherlands

3:30pm Depart Christiania
5:00pm GPIW Delegates meet in the reception area of the Admiral Hotel

6:00 – 8:00pm **SPECIAL EVENING PROGRAM – NATIONAL MUSEET / NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENMARK**
(Located at Frederiksholms Kanal 12 – Entrance is on Ny Vestergade)

“Transforming Our Worldview: *Meeting the Climate Change Challenge*”

Moderator/MC

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

Welcome

Dena Merriam, Founder & Convener, The Global Peace Initiative of Women

Keynote Speakers

Hon. Maurice F. Strong, Leading environmentalist, Secretary-General, 1972, Stockholm Conference on the Environment, first Executive Director of UNEP & Secretary-General, 1992 Rio Earth Summit

Prof. Wangari Maathai, Nobel Laureate, Founder Greenbelt Movement

Remarks by

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

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

Dr. Vandana Shiva, Author, Philosopher, Environmental Activist

Closing Statements by

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

Rev. Joan Brown Campbell, Chair, GPIW and Co-Founder, the Religious Partnership for the Environment

8:30 – 9:30pm **DINNER AT RIZ RAZ RESTAURANT**
(Located at Kompagnistræde 20)

Friday, December 11th

8:00am **BREAKFAST**

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:

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 Bawa Muhaiyaddeen, 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

Sacred Prayer for the Earth offered by: Moishe Pinhanta and Benki da Silva Pianco Ashininka, Indigenous leaders, The Amazon, Brazil

12:00 – 1:00pm

LUNCH

Lunch is available at various food courts at the KlimaForum

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

Proposed 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

3:00pm

FREE EVENING

Delegates are welcome to join in small groups for sightseeing and visit local restaurants.

Saturday, December 12th

8:00am

Breakfast

10:30 – 12:00pm

WINDOWS OF HOPE – GROUP GATHERING IN CHRISTIANIA

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

12:00pm

LUNCH IN CHRISTIANIA

Lunch is available at various food concessions at the Windows of Hope, or delegates are free to take lunch at local restaurants.

2:00

Gather in Admiral Hotel Lobby for transport to Duemosegaard.

3:00 – 8:00pm

CLOSING SESSION & SPECIAL RECEPTION

The GPIW delegation of spiritual and religious leaders is invited to Duemosegaard – the country manor of Hildur and Ross Jackson, founders of the Gaia Trust and the Global Eco Village Network. Transportation will be organized via carpool and trains from the Admiral Hotel lobby at 2:00pm.

3:30-5:00pm: Closing Session

5:00-6:00pm: Meditation on Gaia, Mother Earth and the Living Universe.

6:00-8:00pm: Dinner and Symposium, a Greek tradition of poetry readings, singing and dialogue, on uniting the two streams of spirituality and activism.

Dinner will be local, organic, and mostly vegetarian food: Hot soup, a vegetable buffet and old Danish dessert.

Duemosegaard is located at Stavnsholt Gydevej 52, Birkerød (3 km from Birkerød station).

Sunday, December 13th

Departures

GPIW gratefully acknowledges the foundations, organizations and many individuals whose financial contributions, energy and efforts made this gathering possible.

ITRI Japan

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GPIW Leadership and Staff

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Marianne Marstrand, Executive Director
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Brienne Chai-Onn, Program Director
Emily Owen, Design and Webmaster

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Priya Raghunathan
Sheena Bailey
Aysha Al-Rafai
Elisabeth Lesser