

MEDIA ADVISORY

Shift our mindsets:

NGO from India inspires a conscious shift in awareness to reach global targets

“What is needed at the heart for regenerating biodiversity is the same thing that has ultimately driven biodiversity loss – our human mindset”, said Valeriane Bernard, BKWSU UN Representative in Geneva.

Today, the BKWSU is releasing a discussion paper titled *Awakening a Flourishing Future* to stimulate a different kind of thinking among delegates. It is the belief of the BKWSU that it is a value-based, spiritual awareness that is the most important thing to truly allow us to achieve a harmonious ecological civilization by 2050.

Sister Maureen Goodman, Head of the BKWSU delegation at COP 15 said, “it is amazing effort and energy I see all the delegates are putting forward to protect biodiversity. Continuing to nurture our awareness towards love, peace, and respect for ourselves and all living beings is the only way to achieve sustainable behavior change and the policies and global results we want. It is only by shifting our conscious awareness that real change can be seeded in our hearts and minds, and blossom in the world.”

The BKWSU is an international non-governmental organization led by women with its spiritual headquarters in India, and a network of centers in 110 countries of the world. Their education and social programs impact millions. Their headquarters is powered by an innovative solar thermal power plant that works 24 hours a day, solar cookers that provide the means to cook 40,000 meals a deal with renewal energy, and an imaginative build-for-purpose water recycling system. The University has unique biodiverse-regenerating programs driven by their spiritual consciousness that includes Sustainable Yogic Agriculture and a dynamic value-based tree planting program called Kalp Taruh.

The BKWSU hopes this paper will stimulate delegates from all countries, genders, stakeholder groups and faith traditions to nurture their own awareness away from positions, profits or politics and towards collective decisions that will protect life on our beautiful blue planet, the pearl of the universe.

A press conference will be held at 2:30pm on Tuesday December 13th in the Media Centre 220D to share the work of the organization, launch the discussion paper and answer questions from the press.

- 30 -

Contact:

Valeriane Bernard

valerianebernard@gmail.com

+ 41 79 822 85 00

ORGANIZER:

Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University (BKWSU)

TITLE OF EVENT:

Shift our mindsets: NGO from India inspires a conscious shift in awareness to reach global targets

SHORT DESCRIPTION:

BKWSU is releasing a discussion paper titled *Awakening a Flourishing Future* to stimulate thinking among delegates. It is the belief of the BKWSU that it is a value-based, spiritual awareness that is the most important thing to truly allow us to achieve a harmonious ecological civilization by 2050. The organization and their practical work in regenerating biodiversity will be profiled and the ancient spiritual philosophy that drives their work in shifting awareness will be introduced.

SPEAKERS:

Sr Maureen Goodman, Head of BKWSU Delegation to COP 15,

Valeriane Bernard, BKWSU UN Representative in Geneva

Juan Vazquez Milling, BKWSU UN Representative

FLOW OF PRESS CONFERENCE – TO BE DISCUSSED AND FINALIZED ON SUNDAY

230 on Tuesday December 13 (maximum of 45 minutes)

Mod: Welcome everyone – a moment of silence in this noisy world around us – so glad to have you join us for the release of our discussion paper *Awakening a flourishing future* ...

Before we get to the document I'd like to call on To say a little bit about who the brahma kumaris are and what practical actions they are taking towards biodiversity ...

Valeriane - BKWSU is

Maureen: (a story of Yogic Agriculture) BKWSU has been contributing to climate change, desertification and biodiversity COPS for many years and works in solar energy, yogic agriculture, kalp taruh all of these inspired and driven by a spiritual consciousness

Mod: BKWSU has also been collaborating with multifaith and learning from many of them – shared value based and changing oneself and being best one can be ... so now we'd like to share our discussion paper which is some of our thoughts about seeding these values ... we encourage everyone to look within and choose for yourself what gives you inspiration for change. Ask for what inspired and key elements of the ecosynthesis paper

Juan – explain inspiration for and highlights of the paper... then refer back to Maureen for an experience of a spiritual ecosynthesis consciousness

Maureen: commentary

Moderator: Thank you. there are many more resources available like “yogis for future” ... and the ecosynthesis philosophy document is available Now we’d love to take any questions ...