

## POP Movement – Newsletter February 2018

We are in Mexico City and represent with five participants the POP Movement Germany. The first World Sustainable Development Forum takes place on 1 and 2 February in the huge Hotel Presidente InterContinental in the luxurious district Polanco, at which we naturally do not stay. Huge is also the fitting word for the multiple million-strong metropolis. Next to the number and the internationality of the congress participants, top-class speakers from backgrounds such as politics, economy, science, civil society, education, media and NGOs as well as more groups of young adults made it quickly obvious, that the goal of this event “Implementing the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals” were to be seriously and thus on a wide scale pursued. Leonardo di Caprio, Arnold Schwarzenegger and Manuel Barroso set the tone for the programme during the next two days via video message. We are especially happy that, with the title “Youthquake”, the young population’s part in saving the global climate was recognized as an independent part of the program at the end of the second day (for further information on the Forum: <http://www.worldsdf.org>). We are establishing many international contacts, of which we promise us support for our future efforts. We spoke with John Vidal quite frequently; he led the sustainability department of the British newspaper The Guardian and attends the event both as journalist, as well as speaker (<https://www.theguardian.com/profile/johnvidal>). John told us a lot about the individual attendees and was impressed by our group, which was by far the youngest. In a work meeting with Dr. Pachauri and in another meeting with Priscilla Andrieu, who is in contact with many international civic institutions (<http://www.worldpublicaffairs-consulting.com>), we reported that we have struggled with our sustainability efforts on school level and also about the difficulty of generating money for our plans. Priscilla will try to use her contacts to build a kind of common fund for the global POP Movement Teams to request money from. With our Mexican counterpart, made up of students and lecturers of the local UNAM (Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México), we quickly made friends and also spent some of our little time off with them.

Alina took over the presentation of our previous efforts in the Youthquake session in front of the plenum very professionally. She answered the audience’s questions skillfully at the panel discussion with former French environment minister Mister Lalonde. We are glad about the positive feedback which we are receiving. Right after this the last official item on the agenda followed, the final colloquium. During the evening before and earlier throughout the second day I noticed irritation among my students; the result of having a much shorter speaking time compared to the other speakers. In plenary Liane voices what we are all thinking: “If over the course of the past two days it has been stressed so much that the young generation has to save [the earth] and everyone is worried about how to sensitise young adults to treat our earth more sustainably, then please start listening to us – at least as long as everyone else!” This contribution hits! We received many agreeing comments during the later closing ceremony.

Due to the long-term contact to the editors of the journal *Geographische Rundschau*, we received a request to write a report about our journey for the magazine’s copy for July. The *Neue Rhein Zeitung* reports about our trip, too.

We are happy about the success of our stay in Mexico.

A. Forsthövel

\*Travelling via plane involves a tremendous emission of greenhouse gases. We are aware, that this is extremely harmful. There are several providers through which e.g. the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions

(more precisely: CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence emissions) caused by flights can be “compensated”. The term “compensation” is somewhat difficult, it might suggest one could take part in a deal of indulgence to revise the damaging process. We have decided to support the climate protection measures by the non-profit Atmosfair Ltd, with which I have had experiences regarding the funding of compensation measures in the past for school trips. Many of these have a social dimension, in the sense of a development helping character. Beyond this, Atmosfair calculates through numerous parameters (model of aircraft, flight route, proportions of flight altitude during the flight duration etc.) the caused emission CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence quite accurately, whereas airlines’ Flying Green Programme is mostly inaccurate and mainly limited to the view of CO<sub>2</sub> itself, which leads to significantly lower fees (if we compensated with our airline we would have paid much less). Appropriately Atmosfair has been test winner in several years. We have a good feeling because of the payments to this charitable company, knowing full well of the general harm to the climate caused by our flight. For further information:

<https://www.atmosfair.de/en/offset/flight/>

- Important Impressions in Mexiko. *Neue Rhein Zeitung*, 15.02.18 Online at: <https://www.nrz.de/staedte/moers-und-umland/wich-tige-eindruecke-in-mexiko-id213444817.html>



The POP Movement Team's representatives with John Vidal (centre; left to right: Erik Reese, Tim Jannes Rupprecht, Liane Keesen, Alina Bruder, Rabea Suhre, Andreas Forsthövel) at the sustainability congress on 1/2 February.



POP Movement Germany meets POP Movement Mexico. Left next to rollup: Priscilla Andrieu and Dr. Pachauri.



Listen to us! Liane Keesen addresses her appeal to the entire audience of the final colloquium.



Alina Bruder with Brice Lalonde.



The POP Movement Team on top of the Torre Lationamericana in Mexico City.