BEGINNINGS AT UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Being with students, and to see their enthusiasm for Pakistan, has been a refreshing experience. I met a number of students on 25th October, led by Syeda Hanniya Kamran and co-ordinated by Dr. Rabia Khalid. We were fortunate that the Vice Chancellor Kamal Munir was also able to attend. The meeting was held in a committee room at West Court, Jesus College, arranged by Lucely Couch, Assistant to Master Sunita Alleyne, OBE.

The meeting had been convened by PakSoc to work out ways to help Pakistan at this juncture. Since they had been considering arranging for fund raisers to send funds for relief and rehabilitation work, and since I don't believe in charity, I was able to share my alternate point of view.

I believe it is important to provide expression of empathy and solidarity with those who are today in a destitute state. Some funds are always useful if they are provided in a manner that will be perceived as one's own desire to learn about sustainable living and how to work out ways to inflict least damage to the biosphere.

What is Climate Volunteers Village Hospitality Program?

This program is designed to be drive by village communities in Mirpur Khas, Sindh, Pakistan, four hours drive from the large megalopolis of Karachi. All the communities in the area had lost all their belongings due to the catastrophic Floods 2022.

The main centre is Pono Village where special accommodation built in an enclosed area in the village will be provided. You will experience the rural life of Pakistan but more than the ways of sustainable living and how to work out ways to inflict least damage to the biosphere.

Who are Climate Volunteers?

Climate Volunteers (CV) are those individuals who would like to spend time in areas that have suffered climate emergencies. The process is similar to those volunteers who would like to provide humanitarian assistance to marginalized communities; however, CVs have to do more than just helping affected communities. They will need to work out ways to help in Zero Carbon villages to complete their community structures, at the same time learn how to survive under difficult conditions of living a life with limited resources.

It is Climate Volunteers, who will bring back rich experience of living with those who have begun to fend for themselves, and to provide them hope for better future and a more humanistic world.

The fact that they have decided to go through some difficult decisions even to arrive in a flood affected area but even more so from their desire to learn about sustainable living and how to work out ways to inflict least damage to the biosphere.

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