



MEDIA KIT

DR. KUSUM VYAS

A graduate of Nairobi and Texas A&M University and Distinguished International Visiting Professor, Universitas Mahendradatta, Bali, Indonesia, Kusum Vyas was born in Nairobi and grew up in Kampala. Kusum is the founder of the Green Kumbh Movement and GYAN initiatives of Living Planet Foundation. GYAN is focused on religion-based environmentalism that the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) describes as “the world’s largest civil society movement on climate change”.

Kusum has worked selflessly with several religious & civic leaders since 2004 to promote the Green Kumbh concept. She successfully launched the Green Kumbh Yatra in collaboration with United Nations Convention of Biodiversity (CBD) at COP11. Green Kumbh Yatra has no modern precedent. Kusum, who is a Hindu, believes that inside each of us lies a wealth of power to learn how to live on Earth in ways that honor the web of life and future generations. She has been an instrumental voice in bringing international attention to the plight of the ecologically fragile and religiously significant Ram Setu in the Gulf of Mannar.

Kusum is the Founder of the Green Kumbh Movement, Hindu Climate Change Ambassador. Distinguished International Visiting Professor, Universitas Mahendradatta, Bali, Indonesia Founder & President, Living Planet Foundation & Green Action Yatra Network (GYAN) Founder, Esha Vasyam, Gulf of Mannar World Heritage Site Campaign (Save Ram Sethu) Global Institute for Truth & Awareness (GITA)

www.livingplanetfoundation.org www.gyanworldwide.org



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What is Dr Vyas hoping to accomplish from participating in the symposium?

This visit isn't about just participating in a three-day event in April: it's a transformational journey with hallowed purposes. First and foremost, it's a realization of my Hindu belief that, "our life is a sacred journey and we are all pilgrims on planet Earth". Second, Jerusalem is no ordinary place; therefore, this is no ordinary visit. This is a pilgrimage to the birthplace of three major world religions and home to a historic cultural heritage from which life giving challenges will emerge. As a "pilgrim among pilgrims" interacting with other delegates, I hope to gain new insights and attain a deeper understanding of the old and new and challenging themes in the local spiritual tradition, while exploring how those themes can be integrated into our own work. Last but not least, this pilgrimage is a celebration of a long-term dream coming to fruition: I am very proud to be a part of the Green Pilgrimage dream right from its birth at Windsor.