Participants:
From Sweden: Anna Bassmann, Birthe Eriksson, Eveline Preibsch, Johan Tandberg, Karin Sunden.
From Norway: Jo Lie-Nielsen (living in Denmark)
From Denmark: Ellen Berring, and Leanna Gary and Anusuya Kumar.
From Germany: Isa Wagner, Muna Wagner, Friederike Muhlans, Vara Lakshmi
From Nederlands: Harrie de Koning, Jannet Klingenberg
From India Auroville: Jaya Berggreen-Clausen.

The gathering opened with a short presentation of the participants; who we are and our connection to Auroville.
After this followed a nice lunch and a walk by the sea, as the Martinus Center is situated right on the beautiful beaches of the Kattegatt Sea on northern Sjaelland.

In the late afternoon and evening Anusuya Kumar, research-scholar and writer based in Copenhagen, Denmark who is currently working on a book on Johannes Hohlenberg (1881-1960) and completing a translation of his writings on Integral Yoga gave a much appreciated presentation of her research work. A significant aspect of her research has been to recover Hohlenberg’s journals, letters, and archives that detail his early connection with Sri Aurobindo in India and the Mother in France at the turn of the 20th century.
Johannes Hohlenberg was a Danish philosopher, mystic, artist, and political-economist. In Denmark, he is best known for his contributions to the founding of the post second-world war modern welfare state and for his writings on Soren Kierkegaard. It is a lesser-known fact that he was practitioner of ‘Integral Yoga’ from the early decades of the 20th century and deeply inspired by Sri Aurobindo and the Mother. He wrote a book, ‘Yoga in Its Meaning for Europe’(1916), after and his meeting with Sri Aurobindo in Pondicherry in 1915. This book details his profound understanding of Sri Aurobindo’s early teachings and offers new perspectives on mutual cooperation between countries in Europe as part of a universal community. As well, it outlines the evolutionary potential that yoga has to offer humanity and how individuals can realize their spiritual essence through self-development and transformation. Hohlenberg also wrote several articles on Sri Aurobindo in his journal ‘Ojeblikket’ after the second-world-war suggesting that the path for post-war nations was to integrate spirit and free-will into the fabric of life. Hohlenberg’s painting of Sri Aurobindo from 1915 is a classic.

A remarkable feature of Hohlenberg’s life was his early encounters with the Mother in Paris between the years 1907-1915. He met the Mother as an artist at ‘La Palette’, an art-school, and began exploring spiritual self-development under her tutelage. The influence of Max Theon’s ‘Kabbalah-based’ teachings were critical to this period. He also wrote articles on the subject and kept a journal detailing the guidance he was receiving from the Mother. These writings help to shed light on the early life of the Mother in Paris.

Hohlenberg died in 1960 in Copenhagen after a paralytic stroke. His archives reveal a world of close relationships that he had with both Sri Aurobindo and the Mother.

The second day continued with a workshop: “How can Scandinavia contribute to Human Unity”. The intent was to create a common understanding for the Scandinavian Pavilion in the International Zone.

The three smaller groups present the work at their tables, what emerged in the dialogues and their final synthesis.

The interactions were inspiring and thought provoking, touched deeply on the strong presence and influence of nature in the Scandinavian countries, on underlying humanitarian values and the situations of today, especially the refugee situation which is creating turbulence and having a great impact on society. From all three groups emerged the sense of connection to and influence of the land and nature, of underlying values such as equality and sharing and the deep effects of an intended and conscious effort through education in creating a caring and just society. Further, the sense of simplicity and clear lines in design and beauty of environment which is essential part of the environment developed in Scandinavia.
Peace, Equality, Humility and Courage
Embracing the complexity of humanity from a deep relationship to nature in all its aspects. The capacity for humble, courageous service to humanity and an appreciation or expression of beauty and simplicity in forms.

The aim of the workshop was to emerge a common understanding amongst us. The next step is to move this forward towards the manifestation of a Scandinavian Pavilion. It was decided to collaborate with the Berlin Sri Aurobindo Center and the European AVI Groups on this.

In the afternoon, sitting outside on the terrasse, we did a round to hear from each participant their field of interests & offerings for the future work. The main fields that emerged were general organization, website, a Scandinavian newsletter, the Scandinavian Pavilion and potential projects related to AVI and Auroville.

The following commitments emerged:

- Birther and Leanna can take up **organization** in general, arranging meetings including a yearly gathering, Skype and email contacts. Eveline is ready to support a Scandinavian Group and communicate the information coming from AVI and from Vani as AVI’s representative in Auroville. Friederike is willing to network + share/help with AVI experience and Jaya is ready to support from the Auroville side.
- Work with **website**: Anu can help develop the website and VaraLakshmi will support from Germany with the technical aspects of creating a website and a newsletter. (This work also includes linking with AV international, Unity Pavilion and other relevant websites.) Isa will put information from the Scandinavian group on the AVI website.
- Creation of a **Scandinavian newsletter**: It was clear that the newsletter can have articles in Any of the Scandinavian languages as well as in English. Leanna can translate articles from English into Danish as well as write articles for the newsletter.
Friederike will support with materials from the German AVI Newsletter and Jeanette will share the Dutch Newsletter and articles. Anna can do translations from German as well as help with send outs and Karin is ready to edit materials as time allows. Jaya will also participate from Auroville.

- Jo is interested to follow up the Scandinavian Pavilion project and Isa will send an invitation to the European Hub meeting in Belgium.
- Projects connected to AVI Scandinavia and Auroville: Jo is interested to follow up fair trade and the possibilities to introduce Auroville products in Scandinavia. Ellen will connect with LØS (= local ecological villages) and see about the possibility to develop related projects in the Dyssekilde Eco-village where she lives, (Danish philosophy, integral yoga, bio-compost etc.) and connect young people with Auroville. Muna is ready to support networking and connect with Scandinavian Universities interested in or already collaborating with Auroville. Anu is offering her university connections and ready to do cross-networking. Johan who will spend some time in Auroville is ready to do what he can to support from there.

With all these good people wanting to make an effort for Auroville we hope to establish the Scandinavian AVI Center and start initiating a Scandinavian Pavilion.

In the evening Anusuya continued her presentation on Johannes Hohlenberg, going in depth into his book “Yoga and its meaning for Europe”, explaining step by step how he takes Sri Aurobindo’s concept of Integral Yoga and brings it into a Scandinavian and European setting.

In connection with the Scandinavian AVI meeting taking place in Denmark, the organizers had been contacted by the “Utopia School”, an international initiative, which during August was having an one month program in the Christiania Community in Copenhagen, covering topics related to Utopian community experiments. The Christiania community is situated in a former military area in Copenhagen, which in the 60-ties was occupied by young people. It has been much known for its liberal view on drugs, what is less known is that throughout there has been a great effort to establish a community with a caring spirit where freedom and inclusiveness are keywords.

On the 17th August Jaya was invited to give a presentation on the Auroville economy: Its history, development and experimentation and present reality, all set against the background of the Auroville vision and the community development over the years.
The presentation was very well received and Jaya was requested to make the presentation a second time at the Sunday “Open House” at Klint.

Interesting questions merged and for those participants and guests who were relatively new to Auroville, the presentation gave a good overview and understanding of the core of Auroville’s development. To end the day there were films and images from the early days in Auroville. It gave a good impression of the hard work that started the Auroville we know today.

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At last we had to leave the Martinus Center. Such a very nice place with a big garden situated by the sea in the north of Sjaelland. The vegetarian food was excellent!

With much appreciation to the Organizers and Participants and special thanks to Anders, who helped us throughout the weekend! We will come back!

One of the amazing sunsets on the Kattegatt Sea, Northern Sjaelland
After the AVI meeting was concluded on Sunday afternoon, some of the participants went along to visit the Dyssekilde Eco Village. It was a beautiful trip along northern Sjalland, crossing the Isefjord by boat ferry. Ellen, who visits Auroville yearly, lives in the Dyssekilde project where she has built her own eco house. It is a truly inspiring place and Auroville could learn something from this project which has a lot of creative freedom and individual experimentation within agreed on frames and a collective functionality at the core.

It was amazing, friendly and beautiful.

Ellen, Isa and Muna and some of the houses at Dyssekilde Eco village