

WSA CHAIR Q3 2011 REVIEW - On the Road again...

to Members, National Committees and the Subud Media

Luke Pensenev

Q3 2011, or the period from June to September, was dominated by two seminal working trips over 21 days for me as WSA chair. So in this case I will share my diary of these visits and congresses rather than using the usual reporting format.

Forgive any/all errors herein.

Love and blessings,

Luke

WSA chair

A. INDIA DIARY - 3 CITIES 4-DAYS...

Delhi

Day 1: Arrival: Tuesday June 14th

My 21 day Asian odyssey began with being picked up at the Delhi arrival gate at 02:35 in the morning in sweltering heat by Shyam Wadera's (former MSF trustee) driver - in a golf cart (!) I was then taken to Shyam and Poonams house in SW Delhi to rest. The next day I had to **visit the Canadian High Commission** in connection with my mining research work. India's overwhelming bureaucracy plus land ownership issues means low potential for onshore mining development. Unless an exception is made to fast track strategic minerals development (rare earths, gold; oil, gas etc.). But offshore exploration is booming.



Luke and Shyam at India Gate

After the meeting we exited into the almost overwhelming heat. Shyam and I visited **Delhi's tourist 'hot-spots'**: The Presidential Palace and India Gate, and with his ever-patient driver walked (very slowly) to take pictures (see below) in the scorching 46C+ heat. Shyam had suggested I bring a sun hat from Canada and this was much appreciated advice. Then we picked up Stefan Solat, a Subud member working in India as an economist with USAID. He is married to Rasjidah, an Indonesian woman. We headed back for latihan a social and to **open a new young man** at the Solat's U.S. consulate apartment, where the Delhi group does latihan. This was followed by a brief latihan with another new young member, then home to bed. Although small with only 7-8 members, Subud Delhi is attracting younger members via Rasjidah's irrepressible enthusiasm for Subud!

Day 2: Wednesday June 15th

Up early for chapatis and fruit for breakfast with the Wadera's, then a brief visit with Shyam's 92 year-old mother lying in state on her bed in a gentle coma, hovering between this world and the next. She was the first woman opened in India by Bapak in the 1960s. After a brief delay looking for my mislaid passport (!!), it was then farewell to Shyam and Poonam. Their son drove me to the airport for the trip to Bangalore and the next stage of the 3-day India visit.

Bangalore

I arrived in Bangalore in southern India, one of India's hi-tech/manufacturing centres and much cooler at 32C. I was met by Shanker, chairman of Subud India, and his brother. They then drove me off to the India Institute of Learning (similar to a YMCA). It was in the old downtown and was hosting an **SD India conference** that was in full swing. India seems to have more SD projects per capita than any other country!

Had a great time brainstorming with leaders from several SD India projects (organic gardens; organic farming; schools etc.), then dinner in the boisterous canteen. We then had an **open discussion on international activities** having done testing together on the way ahead for Subud India. Slept at the nearby India Institute hostel – memories of youth hostelling.

Day 3: Thursday June 16th

Visited **Mithra School**, the five-grade, privately run and SD-sponsored school set up under the auspices of SDIA in the 1990s with the help of a large non-Subud donation, located in an oversized building on the edge of the city.

An extraordinary school with five classrooms filled with bright-faced, cleanly polished, neatly uniformed 6-16 year olds. The future of India flowing through. I was asked to hand out candies – which to keen 15 year-olds seemed highly unusual! – but they took it in stride. There is abundant vacant space that can be used for further classrooms...and hopefully much needed enterprises. In discussion with the Subud headmaster we observed the need for more parent involvement, (many of whom are textile or building workers), to help with school operations and maintenance, and to help start new support enterprises. Since SD national organizations like those in Germany and Britain won't be able to support operating budgets much longer.

Chennai

Then off on a two-hour flight to Chennai, formerly Madras, on the east coast. Back to 36/38C heat. Met by the amazing Subud entrepreneur/agronomist, Suny. He was full of organic gardening and social outreach enthusiasm. Dropped off for tea with Shankar and Suny at my hotel - then latihan with testing about the way ahead for the men. A meeting **discussing international activities** with the whole group of 40-50 members followed by a **huge meal together** at the nearby badminton club! Then late to bed; the day still so hot, even at midnight.

Day 4: Friday June 17th

Samy's Gardens and site of future Chennai Latihan Hall



Off to **Samy's organic village gardens** network scattered across five-villages 30-40 kms south of Chennai - a teeming city of 5 million. Every village has its organic farming champion's picture posted at the entrance to their farms or in the centrally located organic garden plot. Each plot is teeming with eggplant, cabbage, tomatoes, mango (peak mango season across India and the best mangoes ever tasted!) and so on. A portion of every harvest is shared with every household in the village. Samy's first garden yielded enough fruit and veggies to provide every one of the 200 households with a basket full.

This helps spread the organic farming message. The fertilizer dependence of the 1960s Green Revolution that initially brought India out of its famine cycles has run its course with exhausted soils/high input costs. This transition will take a generation or more to effect.

We jeoped our way around every village and met the most exceptional, humble, hard-working enthusiastic people (see photos). Then we visited **Subud India's national centre land** at the edge of the city near a new orbital road under construction. This will be the site for Subud India's new Subud house to be developed in the next few years. After a long commute back to Chennai in rush hour; it was off to the airport for the late night red-eye 3.5 hour flight to Singapore, then to Jakarta.

What an amazing glimpse into India's future. With only 150-180 members spread across 5-6 groups, Subud India's membership is enthusiastic with a unique and deep commitment to Susila Dharma/social humanitarian projects. An extraordinary base in caring for India's challenges and to build the future of Subud India on.

B. INDONESIA DIARY – TWO LOCATIONS, 16 DAYS; 20+ MEETINGS!

WISMA SUBUD GATHERING PORTION JUNE 18-23

Day 5: Saturday June 18th

Arrived early Sunday morning in Jakarta; light traffic meant only 45 minutes taxi ride from Jakarta airport to Wisma Subud – half the usual time.

Day 6: Sunday June 19th

Preliminary WSA Meetings

The first of four days of incredible deep morning latihan in Wisma Subud; so strong they don't stop until they are done. I sat on the floor after they were 'finished' & they kept going!

The first day began with debriefing and logistics with the WSA executive, a first meeting with the zone reps already present and a first WSA meeting with Pancaran Cahayu Bahagia (PCB - the company representing plot holders in Kalimantan), Yayasan Muhammad Subuh (YMS - MSF's Indonesian sister organization) and MSF trustees. We discussed their perspective on the situation that has been slowing down the development of Rungan Sari phase II. In the evening there was an outdoor concert organized by Ary Sutedja in front of the Yayasan Musik Internasional School she runs at Wisma Subud.

Day 7: Monday June 20th

MSF, KRE/Altar and WSA Meetings



MSF Trustees and YS Meeting

The day began with an **MSF board meeting**. Next MSF testing for new trustees began, guided by the IHs. Testing continued into the next day until **two new trustees were appointed**. Then after lunch WSA meeting with Yayasan Subud (YS - the yayasan Subud/charitable organization running Wisma Subud) followed by a joint YS and Wisma residents' meeting.

In the evening there was a PCB presentation led by Hartanto (a non-Subud member married to Olvia Reksodipoetro) who was recently appointed as PCB commissaris/administrator. The MSF trustees and WSA directors were able to form an opinion on the PCB perspective, such that prior differences between PCB and Kalimantan Real Estate (KRE) were seen less significant and everyone felt able to move forward based on an anticipated follow-up meeting.

We then had a **Wisma Subud heritage planning meeting** reminding us that Bapak had achieved recognition from Suharto's government for Wisma Subud as an international spiritual centre as early as 1963, that the '71 World Congress was the largest international gathering up to that date in Indonesia and that Wisma Subud is part of our Subud heritage and needs a development Master Plan, being now surrounded by high rises in a city of 15 million.

Then in the evening a follow-up meeting to balance the prior PCB meeting with Hamid da Silva and his associate, Kohar Sillem, delivering their perspective on **Kalimantan Real Estate's Rungan Sari development** history and plans. Then a visit to the Altar offices behind the Wisma Subud guest house, where Hamid and Kohar provided a briefing on Hamid's oil and gas exploration activities.

Finally late that night a **Wisma Subud heritage follow-up meeting** for myself, Maxwell and Josephine identifying Subud and non-Subud support for the project.

Day 8: Tuesday June 21st

WSA, MSF and SIA meetings

After another deep morning latihan in the main hall, a short meeting of the newly **formed Sinar Investment Association** representing Kalimantan Gold shareholders. Then in the absence of Ibu due to illness, the whole **WSC met in Adi Puri and listened to Ibu's 1998 talk** from Austria selected for us. After this was the final MSF follow-up testing for new trustees followed by a formal meeting of WSA and YS regarding improvements and new developments within Wisma Subud.

Finally a **joint meeting with MSF and YMS** at a signing ceremony/meeting for the new agreement handing over ownership of Adi Puri to YMS where the prior loan from MSF to YMS was forgiven and a new joint ownership agreement created.

Day 9: Wednesday June 22nd

Bapak Birthday Celebrations

Up at 04:00(!) for breakfast and to a 05:00 hrs **traditional Bapak birthday latihan** together with perhaps 200 men in the large latihan hall and 150 women in air-conditioned Adi Puri. Then directly into our buses for the 120 km trip to Suka Mulia, Bapak's grave near Bogor.

After the quiet of Adi Puri, we arrived 3 steamy hours later in the low mountains for a slow walk up the long steps to **Bapak's mausoleum** and a peaceful hour sitting quietly together around Bapak's grave; many signed the visitor's book. Then back into another bus to stop briefly at **YUM's Cipanas** Community Development and Training Centre. I got caught up on YES Quest and Subud Youth Activities updates with Peter and Istimah Jenkins, Quest Coordinators, and Lucinda Young, SYAI coordinator, as we went.

Gamelan Orchestra during Bapak's Birthday Celebration



Then the long drive back for **Bapak's 110th birthday selamat** in the big hall at Wisma Subud. After my impromptu WSA chair's speech recognizing the fortieth anniversary of the latihan hall built for the 1971 World Congress, I had the honor of receiving the tip of the rice mountain from Pak Haryono, Bapak's son, who presided over the entertainment and ceremonies. The gamelang orchestra played around us and everyone enjoyed the feast by the Wisma Subud gathering committee headed by Ary Sutedja.

Day 10: Thursday June 23rd

WSC RUNGAN SARI, KALIMANTAN PORTION, JUNE 23 – JULY 1

Travel/Transition Day

Finally the one hour flight to Palangkaraya, Kalimantan. Then 26 km drive to gleaming Rungan Sari. The **'Ice breaking' afternoon testing; bonding**. An initial WSA board of directors straight-talking meeting in the evening to review WSA chair/director's roles; where there had been ambiguities and

disagreements before - we worked through these with the help of Harvey Peters as our facilitator.

Day 11: Friday June 24th

Kedjiwaan Day

Our first full World Subud Council day together in Kalimantan; we had latihan at 8:30 (and every day; thereafter) then testing on roles; relationships; the way ahead. This involved International Helpers testing various aspects of **WSC/WSA roles** and also how we all should approach our roles. We all sat together in the larger conference room and shared our visions, concerns, **challenges as a full Council**. We started to bond as a Council once more.

Day 12: Saturday June 25th

International Overview Day

Reports from the WSA chair with the theme of 'building bridges' between the WSA and the foundation/wings (MSF, SDIA, new SICA, new SES, SYAI etc.). We had been prepared by the Wisma Subud meetings/latihans. We had all managed to attend with only one absentee (Elwyn Waugh, WSA Accountant, due to health issues). The International Helpers collaborated more fully in our work together; the **WSA executive chair reported on the administration**; fundraising was highlighted as critical now. How we need to become a more professional (inner AND outer) capacity building organization.

Wing chairs outlined their priorities: SDIA with projects; SESI focused on member services; projects database; a new virtual finance institution; SICA showcased a new website defining its new strategy and structure focused on creating the space and opportunities for the culture of Subud to emerge in the work and artistic creative endeavours of members; SYAI defined its evolving structure serving younger members worldwide with a new budget, emphasis on gatherings, YES Quest, Human Force camps to support projects..(both followed the WSC meetings). SIHA emerging now more confident and focused on becoming dynamic and present in focusing on health and well being for Subud members under its new chair Matthew D'haemer; the International Helpers reminded us of their roles within their respective Areas I –Australasia; II Europe and Africa; III The Americas.

Then after lunch the **Kalimantan Gold (KGC) update** from Rahman Connelly and Ridwan Lowther; KGC stands on the verge of three mining projects: Jelai in East Kalimantan with Tigers Realm mining of Australia; the potentially very large scale KSK Central Kalimantan project with Freeport and a coal concession deal to provide cash flow for these larger projects. By this time the MSF trustees had been confirmed and we were ready to do the **testing for the new MSF chair** in front of Council. The testing proceeded smoothly and Bachtiar Lorot was confirmed to unanimous acclamation. There was an **International projects/centres update** as a prelude to a fuller discussion of the possible need for an International Centres and Projects oversight team. The WSC eventually decided that the board and executive would take on this role informally.

Day 13: Sunday June 26th

Enterprise and Finance Day

We reviewed the **main sources of WSA income:** Zones, enterprise donations, individuals and MSF; how we are doing: rising IH, travel, archives, wing funding, translations costs. Hammond Peek as

Treasurer presented a wide ranging report; essentially we have a \$120K deficit for 2011. **Income has dropped** from some Zones as well as enterprise support (all time low) and very low individual/special donations with no formal fundraising or major enterprise support. This indicates the need for a **new WSA activities awareness raising** and sponsor-a-project/part of the organization campaign. Time for **diversified WSA and wings fundraising** and improved income from Zones/countries, enterprises, etc.

Day 14: Monday June 27th

Day off

boarding riverboat; Hamilton Schragen, International Helper, and Luke



Fifty members elected to take the **riverboat cruise** run by Gaye Thavisin and Lorna Mitchell; with the river 3m lower than usual in the dry season we all had to clamber down the river bank and spread ourselves out throughout the 25m long double-decked river boat. After an hour we arrived at the orangutan sanctuary upriver.

Orang Utan band..Two or three orangutans put on a small theatre of the absurd for us on the bank of their island sanctuary as we moored off the tip of their island. A large male orangutan found an aluminum tube at the river's edge; tried to make a fishing rod or back-scratcher or grub-straw or whatever! Took it home to his wife who was unimpressed; he looked askance at us humans watching from our vantage point of 200,000 years 'ahead' on the riverboat and looked back at him! Suddenly I had this profound sense of perspective 'how would it be for us if we were looking up at a spaceship moored 'offshore' in 200K years?; what would we see?; what would 'they' see?; 2001 Space Odyssey + slapstick comedy rolled into one..!

Day 15: Tuesday June 28th

Archives and Communications Day

Archives project updates; time to get into gear on phase I of the Archives tape preservation project with Memnon in Belgium. Next phase **Archives fundraising** for the following phases amounting to \$400K over the next 4-5 years. An **SYAI/youth update** with a new structure taking over YES Quest the direction of founder Peter Jenkins et al; also ongoing Human Force camps with new budget and operating structure emergent.

A WSA-External Relations review that touched on **SICA's WSA Forum support offer** to take on the WSA Forum/programs; our need to have the communications/media/ websites side fully managed by

the WSA executive; international and interfaith liaison to be taken on by individuals within the former ER team and overseen by the WSA - a work-in-progress since we did not have time to define how we should proceed with the new structure emphasizing independent non-WSA direction for the WSA Forum and interfaith liaison. Stay tuned.

Day 16: Wednesday June 29th

Communications and Communities Day

We received three proposed sites for testing for the **World Subud Council 2012 location** with Vancouver eventually selected; then a SIHA presentation update from newly appointed chair Matthew D'haemer showcasing a new website mock-up.

Then the ongoing **Space for Grace** presentation/review; Osanna outlined successful early initiatives to now having more consciously 'open space' at gatherings and in groups for us to be more respectful, calm and present and to wait on the guidance that we have access to. How this approach is clearly aligned with our Subud principles – a more conscious expression so that we experience the calm and clarity more often. Although the International Helpers expressed some doubts and concerns as to whether this might confuse members, the general feeling was that the 'Space for Grace' initiative is already embedded in our Subud culture and can be supported informally as the organization sees fit with helper support.

The WSHP (**Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Project**) co-chairs Pak Haryono and Josephine Bacikin addressed the Council and gave us a full overview of the project in terms of the heritage protection planning for Wisma Subud. Initially we need to define what we want, and have all stakeholders participate. Then develop an initial Master plan and bring in government support to facilitate a move towards Wisma Subud's designation as an Indonesian/international cultural/spiritual heritage site.



Wisma Subud Latihan Hall

Day 17: Thursday June 30th

World Congress and Wings Day

After a sweaty early morning trek up to the Mhd. Subud Centre (MSC) 60 or so of us watched Maya, Dave and Luke's **World Congress 2014 site review** from Puebla last April. This was the first site visit in preparation for the next World Congress in 2014 with the Congress Organizing Team chair, Fernando, participating. Everyone was able to ask questions and discuss issues such as accommodation, health, safety, travel, meeting spaces etc. Downtown world heritage site Puebla City is an extraordinary meeting space comprising modern convention centre and multiple adjacent 17th-19th century buildings as meeting spaces beside the 16th century old city.

After lunch we met again in the resort to hear **presentations from SDIA** on their development projects; the impending new MoU which the WSA worked on since Gt.Malvern in 2010. Also SDIA's growing \$1M. endowment fund and the need for greater helper support for SDIA countries/members

working in projects. This was followed by a SICA presentation focused on an extraordinary new website centred on its new Mission Statement and organizational strategy around the presence of SICA in supporting the emergence of cultural and creative activities of all types by Subud and non-Subud members in collaboration. We all participated in a **Look Ahead brainstorming** session coordinated by Hadrian Fraval, Zone 1-2 Representative, looking ahead at what we want to achieve together in the next year. We all enjoyed our 5-6 person roundtables with tea and cake generously provided by the da Silvas.

Day 18: Friday July 1st

Wrap Up Day

Final WSC day; a big mountain to climb pulling all the threads together; started with **Finance** and draft budget approval for 2012; then **international centres** focus and resolution; so that the WSC will oversee international projects/centres in a general manner without the need for a formal ICP international centres and projects board; MSF and archives; the follow up clarification to the seminal **MSF-Archives Tapes Project** offer to manage the tapes restoration component of the Archives project (inline with MSF's core mandate).

SESI presented its proposed **Kalimantan finance company** (FinCo) for Kalimantan development; the **ongoing international honoraria overview** for discussion will continue within the WSA Board of Directors; Subud Washington D.C. members gave us the **new SUSA national/regional centre** overview; seeking MSF and general WSC support both as a regional as well as national centre for Subud USA.

Luke and Kumari Beck as WSA-SDIA chairs signed an **historic WSA-SDIA MoU** as a newly harmonious agreement to collaborate more fully; **SICA's WSA Forum support proposal** taking on the External Relations WSA Forum/related programs received universal support, with some uncertainty re interfaith liaison role that WSC deemed individual members/projects need to address directly.

The **WSA Finance Team development** proposal outline from the WSA chair identified the need to boost the team's financial capacities; an initial WSA Finance fundraising strategy outlined; Stuart Cooke's appointment as **WSA Fundraising Coordinator** was confirmed and he provided an overview on the outline strategy for matching new income with current expenditure within the next 1-2 years max. We then reviewed our visioning process for the next year and had only a short time to look at the achievements of the WSC followed by the WSA chair thanking Almighty God for all that we had been able to achieve in such harmony and asking that the WSC Rungan Sari meeting be formally closed..

Since here had been no time on the last day after the WSC finished, Luke summarized the **achievements of this second WSC meeting** since the Christchurch Congress of 2010. These were:

- The appointment of a new MSF chair and two new trustees
- The emergence of both SICA and SESI as rejuvenated wings under dynamic leadership with developing team/board support;
- MSF's support for the core tape archives project
- SICA's support for the realigned WSA Forum/associated programs

- The recognition of WSHP: i.e. Wisma Subud and Bapak's (2) other Java houses as legacy support/development projects;
- The need for the WSA on behalf of the WSC to care for and support international centres and projects (Amanacer, Wisma Subud, Rungan Sari, etc.)
- The need to rejuvenate our WSA Finance Team and strengthen our expertise in this area
- The emergence of SIHA as a new 'wing' in its own right
- WSC support for an SESI backed finance company (FinCo) to support Kalimantan enterprises
- The appointment of a new WSA Fundraiser
- The emergence of a new SYAI youth strategy, including taking over the YES Quest and working with Human Force camps etc.
- The signing of MoU/agreements concerning Adi Puri between MSF and YMS
- The continuing strengthening of the International Helper dewan in Areas I, II & III

Day 19: Saturday July 2nd

Departing Rungan Sari day; early breakfast (I was finally getting sick after fifteen days of meetings and during which 3-4 International Helpers and various WSC members fell ill with varieties of flu..) Then we all packed into buses to Palangkaraya and the chaotic departure for Jakarta, but the plane ride was strangely calm and cool. Once back in Jakarta some took buses, others taxis.

Back to earth with a bump seeing all the Saturday Jakarta shoppers scurrying to and fro. Such a contrast to Rungan Sari, then back to Wisma Subud and rest until mid afternoon later preparing for latihan in Pamalang 1+ hours away. I had started to feel very weak and feverish but took the long taxi ride to Pamulang with Stuart Cooke anyway; I had to lie down on the sofa in the foyer in Ibu's house I was so weak; then took a separate taxi ride home to WS for a restless, feverish last night.

Day 20: Sunday July 3rd

Leaving Indonesia day; sick with a mild fever; mislaid my passport briefly again, even as I heard Rida Liobo Loote, Zone Representative from R.D. Congo had his stolen along with all his money! Maya Korzybska was getting ready to come back to Jakarta to assist Rida and I finally departed after an exceptional 21 days of extraordinary highs; some extraordinary challenges and unplumbed lows, but always supported by the latihan and extraordinary brothers and sisters.

Day 21: Monday July 4th

Return home day: Arrived back in Toronto mid-afternoon after 21 full days on the road; my 31st anniversary of arriving in Canada!