

The WSA FORUM at the SUBUD WORLD CONGRESS 2010

INTRODUCTION WSA FORUM

January 6: 4:30 – 6:00 PM in CCMTG 1

The WSA is a learning organization with broad social, educational, and cultural aims that are related to the development of humanity. The WSA Forum exists to promote debate, an exchange of ideas and practical experience among members and the community at large regarding these aims. The history of the Forum and its possibilities will be presented by Victor Margolin, Garrett Thomson and Frederic Richard. Proposed thematic workshops will be introduced.

New proposals: People will be asked to submit a short text with the concept for review. Room allocations will be subject to availability.

Breakout sessions

WSA FORUM: SUSTAINABILITY (*Victor Margolin*)

January 14: 10 – 12:30 AM in CCMTG 3

The Sustainability Workshop will convene people who have an interest in both broad and narrow issues connected with sustainability – climate change, carbon footprint issues, other environmental issues, and quality of life. The workshop will also examine new forms of governance for sustainable development. The participants will include those who were formerly members of the Sustainable Development Forum that was initiated at the Spokane Congress and has continued to maintain communication among its members since then. One of the key issues to be discussed is future Subud participation in the [Earth Summit 2012](#) planning process. An initial connection has been made but the workshop will seek to develop a strategy for continued Subud involvement.

WSA FORUM: NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

(*Reinbrand Visman*)

January 14: 2 – 4 PM in CCMTG 3

New technologies have a big impact on society. That has always been the case, but in these times the variety and speed of implementation are much higher than in the past and the speed is ever increasing. Also it seems that the technological abilities to intervene in our physical and social life are generating basic questions about values and human dignity. Issues that have been around for some time are in the medical field, in food (gmo's), in IT (privacy). But with new scientific achievements, like in nanosciences, it is important to widen the scope of these discussions. There is awareness by scientists and engineers of the effects of their work on society, but this could be much improved. There

is for instance a European policy on ethics in technology; there is literature about upstream involvement of society in scientific research. But it would be interesting to go into this discussion from the personal experience of Subud scientists and engineers together with non-Subud invitees, and find out if there are commonalities that could be further developed and shared in a larger group.

WSA FORUM: RIGHTS BASED DEVELOPMENT (*Solen Lees Gratiet*)

January 14: 4:30 – 6:30 PM in CCMTG 3

What are human rights? Who is a human rights defender? A human rights approach – what is it? Why and how? Together with the affiliates our association supports Subud members around the world who work in various fields and implement different human rights such as: the right to health, the rights to a livelihood and a livable environment, the right to education and to peace; and a right most but not all members can take for granted, the right to religious and spiritual practice.

WSA FORUM: SUBUD – A GLOBAL INTERFAITH-INTERCULTURAL PLAYER. WHY AND HOW? (*Ruslan Feldman*)

January 15: 10 – 12:30 AM in CCMTG 3

At this time in the world, the need for alliances and coalitions seems more important than ever. With tribal, racial, cultural, and religious differences regularly causing friction and strife, what collaborative role or roles can or should Subud, an organization and spiritual practice with members from many of the world's cultures, races, and faiths, play in harmonizing differences through advancing interfaith and intercultural understanding? Or should Subud play a role at all? The World Subud Association has created the Forum format at the 2010 World Congress to give members a space to discuss these and related questions thoroughly and frankly and to report back their concerns and suggestions to the Association and membership for further discussion and, if warranted, action.

WSA FORUM: SUBUD AND THE UNITED NATIONS

(*Amalia Rasheed and Frederic Richard*)

January 15: 2 – 4 PM in CCMTG 3

We will examine the role of our association in the activities and fora of the UN. We propose to start by a broad review of the profound and rapid transformations our world is living through and by an exchange of views on global issues and challenges faced by humanity to ensure its sustainable development. We will look at a range of interrelated issues such as poverty, environmental degradation and climate change, human rights, cultural diversity, inter-spiritual / interfaith dialogue and peace. ...We would focus particularly on the role of civil society and the increased importance of Global Public Private Networks.

Through opening space for debate we hope to explore what could be the role of the World Subud Association as a member of civil society at the UN; also to begin to build a network of members interested in developing this topic further.

WSA FORUM: A NEW ECONOMIC ORDER (*Bardolf Paul*)

January 15: 4:30 – 6:30 PM in CCMTG 3

Are we experiencing the beginning of a transition to a new economic order? One that will be more sustainable, more just, and more equitable? And if so, what will it take to make this change? This forum will be an open discussion on the issues facing us in making the transition to a sustainable economy. Be prepared to ask questions and share your insights.

WSA FORUM: SUMMARIES AND FUTURE PLANNING

January 16: 10 – 12:30 in THCONF 1

All Forum workshops will report back on their discussions held during congress. The group will then talk about the future of the WSA Forum.