

## CONGRESS WORKING PARTY 3: SUBUD'S PRESENCE

15<sup>th</sup> December 2009

### PART A

1. World Congress 2001: The Congress mandated the World Subud Council (WSC) to further the points on the Growth of Subud. It defined 'the growth of Subud' as: "Deepen the latihan experience; increase and improve communication within and outside of Subud; communicate about Subud and the latihan experience using clear terms and concepts; increase sense of 'spiritual generosity'." There was a working party on "Barriers to entry" which identified jargon, cultural insensitivities, association with Islam, fear of making propaganda, and applicants' process. There was another working party on "Is Subud a sect?"

2. WSC Meeting 2003 in Brazil concludes that it is not recommended that the World Subud Association (WSA) apply for a new UN ECOSOC consultative status, but rather that Subud use the SDI accreditation under the already existing wide definition.

3. World Congress 2005: The working party on 'Our duty to be present in the world' divided into three. This is a summary:

a) Image: Subud needs to get out of its 'spiritual egocentrism' and isolationism: set up a committee to evaluate presentations of Subud and WSA to publish an annual report and to have a mission statement.

b) International Subud Committee (ISC) to form a sub-committee concerning participation of Subud in international fora with the following purposes:

- To identify effective ways for representation of Subud in international fora.
- To promote and support exchange and discussion within Subud about Subud's role in the world relating to international topics.
- To make better use of and safeguard SDIA's consultative status with the UN system

c) Local Subud centres: to use local centres to engage in open conversation with interested people, organise open days, and selectively develop and provide information to the public.

4. There has been increased participation in inter-religious meetings such as the World Congress of Religions for Peace (WCRP), Tokyo (2006), and the Edinburgh Middle East Festival of Spirituality and Peace (MESF), 2007. In 2008, Osanna gave an address on Subud in the cathedral of Santiago de Compostela in Spain. In 2009, WSA participated at the Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne (PWR), during which there was a presentation on Subud.

5. There has been increased WSA participation at the UN using SDIA's affiliation: Solen Lees Gratiet participated in training on Human Rights for both WSA and SDIA; Katherine Carre has been attending UN meetings in Geneva for years **reporting to SDIA on events and trends of interest to Subud.**

6. 2006-7 WSA's year-long initiative to discuss Subud's presence in the world in countries coordinated by Taufik Waage.

7. The WSA forum was launched in 2006 as an experimental program of the WSA to provide a forum for Subud members to discuss themes central to the aims of the WSA, possibly with experts in the field who are not in Subud. The theme currently being developed with SDIA and GHFP is 'development and governance'.

8. The WSA has made changes to WSA websites (Subud.com and Subud.org) and has made WSA annual reports since 2005, which are written to be accessible for the general public.

9. The WSC suggested the following initial questions for the working party on presence in the world:

- a) What can the WSA and national bodies do to make Subud more available to the general public? What actions have been successful in your countries or zones? What are the main goals that the WSA should have in this area?
- b) How can we improve the way we treat applicants and new members? What actions have been successful in your countries or zones? What are the main goals that the WSA should have in this area?
- c) How might we demonstrate more clearly and effectively that the latihan is available to people of all beliefs, and is based neither on a guru, nor a doctrine nor a priesthood?
- d) What can national bodies do to make Subud more involved in or engaged with local communities? How can the WSA support this?
- e) What is the cross fertilization to the other working parties?

10. Question b) will also be addressed by the working party on helpers' work