

# **SDIA Report 2010-2014 to Subud World Congress**

## **1. Mission and Background on SDIA: Who we are**

Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) is a non-profit association and network that aims to relieve human suffering and promote just and sustainable development. With activities in 28 countries, SDIA has 21 voting and 41 associate members (generally, not-for-profit organisations rather than individuals). We work by:

- partnering and supporting grassroots, participatory development and humanitarian initiatives
- empowering individuals and communities to engage in human, social and economic development
- raising awareness of global issues and interdependence.

SDIA was founded in 1968 and is an affiliate organization of the World Subud Association with a mandate to implement the charitable aims of Subud. 'Susila Dharma' (SD) can be translated as "guided from within to take action in the world."

SDIA is a US-registered non-profit organization (US Charitable tax No. 98-0156249) and holds special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), UNICEF and the Department of Public Information (DPI). SDIA is governed by an international board and by the decisions of voting members at the Annual General Meeting.

## **2. Main focus of activities: What we do...**

SDIA supports Subud members and their associates to carry out social and humanitarian activities around the world. An underlying assumption of our association is that Subud members, guided by the latihan, can help bring about powerful changes in their communities. For this reason, SDIA is structured to provide support services for those Subud members who choose to create such initiatives, and associate their social, development and humanitarian activities with SD, and more broadly, Subud.

Every World Congress, the members of SDIA meet to approve goals for the coming inter-congress period. At Christchurch in January 2010, members approved the following goals that guided SDIA's activities for the years 2010-2014:

### **1. Support to members (SD Projects and SD Nationals)**

- Building capacity in project management
- Technical support to projects
- Support to new and developing SD Nationals
- Coordinated use of available resources for efficient and effective project support

### **2. Strengthen the SD Network**

- Encourage project support teams
- Encourage the creation of long-term partnerships and inter-cultural learning
- Increase sharing of good practices and lessons learned

### **3. Strengthen links with others**

- Support growing interest in volunteering through the *GetInvolved!* program

- Promote Susila Dharma initiatives in local Subud groups
- Expand partnerships and fundraising with non-Subud organizations
- Facilitate attendance at United Nations meetings by interested members and SD project representatives.

To implement these goals SDIA provides Subud members and others with four main services:

1. Capacity Building - providing training in project management, and technical support and expertise;
2. Networking and Links to other partners including the United Nations - ensuring that SD project and SD national organisations effectively linked to each other, as well as non-Subud partners;
3. Granting and Financial Support - providing fundraising activities and funds to SD projects to help them achieve their objectives;
4. Publications - providing information and communications tools to the Subud community at large, to Subud organisations and non-Subud partners through our eNews publications, website, Magazine and reports.

The SDIA Board and office report back annually on our achievements in our Annual Reports (see full Annual Reports on our website [www.susiladharm.org](http://www.susiladharm.org)).

### **3. Main achievements over 4-year period**

Main achievements of SDIA and our members over the four-year period have been:

#### **3.1. Enhancing our professionalism**

In SDIA we are aware of the need to become more professional in the way we work - both at the international and national levels and at the level of individual projects. That is why over the four-year period SDIA and its members have been working to enhance our monitoring and reporting on results associated with projects that receive grants, and helping a number of projects to strengthen the relationship between their activities and their intended results. We are clearer that all SD projects that wish to access grants from within and outside the SD network need to be structured as not-for-profits. For profit activities should be supported under the framework of SESI regardless of their location.

#### **3.2. Maintaining a network of 60+ organisations of Subud members with distinct needs and foci:**

SDIA members are very diverse and range from strong to weaker SD national volunteer organisations dedicated to supporting Subud's charitable, development and humanitarian work in their own countries; to a great diversity of SD projects including schools, vocational training, childcare programmes, health centres, agricultural projects, livelihood initiatives, work in prison with inmates, soup-kitchens and others. All these members have very different needs, and require, and sometimes expect, different types of services and support from SDIA. As our Subud community ages and commitment to SD as one key aspect of our Subud community rises and falls, it can be considered a success that our Association has maintained its membership - with some projects falling away and new projects joining the network. Over the 2010-2013 period, our membership has held steady at about 62 organisations with active Subud members leading or supporting.

**3.3. Focusing on support within the Subud organisation:** Over the past four years, SDIA and our members have sought to ensure that our Association and network are present in Subud spaces and events - both to ensure that people involved in SD work can benefit from the opportunity to do latihan and testing (many of our SD project leaders can be quite isolated from physically or psychologically from a Subud group), and to bring SD to the attention of all Subud members as a service organisation to Subud and the wider community. Thus, we are trying to develop both as a network within the overall Subud context, knowing that Subud is the essence of our SD work and that Subud also needs SD to develop. As Ibu has told us on many occasions, "SD can go to places that Subud itself cannot". We have held our network meetings and AGMs - focused on developing both the inner and outer content of our work - within larger Subud events, such as:

- World Congress at Christchurch in 2010;
- The Zone 4 meeting in Greece in 2011
- At Great Malvern alongside the British Congress and WSA meeting in 2012
- In 2013, SDIA held its AGM in Cipanas as a stand-alone event, but we were also invited by Zone 8 to provide special input to their Zone 8 gathering in Venezuela.

**3.4. Addressing some key problems in our membership- looking critically at our own work and projects:** A sign of SDIA and our members' success has been our ability to address key challenges faced by members of our network. In a number of cases, SDIA has provided strategic, technical, or policy support to projects and SD nationals to help them re-orient their activities in line with changing times and needs in their communities. Some examples of this are:

- Anisha, YUM and YTS in Indonesia conducted evaluations of their work that led to improvements in their operations, results and relevance in the communities they serve
- SD Congo projects were assisted with assessments and technical support, identifying and addressing capacity development needs in the fields of education, healthcare and agriculture
- CCD in India was assisted to focus their activities on achievable outcomes
- Fundaci3n Amanecer and Amor in Colombia called on help to assess their future directions
- I Protect Me in South Africa was assisted in the start up phase of a new project

**3.5. Leveraging Subud funds to attract non-Subud donors:** In the DR Congo, our support for SD Congo to adopt and develop a model for not-for-profit, community-based care brought SDIA to the attention of a large, non-Subud family foundation, committed to working in the DR Congo. The small investments in healthcare that Subud organisations, such as SD Nationals, MSF and private foundations of Subud members demonstrated viability to this foundation who funded the construction of three new Community Health Centres during this period.

**3.6. Widening our network of Subud and non-Subud partners:** A strategic objective of SDIA and our members has been to widen our network of partners and supporters beyond our core group of Subud organisations and donors. Some examples over the past four years have been to represent SD at various UN meetings, develop links with the Buchan Family Foundation, Freeport McMoran (mining company in the DR Congo) University of

Saskatchewan medical school, St-Lawrence College's Sustainable Energy Applied Research Centre, Planet Water Foundation, and to work with local health and educational authorities, and others. SDIA members SD Germany, ICDP International, YTS, YUM and other members enjoy support from government, private sector and philanthropic foundations outside of Subud.

**3.7. Building the SDIA Endowment Fund:** With a number of gifts and bequests, SDIA has sought to grow its Endowment Fund as a basis for sustaining both our office and for supporting SD projects and special humanitarian and development initiatives of Subud. Some examples from this period are bequests from Michael Gordon, Lavinia Swanson, Gerald Chalem, Murray Clapham and on-going support from the Lewis Arquette Estate that have helped SDIA develop a capital base to sustain its work.

**3.8. Emergency Appeals and Funds managed for Subud:** As requested by WSA, SDIA has managed emergency appeals for crisis around the world during this period: earthquake in Chile, floods in Pakistan, eruption of Mt Merpati in Indonesia, earthquake in Christchurch New Zealand, Hurricane Sandy in the Caribbean, Tsunami devastation in Japan, and Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines.

During this period, there have been a number of changes in SDIA's Financial status over the period: our Endowment Fund as grown to close to \$1 million dollars, and SDIA is using part of the interest from this fund to support its operations and other priority projects. We have also attracted increased funding from outside of Subud for health, education and development projects within our network. However, over the last few years, while successfully increasing our funding to projects, we have had fewer general donations from Subud members and Subud enterprises that are necessary to support the services that we provide to strengthen the work of Subud members in the development and humanitarian fields.

#### **4. SDIA Strengths and Weaknesses**

##### **Key strengths of SDIA and our members**

- Provide a option for Subud members (young and old) interested in social, development and humanitarian work to get involved, to share their inner guidance and professional expertise with others working in related fields.
- Projects demonstrate good results in a range of fields of healthcare, education, child care and development, sustainable agriculture, livelihoods, good governance, etc.
- A growing body of knowledge about good practices in all these fields.
- A strong participatory governance of SDIA with active participation of most of our members; Directors nominated and elected by SD national (voting) members annual to create a staggered Board holding a minimum of 8 teleconference meetings and one-face-to-face meeting per year.
- Transparent and accountable reporting to members, to WSA, to Subud and non-Subud donors.

- The capacity to address challenging issues that arise in the context of working across cultures and languages,
- A professional office team of 4 and translation of key documents into English, French and Spanish
- A wide network of committed volunteers

#### Key weaknesses of SDIA

- Financial sustainability: As a service-based organisation, SDIA is working for members who can generally not afford to pay for the direct costs of the services provided. A few SD nationals from wealthy countries provide about 20-30% of SDIA overall operating costs. That means that while we are increasingly able to raise funds for good projects with tangible benefits to communities, the work of SDIA in coordinating, strengthening, monitoring, evaluating and reporting on these is often not recognised by donors.
- Too few volunteers: SDIA and our members, particularly our SD Nationals, depend heavily on volunteer Board and committee members from the Subud community. It is often a great challenge both for SDIA and SD national to ensure that there are enough volunteers to cover all the tasks that need doing.
- Maintaining awareness and interest of Subud members and donors: For SDIA to keep its identity as a Subud-based charity and development network, we need to maintain a core donor base of Subud members. Yet often we find long-time Subud members who have not even heard of SD as a part of the Subud organisation. It is important for us to work even more closely with national committees, Zone reps and International Helpers to help them understand and communicate to members that SD exists as an outer expression of Subud in the world, and is a good vehicle for Subud members who wish to donate their time, expertise or money to good projects and causes.
- Encouraging the integration of Susila Dharma into local groups and national Subud organizations: While much has been done to raise awareness of the relevance and importance of Susila Dharma to Subud groups and national organizations, much more needs to be done. Helper support for Subud members engaged in SD work (nationally and internationally), recognition and support from national Subud organizations, integration and working with other wings, is an area that needs more attention at all levels of the organization. (*see below for more details*)

### **5. New initiatives and developments**

In early 2014, SDIA surveyed our members to see how we should adapt our goals as an association for coming 4-year period between World Congresses. Member feedback focused on the following points:

- Continue to strengthen the capacities of SDIA and its members in three key areas: Kedjiwaan (putting into practice our inner guidance in our SD work); Project Management (all aspects of the project cycle from planning through evaluation); and technical expertise in areas that our projects are active (health, education etc).

- Establishing a clear set of good practices and standards to ensure the quality of all SD projects, particularly in the field of education, healthcare and governance.
- Strengthen sharing of good practices and lessons learned
- Improving inclusion, knowledge and awareness of SD work among local/national committees, helpers and Subud members at large.
- Encouraging all SD and Subud members to feel confident about the management and results of our SD projects as a basis for attracting new funding from non-Subud family, friends, colleagues and institutions.

## **6. Collaboration with other affiliates/partner organisations/WSA**

During the period, there have been examples of strong and successful collaboration with a number of WSA affiliates, WSA itself and partner organisations of Subud members. In particular we want to recognise Muhammad Subuh Foundation, Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace, Blond Trust and WSA itself.

- **International Helper Support:** in many cases, SDIA has received exceptional support from the International Helpers who have patiently accompanied us in our meetings and supported us with testing. In one case, there has also arisen tensions with some IHs after their visits. Although the SDIA office attempted to brief the IHs before their trip, it seems they came back with concerns that could have been addressed if better preparation had been done beforehand. Our lesson is that SDIA should be working more closely to inform and collaborate with IHs including travelling with them when possible to ensure that no misunderstandings arise. In general, we would like to work more closely with the IH team to enhance awareness among helpers everywhere of the support needs of Subud members working in SD, and to encourage Subud members to 'grow' an inner awareness of Susila Dharma .
- **WSC** - SDIA has also worked closely with a number of **WSC Zone Reps** to support the development of SD as a part of Subud life in their zones: Paloma for Zone 3, Robiyan for Zone 4 and Rodrigo and Mauricio for Zone 8  
**This has clearly identified the benefits of working at the zonal and regional level for the growth and development of SD in countries and groups.**
- **Muhammed Subuh Foundation** has been a key support of SD activities over the past four years, providing both funding to strategic SD project activities that raise the profile of Subud in their communities (Lemba Imbu Community Health Centre, Fundacion Amanecer's Early Childhood programme, SD Indonesia's Clean Water project, among others), as well as much needed core support for SDIA services to Subud members. In addition, MSF Chairman Bachtiar Lorot travelled with the SDIA team to the DR Congo in February 2013, sharing his expertise in the field of agriculture with SDIA member projects, and collaborating to support Subud houses and their completion in the DRC.

- **Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace** has been a key partner on themes related to Good Governance, Education, and Volunteering, working with SDIA to sponsor a Governance and Human Development Conference in Central Kalimantan organised by Yayasan Tambuhak Sinta, as well providing an annual grant to make the SDIA Human Force Volunteering Camp possible.
- **Subud Youth Association** working with Alex Woodward and Rosanne Osanna Favre to support youth volunteers through 4 Human Force Camps (Colombia, Mexico, Indonesia, India).
- SDIA supported **SICA** with advice on structure, governance, policies and setting up a viable international association.

It is unfortunate to say that there has not been much tangible evidence of collaboration with SESI, although we will keep working at this as SESI is a very strategic partner for us.

## **7. Plans for future**

Based on member input here are our New Goals that will be adjusted and ratified by members at Congress!

### **1. Vision – Strengthening Our Network:**

**Goal:** To demonstrate results for the community groups we serve through working as a network of professional, credible, effective and sustainable development and humanitarian organizations that reflect the qualities of ‘susila dharma’.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Develop our collective capacity in project management, technical support and inner content of our work.
2. Create, maintain and improve quality partnerships for development.
3. Collaborate in project support teams when appropriate.
4. Share lessons learned and best practices.
5. Support the development of new and emerging SD Nationals and projects everywhere.

### **2. Vision - Our Network in Subud:**

**Goal:** Susila Dharma activities are supported inwardly and outwardly by the global Subud community and recognized as the face of the social and humanitarian activities of Subud.

#### **Strategies:**

1. Strengthening connections within Subud by promoting awareness of Susila Dharma with WSC, Zones, National Committees, groups, Wings, and Helpers.
2. Improve understanding of the role different Subud functions have in integrating SD into Subud at each level.

### **3. Vision - Our Effectiveness in the World:**

**Goal:** To be recognized by, contribute to and learn from other development partners in order to sustain and improve our work.

**Strategies:**

1. Impact positively on poverty conditions and change lives
2. Create partnerships for the purposes of fundraising, development effectiveness, advocacy, research and building relations and credibility with donors, governments and other partners.
3. Participate in UN and UN-related events to gain knowledge, make connections and contribute to best practice.

**Speak to your friends and family and associates about SDIA and the charitable projects of Subud!! Share the positive change that SD projects and national organizations/teams are achieving. This is YOUR Susila Dharma Association!**

[www.susiladharm.org](http://www.susiladharm.org)

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