



WSA chair 2010-14 review

Luqman Pensenev, July 2014

In the past year, I have had the privilege of traveling to many Subud Groups around the world. It is these groups that form the core of our association. There are groups that are young and vibrant, many that are ageing with fewer and fewer members, some own beautiful Subud Houses and there are those that struggle, facing economic and even political challenges. However, no matter what the situation, there is a core group of members who faithfully attend latihan and seek ways to support their groups.

During these journeys, there appeared to be a number of themes that kept repeating no matter where I was. One was a feeling of awakening in member's awareness, a reaching out to ask, is there more? Each time there was testing about facing God, a new feeling of openness, optimism and willingness arose. Second, there appears to be an overall renewal in groups. Despite many 'ageing members', there is a realization that age is neither a serious factor nor an excuse since Bapak and now Ibu Siti Rahayu have shown us what a person in their 80's can achieve.

Finally there are our Subud communities. From Lewes in England, to Wisma Subud in Jakarta, Rungan Sari in Kalimantan, Colombia's Amanecer or Subud NY or Seattle they are embedded in the fabric of their cities and communities. How interconnected are we all within our groups and our surrounding communities? How much do we do for others all around us? When Subud is evaluated it is from the actions of its members and also the presence of its communities & centres. Ibu Rahayu points out that we can't make claims for Subud unless there is evidence. So looking at how we relate to our communities is something, I feel, should be enhanced. We can learn from one another on how to achieve a balance both inwardly and outwardly.

Our Subud World

Over this past year, our affiliates and wings continue to grow and mature. The Susila Dharma International Association, SDIA, works to support humanitarian projects in 28 countries. SICA, our cultural association strives to broaden its work to include the true meaning of culture in our lives and in the world. SESI, supported several new enterprises and worked to strengthen the organization and renewed our understanding of Bapak's guidance on enterprises.

SYAI, Subud Youth launched the SEED Fellowship program for young people. Subud Publications, SPI, was very active producing subtitled videos of Bapak's talks in addition to new volumes of talks in several languages. SPI is now more than halfway through the talk retranslation process, with perhaps some ten more years of work!

The Muhammad Subuh Foundation continued its mission to support the long term development of Subud through grants to several projects including Subud houses, International Helper travel and the preservation of Bapak's and Ibu's original recorded talks. MSF has completed the first phase of the digitization process and the project has been handed back to the WSA. A second phase will be completed in 2014.

2013 was a very busy time for the World Congress Organizing team (WCOT) as it moved into high gear, preparing for the upcoming congress in Puebla, Mexico. WCOT, working with the WSA leadership as well as our affiliates and wings, International Helpers and Zone Representatives. The team strives to develop a World Congress program that will bring members of our Subud family together in harmony as well as strengthen our organization.



Journeys

I spent much of the year traveling to groups, congresses and meetings. Early in 2013, I visited Subud Colombia during its Easter gathering. Along with the WSA deputy, MSF representative, Zone Representative and International Helper we supported a recommitment to the development of Amanecer. This remains a work in progress towards new harmony of purpose in developing a project plan for Amanecer to become self-supporting as a national/international cultural and business centre.

In June, I visited several groups in the UK including Subud Lewes, Europe's largest group which has recently been selected by the local council to lead the development of a new community centre. I also spent time in Central London at the beautiful Amadeus Cultural Centre to review development plans.

I then crossed the channel and stopped in Subud Portugal before arriving in Poio, Spain for the annual Subud Council meeting. During the 12-day event we looked closely at many important aspects of our global Subud community including communications, supporting members need for Bapak's & Ibu's Talks, the work of MSF, SDIA, SICA, SESI, SYIA as well as Zone Reps & IH's. We also began preparing the framework for Congress in more detail.

In October I attended Kejiwaan gatherings closer to home. One in my adopted country Canada and a second near Portland in the US.

I began a two month 10-country European-African journey on New Year's Day at Wisma Mulia in the UK with some of Subud's oldest members. Then I visited established Subud Britain groups in Exeter, Loudwater, Central London, Norwich and Lewes. In all centres there was a feeling of older members seeking to get started on the next development phase within their communities. Leaving England I visited Subud Paris, Rotterdam, The Hague, Hillegom, Madrid and Orgiva. Again, there was new energy arising from the need to take a fresh look at how Subud centres grow now, including among isolated members.

I flew into Africa via Turkey and Ethiopia to Subud Malawi. The group come mainly from one large family in Blantyre. They are creating new energy for Subud in south and central Africa. Visiting Cape Town and Johannesburg groups in South Africa. Here despite challenges Subud communities are considering the renewal of their centres, through new projects supported by young professionals.

Then into the extraordinary poverty of DR Congo and Brazzaville, working with the hard working Subud Congo/Zone 6 dewan. There is a dedicated core of some 20-30 members in the country. We spent 10-days on the road together visiting six groups, SD health centres and schools both SD and privately sponsored. There is a need for greater collaboration and of course multi-source funding to build on these foundations.

I returned via Lisbon and had an intense, creative meeting of six SD Western Europe chairs, SDIA and two international helpers. All in all I visited, twenty-nine groups in 10 countries and everywhere the theme of renewal was emergent!

Many Thanks

As the WSA chair, I gained direct experience of the state of development of Subud in each country. After all, WSA is the international vehicle for Subud associations in different countries.

Let us be thankful that many Subud members are beginning to be aware again of the need to follow the path of Subud. Subud is maturing, and so it is important for Subud's pioneers to refresh



members and provide a good example, in line with the advice Bapak gave in his talks, since doing that will connect to the generations to come." (Ibu's letter to WSA chair 4/2014)

So this final WSA chair Annual Report message serves to mark the final phase of my term of office alongside an extraordinary team. This includes Maxwell, Elias, Maya, also Silvana and Hammond as the WSA executive, the Zone Reps./directors, IHs, wing chairs. Also with country/project chairs and members across the Subud world. An extraordinary journey from January 2010 towards August 2014,

I rejoice and give thanks to Almighty God that we have been blessed with this journey and development process together. What has been built upon for Subud and the challenges that go with it!

With much love & blessings to all
Luqman

WSAWSC chair 2010-14 (outgoing)
ex.officio trustee/director MSF SDIA SICA