

WSA Internet Coordination up to July 2014

The work of the WSA Internet Coordination has been mostly maintenance and occasional de-listing of items of concern. The major works to the websites were done in the previous 4 years from New Zealand and in the present term there was only one issue not resolved. There was an aim to create a website that was really aimed at people enquiring about Subud which more represented us in a Sica way. This would mean in an abstract way, something that appealed to all the senses and all the forces. We have very practical websites, not very appealing to the sense of sight or sound or containing the smell of the mystic or the orient through picture and sound. We have to remember back to when we were seeking Subud. It was not the practical things we were looking for. Today it is the Internet which will be a primary source of new member. In the least, everyone will "check us out" by Googling Subud.

For the next Internet Coordinator, I would lay down this challenge. In my opinion, being involved in this field in my daily life, the time has passed for investing in websites. The technology has moved on and we have sufficient investment in websites to last us for many years to come. The places where we have no presence is where the younger members dwell. We do not have Mobile Applications and our use of social networks is sporadic.

For Social Networking, I think that this is too Public a place to be very useful to us and will always cause problems and concerns over sharing and flaunting the advice of Bapak, not to circulate his talks to non-Subud parties. Dialog between member is sometimes healthy, but it is the doing of Latihan and testing that can make significant and lasting changes in us, not the talking about it. This should be an encouraged personal effort of members willing to monitor and follow Bapak's Advice, not a National or International effort.

Let's dream and be inspired...

I am a 30 year old Subud Member from Bath in the UK who has just downloaded Subud-Alive an new application for iOS and Android. I go to Heathrow to catch a flight to New York where I have a interview for a new job. In Heathrow, I check that Subud-Alive is on in the background and within seconds, an alert is heard. "There is a Subud Member in your immediate vicinity. Do you want to connect?". So you meet through the application and sit and have a coffee with a member from Ireland on the way to Spain. Arriving in New York, I am able to see on the map where the nearest Latihan is to my hotel and clicking on it, can see the location, times or get directions. I can look in the calendar and see what Subud Events are on near where I am or if I have location on, whether there is someone in my proximity. Perhaps someday we can enter a phrase and be able to search for a Bapak Talk on that subject and read it while waiting for interview. The power of doing Latihan is what can change us and the more we are able to meet, connect and do Latihan, the better it is for Subud. Just imagine what we can do...

All of this functionality is behind the security of a Login which requires full verification to get into these Private sections of the Application. Since the application is free, in the Public section should be information about Subud, Contact Addresses, pictures, sights, sounds that all make people wish to enquire further. Be inspired and create something with real quality and purpose.

That is what I can pass on for a challenge for the future.

Matthew Weiss
May 2014