

## WORLD CONGRESS UPDATE

Maya Korzybska, Puebla, May 25th 2013



Most important announcement, the website and on line registration system are up and running in both English and Spanish, this is a major success and was much more complicated than anticipated. Thank you Lucida Garneau and Maemunah Doran of Canada. Please share the news and remind everyone that the Earlybird fee runs until November 30th and that there are payment facilities in instalments if one pays by credit card.

Council members, you must register via the invitation you have received so as to get your registration + one meal free. To see the website, go to: [www.subudworldcongress2014.com](http://www.subudworldcongress2014.com)

In case you are not aware, following the meeting and discussions shortly after, the final choice of the congress logo was made and is attached to this report.

There are two sections on the website which will be mostly active as from January 2014:

- Delegates. This section will have information for the country delegates and links to reports.
- Agenda. Here we can put the agenda and update it as it evolves. The aim is that delegates and members will be able to access the agenda on their tablets and smart phones during the congress. We hope to have an application.

The feedback so far from the on line registration system is extremely positive, people find it attractive and easy to use.

- Discount rate. We are happy to see that this rate is being requested by members from the UK, USA and Canada, who are very active members with limited means and who are really happy to be able to come to Puebla. On the other hand there are some reactions of concern from countries of lower economic status, because they are not being given a 'systematic' discount as in the past. We need to reassure them that those who need the discount will get it as easily as the others, but that it also gives people from some of these countries who DO have the means, the possibility to make an effort and pay the full fee, we would like to encourage members to really try and feel about this and if necessary to test, in the sense that sometimes we have plenty of money to spend on holidays and other things but suddenly for Subud activities we feel we are not so wealthy.

We are finalizing our deals with the many wonderful hotels around the Convention Centre....Most of them will give us the tax exempt status, but we have to sign an agreement of each hotel individually which is a lot of work. Also unfortunately though highly recommended this is not a legal obligation and so a few hotels do not wish to give us that status....still those hotels are usually giving us a very good price. In general the price of hotels for the quality is much lower than other countries.

The council members are basically being accommodated in the City Express Centro, which is very close to the Convention Centre. I say basically because a few may choose to stay at another hotel. The principal is that WSA pays max. 42\$ towards the council members bed, so

if you wish for a single room for example, then you will have to pay the difference, or if you wish for another more expensive hotel, then you also have to pay the difference. Still the council must be in direct contact with me via [mayakorzybska@gmail.com](mailto:mayakorzybska@gmail.com) to either let me know if you are coming with your spouse and other family members, or if you wish to stay in another hotel as I am coordinating the hotel rooms for the council member.

Mary Wold has written a first presentation on the family program, it has appeared in the current Subud Voice. We have been donated the use of a fabulous school adjacent to the congress centre with kindergarten and 24 class rooms for all sorts of creative activities. We are trying to make this Congress very family friendly so apart from the family fees which are as low as possible for members to be able to bring their families, we shall guide the families towards the hotels with family rooms at the best prices.

We are covering the enormous terrace by the convention centre, which will become the focal place for socializing and meeting with friends....one space (1000 square meters) with local fair trading coffee stands and other goodies. Performances will take place there on different occasions and will be the later evening hot spot to hang out. There are two reasons to cover it...one against the sun and another against the rain, as we are in the rainy season, having often tropical type rain in the afternoon/evening.

Concerning the discount or even gratuity of the convention centre, at the date of writing this document we still do not have the written agreement. The reason is that since these discussions began we are now at the third 'sub secretario de Gobernacion'....changes seem to be a habit !!! Still now we are dealing directly with the Governor's office and hope that by the time we meet in June, the situation will be resolved. We still have strong support from tourism of course and all the other suppliers we have been dealing with and we are also still confident that we shall have at least a big discount.

The next two weeks will be spent in finalizing various agreements and I hope to bring an even more precise update to the council meeting.

We are also currently negotiating an exchange sponsorship deal with VW Puebla, with the support of Lienhard Berger (retired top boss of VW in Wolfsburg)

We are still functioning well within budget and do not for see going over budget rather the contrary.

SICA is working hard on an entire new concept for the cultural aspects of the congress, which no doubt Latifah will report about.

The meeting that took place in January was felt to be extremely beneficial and already reported on. We consider that this time in January 2014, we may need a meeting with all the active members of the WCOT, those who will be responsible for very specific aspects on site. Mariamah Flores was asked and accepted the role of program coordinator for the WSA meaning the coordination of the programming of the various venues and working spaces. She will begin working directly with the WSA executive after the summertime.

The main roles within the WCOT team are filled, a few still to be filled. The full current team appears on the website (top right hand TEAM)

So, the logistics of the congress are well underway and we are currently creating the 'retro-planning' from now up to August 2014, so that we have milestones which have to be achieved at specific times so that everything is ready for the congress.

We are already writing our report, which will be basically similar to the one given to us by Subud Christchurch Congress organizing team, in other words....how WE did it including any lessons WE may have learned. We hope to be able to give this report to the team who will be preparing the World Congress in 2018 no later than one month following this world congress.

We feel that now the need of the World SUBUD Council is to focus on the content and the design of the congress, ideas have already been coming up and we hope to be able to discuss these more in detail during the council meeting.

Puebla is truly a beautiful town, as safe as anywhere in the world, it is a young town with numerous universities and a wonderful town to have a congress with a strong spiritual base. The people here are very open, supportive and helpful and we have felt no concern regarding Subud even considering that Puebla is a strongly Christian even Catholic town. We still hear some concerns from members regarding the security but we are reassuring the membership and we hope that the council members, especially those who have been to Puebla will help us in this action.

Finally, no one should imagine that Ibu Rahayu will NOT come to the congress....if anyone says this, it should be answered by saying that I am in contact with Muti and she is asking me numerous things concerning Mexico, regarding the hotel, the flights, the level above the sea etc....so the sense I am getting is that Ibu is hoping to come and we should schedule the congress with this in mind, i.e. evenings for talks and testing. Of course it is only much closer to the date that we will be able to confirm this and even up to the last minute it will be subject to her health. I trust that if she needs to be there, she will.

MK May 2013