

WSA executive External Relations Report, July 2010. Prepared by Amalia Rasheed

1. Background: The External Relations Officer is a member of the WSA executive and coordinates a team involved in making strategy and policy recommendations relating to the development of the WSA's external relations. This team also makes proposals for programs and/or projects including cooperation with other institutions that are relevant to external relations as widely defined in the brief. See Annex 1. for history and details of the brief.

2. Overview of activities since World Congress January 2010

- January: Advertisement drafted together with COT New Zealand for Christchurch Press



1750 Subud members of all religions, races, and ages came together in Christchurch to a warm welcome in January this year to attend the 13th Subud World Congress.

We thank the city of Christchurch, the City Council, V-Base and their caterers; also the bus and taxi services, shops, restaurants and accommodation providers. The hospitality we received from all services, without exception, was kind and helpful.

The Convention Centre and Town Hall, our main venues, provided the perfect setting for two weeks of business and pleasure with the support of professional and friendly service, looking after all of our needs.

*Some had the honour to play and sing with the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra and the rest of us enjoyed their excellent performance. **THANK YOU CHRISTCHURCH!!!***

- February: Report to incoming WSC of External Relations activities.
- February – May: UN calendar of events prepared and representatives nominated together with SDIA. Meetings attended in Geneva. Assisted in drafting/editing of joint NGO oral statement to UN Human Rights council agenda on '*Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, Civil, Political, Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including the Right to Development*'. This statement and one on Human Right for Peace was supported by WSA. (*Reports of meetings distributed previously and available again on request*)
- March – June: WSA Forum development proposal email discussion, concluding with summary paper. Meeting in Brighton, UK to develop working plan for one year. *See summary report Annex 2.*



Forum Core Team: Garrett T., Osanna V., Frederic R., Sharifin G., Ruslan F., Victor M., Amalia R.

- April: Participated on behalf of WSA in a survey '*Balancing the global and the local: An explorative study on the communication structures and strategies of international non-governmental organizations*', prepared by Diploma student of Applied Media Science, Ilmenau University of Technology, Germany. Report of survey conclusions available on request.
- Ongoing support for Annual Report 2009.
- Communications with
 - China: Advice is not to publish information about Subud in China in any public media (internet, annual report etc.)
 - some Spanish speaking countries: Keen interest in WSA's external relations activities and request for more information to be translated into Spanish.
 - UK and International Youth Reps: Interest in development of channels through the Subud organisation to engage in the wider world community. Interest in capacity building for communication skills. Planning presentation and workshop for UK gathering 2010.
 - UK nat. committee about PR for gatherings 2010/2011
 - Subud members project International Child Development Project (ICDP). The board is exploring how best to link their profile more with Subud.
 - Positive response from Coalition of NGOs for a UN decade for Peace on Subud project examples shared with them about the ICDP, Global Mercury Project and the Asia Pacific Judicial Reform handbook project.
 - SICA and SIHA: beginning to explore possible cooperation.

3. Outstanding Congress Resolutions relating to the work of the External Relations team:

- 2001 Congress resolved '*to examine the potential of involvement, to develop a policy and to study means of cooperation and coordination among the Subud entities for effective representation of the Subud community in the UN and other international fora*'. Since 2002 there has been ongoing research and work done with regular reporting to the WSC. During the last term a working group co-chaired by Frederic for WSA and Sharifin Gardiner for SDIA drafted a policy titled 'WSA UN Policy'. This title will be expanded in accordance with the original congress resolution to 'WSA policy of engagement with the UN and other global forums' to serve as a broad framework to guide activities of all Subud organisations. *See draft Annex 3 a.*
In 2009 for WSA the chair Osanna requested SDIA, to put on hold the implementation of a separate SDIA UN policy pending further research and agreement with WSA and to continue with WSA to develop this policy. A response is still due. *See Annex 3b.*
- 2010 Congress resolved '*to create a task force including representatives of members of WSA, the wings and affiliates. This should be under the authority of the WSC and supported by the WSA executive (ISC). The purpose: To undertake a survey resulting in strategy and action plans covering external relations at the local, national and international levels including projects, wings, affiliates and related bodies. Points to be addressed should include:*
 - a) *Identification of issues, global forums, events and networks of mutual interest.*
 - b) *Review and development of WSA resources / tools to respond and participate'*

See proposal for format and working plan of this task force in Annex 3c.