

A. INTRODUCTION

This paper was commissioned by the WSA at the World Congress in 2010 in order to provide background to the WSA's decisions regarding Wisma Subud (minute 9.3). The first purpose of this document is to provide the information concerning the ownership and future of Wisma Subud. The second is to outline some solutions to the situation of Wisma Subud. The third is to assess the involvement of the WSA in this process.

B. SOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION

1. History of Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Project -WSHPP

The land for Wisma Subud was first acquired in 1960. It was envisioned by Bapak to be an international Subud center "where human beings of all races and religions have one single aim" and as is written outside the latihan hall: "to be purely sincere in compliance with The Will of the Most Holy God." Originally, the approximate four hectares of land was located in an undeveloped area on the outskirts of Jakarta. Ten years later, the main Subud hall and guesthouse were built. Since that time, many other properties have been erected and Jakarta has grown rapidly much further to the south.

2. Land Ownership

Wisma Subud consisted of 26 plots. Some of these may by now be considered as outside of the Wisma Subud compound and some are not certified. Those 26 plots contain 22 private houses and 4 other principal buildings, comprised of Bapak's House, the Guest House, the PPK Subud (Indonesia) Offices (Subud Indonesia National office), and the large Latihan Hall, built for the 1971 World Congress. In these buildings, there are offices for Yayasan Muhammad Subuh, Yayasan Subud, YUM, International Design Center, the Indonesian and International Archives, the Subud Indonesia National office, Susila Dharma Indonesia office, and the Adi Puri cultural center (in Bapak's former house).

The current land ownership is as follows:

- 1) Yayasan Subud owns the Latihan Hall, its front garden and other lands (9,439.88 m²)
- 2) Yayasan Muhammad Subuh (YMS), owner of Bapak's former house (1.761.00 m²) and the Archive house (498 m²) totaling of 2,259.00 m²
- 3) Private Subud owners: Foreigners 5,665.00sqm m² and Indonesians (1,814.00,00 m²)
- 4) Non-Subud House/land owners 3,548.00 m²: ex Mitchell house 1,085 m² Handono Utomo 525,000 m², Ibu Mastuti children 1.413,00 m² and Enriko Sukarno 525 m².
- 5) IDC (Subud members' architect firm) 824 m²

Total certified land: 24,278.88 m² This excludes state-owned land, e.g. the existing public roads, public green areas and other legally binding public areas to be clarified by the master plan for Wisma Subud.

3. Yayasan/Foundations

In Indonesia, foundations are called 'yayasans' and their Board of Directors are appointed by the founders. The Yayasan Subud is de facto in charge of the maintenance and running of Wisma Subud including the Latihan Hall and the Guest House. I do not have knowledge of the Deed of Establishment for Yayasan Subud, but we have the original of its predecessor Yayasan Dana Subud established by Bapak; the founders were mixed international and local Indonesian Subud members.

YMS was established with the intention that it be the branch of MSF in Indonesia, though in fact in the past Indonesian law has not permitted foreign foundations to have branches in Indonesia. The law has recently changed. In addition to looking after Bapak's house, the YMS also cares for the WSA archives in Indonesia, which includes the originals of Bapak's and Ibu's letters.

The founders of both these Yayasans are currently private individuals. It is recommended that Subud institutions such as MSF, WSA and Subud Indonesia, become founders, which may be now legally possible. At the last World Congress, Pak Haryono stated that the international Subud organization should become a founding member of YS, which owns the large latihan hall.

4. Bapak 2 houses

The two houses, where Bapak was born and where he first received the latihan are owned by Ibu Rahayu. She has asked these two properties be included in the Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Project.

5. WSHPP

The Wisma Subud Heritage Protection Plan was established formally by local stakeholders of Wisma Subud in September 12, 2009, when all Subud and non-Subud land-owners, foreign and local, as well as the present and previous residents and other stakeholders (Bapak's family, Subud Indonesia, YS, YMS and local wing organizations endorsed in writing the idea of preserving Wisma Subud. This process in itself was an important milestone.

In 2007, collectively, the stakeholders asked the WSA executive to endorse and participate in a working group that would prepare a proposal for the protection of Wisma Subud and the 2 Bapak houses. In March 2009, the WSA executive appointed Josephine Mirjana Bacikin as the initial coordinator for WSHPP. She prepared a draft Terms of Reference creating a structure and a preliminary plan.

On September 28th, 2009 - the stakeholders approved this proposal in writing, together with some Terms of Reference

The Advisory Boards consist of the Co-chairs - Pak Haryono Sumohadiwidjojo and Josephine Mirjana H. Bacikin (WSA rep.) The voting members of the Board are: Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo, Ibu Siti Hardiyati Syafrudin, Ibu Ismana Sumohadiwidjojo,

(MSF representative), Farlan Williams (YMS representative), Pak Asikin Alwi (Yayasan Subud representative) and Pak Tri Murdiyanto (the local resident's representative).

As approved by the Board, the Steering Committee will be co-chaired by a representative of PPK Subud and of the Subud International Cultural Association.

6. The 2010 Congress WSA resolution states:

- 1) We ask the stakeholders in Wisma Subud to continue the process of seeking UNESCO World Heritage Status for Wisma Subud with Bapak's houses in partnership.
- 2) We ask that the ISC chairperson or WSA executive or his or her representative be a member of any decision making committee set for this purpose.
- 3) We authorize the WSA executive to participate in and support this process in the name of the WSA, within parameters and guidelines established by the WSC.
- 4) We ask the WSC and ISC to ensure that no financial liabilities are incurred by this partnership that could damage the financial situation and reputation of Subud.
- 5) We recommend that other approaches to maintain the physical integrity and the general integrity as Bapak's legacy of Wisma Subud as an international centre also be studied.

C. ONE SET OF PROBLEMS AND ONE SET OF CHALLENGES

1. The basic problem is that Wisma Subud is a collection of individual, largely privately held, land rights or titles, and that there is no global landownership that would be needed to reflect legally the integrity of the site as a Subud centre. The only link between all these land ownerships is a single united 'Right to Build' permit issued for the 4 hectares in the name of the developer Yayasan Dana Subud on January 29, 1977 for 34 houses. At that time, such a permit did not require a Master plan approved by the municipality for common areas such as roads and other public facilities. As a result, the present development situation of WS does not match the records of the City Planning department. Consequently, Wisma Subud is vulnerable to losing its integrity as a Subud centre because:

- a) The privately held properties are being sold or passed on to persons who are not Subud members, including commercial property developers; this is already happening. The Wisma Subud site will lose the possibility to be a Subud centre or to be developed in a more integral (less haphazard) manner;
- b) The status of the land within Wisma Subud is mostly residential, which means that any public activities could be legally stopped if objected by the neighborhood. So, for instance, people who are not in Subud might object to the noise of the latihan. In brief, this might happen because of the laws governing public activities in urban areas: religious activities are legally allowed public activities within residential urban areas, but the latihan would not count as a religious activity because PPK Subud Indonesia is registered as an education

- c) The municipal or city government could develop plans for new public roads that would cut through Wisma Subud. There is already an existing huge public city road plan that does so.
- d) The houses of Bapak, where he was born and received latihan which are now owned and maintained by Ibu Rahayu will need some long-term protection.

In summary, the first problem is that the integrity of Wisma Subud will continue to be eroded without some positive steps.

2. The second point is really the corresponding challenge for the future:

What is the long-term use or role of WS for Subud? It has had a historic and a symbolic role in Subud; it is still a Subud community and centre (albeit to a lesser extent than before); it has a strong commercial potential. If we want it to, it could have another role in Subud in the future.

D. POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEM 1

The WSHPP has the role of recommending how to safeguard WS and the 2 Bapak houses. Possible solutions could be:

1. To seek Indonesian heritage status for WS+2Bapak' houses. The first step would be Napak Tilas (national Indonesian heritage protection as the first required step to UNESCO nomination) and possibly eventually UNESCO protection as a World Heritage Site.
2. To try to form a global housing association that has ownership of the plots in Wisma Subud, but this is not feasible because the existing landowners would not give up their current unrestricted absolute ownership rights for anything less.
3. To have a development company or association that would purchase the titles/ownership rights of identified key properties within the Wisma Subud compound +2 Bapak' house. At the same time, WSA (or via its proxy such as MSF) could become a founder of Yayasan Subud and Yayasan Muhammad Subuh and include 2 Bapak' houses in its care. This possible solution might go hand in hand with the idea of our developing commercially the plots that have frontage with the main road, Jalan Fatmawati (rather than allowing this opportunity to pass into the hands of other property developers) as well as buffer zone around the Latihan Hall that would protect latihan from any unfriendly take over.

E. UNESCO

1. In March 2010, Garrett Thomson and Simon Guerrand on behalf of the WSHPP, visited UNESCO in Paris to ask about the feasibility of Wisma Subud + the 2 Bapak houses having UNESCO protection. The main points that emerged from this interview were:

- a) There is little possibility of obtaining UNESCO tangible heritage protection at this time, even after obtaining Indonesian national backing.

b) Subud could ask for UNESCO heritage protection for intangible Subud practices such as the latihan and for Bapak's talks. This kind of protection is much easier to obtain than tangible heritage protection

c) The membership of WSA in UNESCO

F. WSA INVOLVEMENT

There are 4 dimensions to this question:

a) The first is the idea of an International Subud centre. Some people see this idea as essential to Bapak's implicit plan for Subud, which is why he initiated and fostered Anugraha, Purnama, Kalimantan and Project Sunrise. Many others see the idea as unclear and with the dangerous potential to commit the WSA or MSF to projects that are not viable. While this discussion is important, nevertheless it is abstract, and it may not be decisive to the specifics of the Wisma Subud situation.

b) The second is our heritage. Part of the reason for preserving Wisma Subud is that it has an important and unique role in the history of Subud internationally, which could help define its future role. In this, we might avoid two extreme attitudes: on the one side, there is the feeling that the past is irrelevant and should be ignored, and on the other, the idea of a Subud place of pilgrimage or shrine. A mature organization can accept and build on its past, and a future-looking one does not make that past an obsession. So, in line with this, for example, it might be appropriate for Wisma Subud to become a centre for learning or culture open to the public that includes a Subud element.

c) The third is the visibility of Subud internationally, as well as locally. In Jakarta, Wisma Subud is recognized as the home of Subud. In order to protect it, it is probably necessary to raise the profile of Subud internationally. For example, SDIA's accreditations with the UN have helped raise the credibility of some projects around the world. In a similar fashion, WSA might explore similar accreditations with UNESCO. It would be much better, for example, if Subud (or Subud practices) were recognized as a patrimony of humanity with the UN rather than being thought of as a secret sect. Building our credibility in this manner is part of strengthening Subud in the world and is important for the long-term protection of Subud heritage such as Wisma Subud +2 Bapak' houses and other multinational Subud sites. The involvement of WSA is necessary for such processes.

d) The fourth element is that a unified solution to Wisma Subud could be commercially beneficial for Subud worldwide. There are several synergetic opportunities.

What is the role of the WSA in this process? Clearly, PPK Subud Indonesia, the residents and the relevant Yayasanans must take a prominent role in developing and implementing a plan for Wisma Subud + the 2 Bapak houses. Without local energy for a common solution then there would be no way forward. They have already shown this willingness by taking active part in the WSHPP.

Up to now, the WSA's role has been defined by four guidelines: first, that the local stakeholders have asked for WSA participation in the process; second that the WSA participation has been as a facilitator of a local process; third, that the WSA would not make any financial commitments to this process, except for the expenses of its representative. Finally, the WSA rep is the co-chair position on the Advisory Board of WSHPP.

Furthermore, the protection and development of Wisma Subud may require an international dimension. Apart from its moral role as a facilitator, the WSA has interest in the future of Wisma Subud at least because Bapak's house is owned by YMS, which is (morally but not yet legally) the Indonesian branch of the MSF.

G. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) Apply for Napak Tilas (for WS and for the 2 houses). This requires a master plan for WS, defining what to protect under Napak Tilas and to obtain the legalization for the private roads within WS. This whole process requires an estimated budget of around USD 20-40,000.
- 2) The WSHPP has 4 other important objectives:
 - a) A plan and feasibility study for the integrated future use of Wisma Subud (for example, as a cultural or educational centre) + the 2 Bapak houses
 - b) In light of the above, to identify minimally which strategically key properties might be purchased to retain the core of Wisma Subud for the above purpose
 - c) To investigate the most appropriate legal structure for the ownership of a global site consisting of core properties and to explore the possibility of investments or funds for the purchase of these properties.
 - d) To work with WSA and MSF to define WSA and/or MSF involvement
- 3) The Advisory Board of WSHPP to appoint a project manager who will be charged with the above, amongst other things.
- 4) WSA via a proxy of MSF to become founder members of YMS and YS.
- 5) The WSA apply for intangible protection within UNESCO for the Subud latihan and other Subud practices.
- 6) WSA can apply for UNESCO membership for WSA itself, as well as for SICA.

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