

Intense meetings in Vancouver

The World Subud Council (WSC) met this year in June in Vancouver. We began on the 18th, with 2 days of meetings of each part of the council individually – the International Helpers among themselves, the World Subud Association (WSA) directors/Zone reps together, and the WSA Executive. For each part, these two days were very important and helped to prepare the way and revise the agenda of the full council meeting.

Unfortunately, Rida Liobo Loote, Rep for Zone 5, was unable get a visa. It is becoming increasingly problematic to get visas for our members from Congo; still, modern technology being what it is, we managed to have two Skype conference calls with Rida, and were able to hear of the specific needs of his zone, on the one hand, and update him on the work done in Vancouver, on the other.

Before we began the council meetings, the Zone Reps had agreed that it would be good to spend one day looking at the issues and concerns in each area, i.e. Area 1 (Zones 1 & 2), Area 2 (Zones 3, 4, 5 & 6), Area 3 (Zones 7, 8 & 9). From there we came up with a number of questions to be discussed.

The novelty of this council meeting was that on certain days we worked in break out groups rather than one large group, where having exchanges and input from a group of 40 can be overwhelming. Most felt that this was a good way of working, though the system still needs some tweaking to be really effective.

SESI (Subud Enterprise Services International) gave a presentation outlining the various things that have been achieved over the last two years as well as projects for the future. SESI is becoming more and more active. Ruslan Morris, however, will resign from his role as SESI coordinator due to possible conflicts of interest with enterprises that he wishes to be involved in, which he hopes can be endorsed by an independent SESI team of experts. The job description will be prepared and circulated worldwide for the request for new candidates to take on this role.

SICA (Subud International Cultural Association) has also become very active over the last two years. You can subscribe to their newsletter and updates by going to their website www.subud-sica.org, and read about the numerous things going on. There is a renewed sense between SICA, SDIA (Susila Dharma International Association) and SYA (Subud Youth Activities) to work closely together on projects, as so many social projects have cultural and educational aspects, which are clearly part of SICA, and frequently involve young people.

There is also a renewed sense of collaboration between the Mohammed Subuh Foundation and WSA, with the WSA Archives working contract creating a close partnership. This first partnership relates to the restoration and duplication of the original audio tapes of Bapak's talks. Bactiar Lorot, MSF Chairman and Armand Bisson, WSA Archives Coordinator, French speaking neighbours, have worked closely together on this. Out of 1700 talks given, about 1200/1300 recordings exist that can be restored. New recordings are currently being found around the world, which open up new treasures. Armand Bisson gave a very clear and lively presentation of a strategy and goals for WSA Archives over the next 10 years.

In relation to organisational matters and ways whereby we can have an organisation that functions better, a number of questions were looked at with resolutions and action plans established.

- 1) The question of the WSA country membership: benefits and obligations, voting rights, and possibly two types of membership.
- 2) Consensus: The WSC worked on the Subud definition of consensus, as practised at world congress and the international level.
- 3) Overlapping of terms at the international level: pros. and cons.
- 4) Remunerations at the international level: to pay or not to pay, that is the question! Each possibility creates a different type of organisation with the balance needed between acting professionally, volunteering, leaving space for flexibility, as well as allowing anyone to be involved.
- 5) Mission Statement: The need for a Mission Statement of the WSA for outside organisations had already been established, and a mission statement was written and revised.

The resolutions of all these 5 points will be circulated to all member countries for their input.

Of course many other issues were looked at as we work to follow up on all the resolutions voted by World Congress in Christchurch. For those interested, the minutes will be available on line www.subud.org.

The 14th Subud World Congress dates were fixed by the Council for August 2nd to 17th 2014 in Puebla, Mexico. The World Congress Organising Team (WCOT) gave various presentations to the WSC, to the Zone 7 Council and to the America's Gathering. A separate report will be forthcoming on Subud World News, and through all the Subud media. In the meantime, please sign up to Subud World Congress Puebla 2014 on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Subud-World-Congress-Puebla-2014/275150989218978>
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Maya Korzybska, WSA Executive Vice Chair,
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