

WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION CENSUS REPORT TO THE WSC MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS, GROUPS AND HOUSES

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In late February this year I wrote an email to Luke Pensenev asking if he knew what our actual membership numbers might be worldwide. This was due to something I read about bringing members back, written around 1987, which mentioned that people were not sure, of all those opened, what actual percentage stayed in Subud. The article said that it could be anywhere from one in ten to one in a hundred. That would imply, for example, with a membership of roughly 10,000, that either 100,000 or a million people have been opened. That's quite a range! The next thing I knew I was described in an email as working with Julia Hurd, WSA Secretary, on the census project!

I started working with Julia in March using data from a 2007 WSA census and then began updating it with the 2010 World Congress country reports, various membership lists and national contact lists. This is an ongoing project as the data is, of course, constantly changing. WSA membership is now just over 13,000. Numbers are subject to how membership is defined in various countries and, to a lesser degree, obtaining the numbers in the first place.

A second aspect to this was to identify how many Subud houses there are worldwide using existing data. And so, through some Subud internet resources such as the 'centres' section of Subud World News, the MSF website, the 'More Than Bricks and Mortar' pages done so well by Lester Sutherland and some help from www.subud.net, this has been completed. Each of the resources I mentioned is linked on the 'house' page of www.subud.org. We have discovered a total of 116 houses in 30 countries.

One of my mottos being 'less is more', I assembled all the original Zone census lists into one Excel spreadsheet so that I have the illusion that I am collecting the data rather than that it is collecting me. After the World Subud Council has had a chance to review the project, I understand the plan is to break it out into separate Zone lists and distribute it to Zones and countries to try and get more details on the numbers. Eventually all the data will be available for many purposes.

Overall I am learning a lot about the many dedicated people who work hard within Subud, within Susila Dharma and around the globe. I feel that the impact Subud has is far out of proportion to the numbers.

NOTE: The current census database is available on request. The file is approximately 5MB.