

WSA Chair Q1-2 2014 Review

The end of 2013 and the first two months of 2014 were dominated by, and focused on, an extraordinary experience for me: a long awaited visit to three African countries, following a visit to six countries in Europe.

I had been profoundly affected by three of Ibu Rahayu's 'signpost' letters written to various congresses since 2010. I felt myself working alongside Ibu's (advisory) mission, reminding us of our need to consciously support the inner process of reawakening ourselves by refreshing a new deeper connection with Bapak's guidance, to become aware of the potential for the next phase of Subud's development. I realized that Ibu's advice in these letters formed a sort of roadmap.

I covered 6 groups in the UK; then 6 in Europe; next 10 in Africa before returning via Lisbon, Wisma Mulia and Manchester to Toronto and home to Vancouver. An extraordinary journey of great contrasts: from comfortable rural winter, older cities and facilities in England, Holland, France, to the heat of South Africa, Malawi and Spain to the overwhelming poverty and dysfunctional aspects of DR Congo and smaller cousin, Congo Brazzaville, across the Congo River.



Kids at Inkisi school greet us!

Initially, what I thought was a trip for raising awareness of the coming World Congress and connecting with the members in Europe and Africa on their situation, it became a much more profound odyssey centered on reawakening within Subud, nothing less. I felt it as I sat with group after group in 9 countries. Each one different and yet rooted in the latihan. Human and challenged by life in so many different ways... feeling the deep inner need to reawaken to Bapak's challenge to us, of facing God and our lives again - with new Courage! The need to consciously discipline ourselves to revisit Bapak's advice; review our individual and group situations in terms of how fully engaged we are... submission in the latihan yes - but also self discipline in putting that latihan into practice... Worship in latihan but also putting it into practice in our work.

<p>Themes arising from the journeys</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reawakening to our latihan. • Communities awakening to new potential despite demographics. • Healing transitions ongoing since the era of larger project failures. • Enterprise nurturing and growing next gen. • Project collaborations SD-SICA; SDIA-SD nationals; MSF-SICA. • Virtual World Congress
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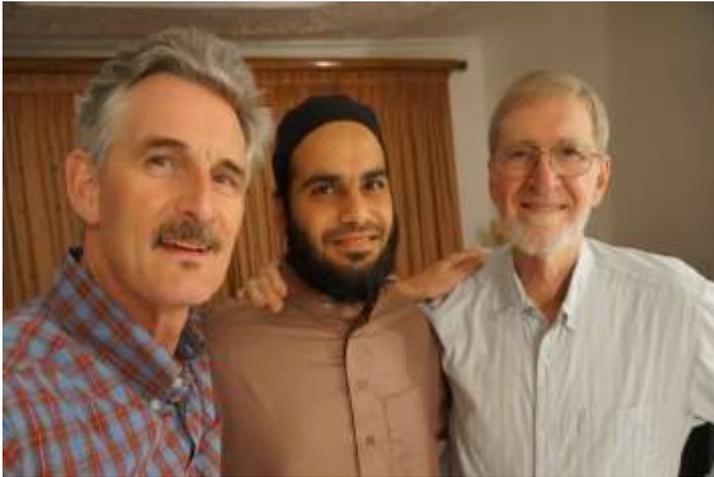
UK - Wisma Mulia, Exeter, Loudwater, Central London, Norwich and Lewes

The odyssey began at Wisma Mulia with a talk at this 40 year old Subud retirement community to perhaps 15 of our oldest Subud members on the work of the international organization - average audience age 90 years old! Wisma Mulia is now less than 50% Subud members.

Mainland Europe - France, Holland and Spain

After visiting Paris, I headed 200 kms north to Rotterdam to be met by a young couple Regina and Feodor. Then to meeting the burgeoning older but very active Rotterdam 25-30 member group with its newer, open plan, 2-storey modern Subud house. Having just had new picture windows donated by Subud Holland with a symbolic new vista onto the canal! This has opened the prospect of a new weddings space rental enterprise for the attractive spaces!

Malawi and South Africa



On arriving in Malawi's bucolic, quiet, small Blantyre airport, I was met by an old friend from the early 70's, Ruslan Moore and Farid Raidan, brother of Rasjid, patriarch of the Raidan (Subud Muslim) family. An extraordinarily harmonious and deeply sincere, new Subud group following Bapak's guidance as well as Islamic principles. All the 'ingredients' necessary to form a balanced community life including social outreach, enterprise, community consciousness and latihan premises, were present. Those that Bapak identified as being fruits of the latihan were already established.

Luqman, Muhammad Raidan and Ruslan Moore

Congo

Kinshasa: Finally the time came to grit my teeth and leave beautiful sunny South Africa and venture, (it felt like tumbling down) into the enormous poverty and challenges of the Congo. I admit to feeling great trepidation after all my reality-check briefings by Hamida Thomas, SDIA, and others!

I found myself forming the focus of an instant 6-person team with whom I travelled to 7 centres and projects over 10 days. The team comprised: Rida Liobo Loote, Zone 6 Rep.; Albert Diluambanzila, Subud Congo chair; Subud Congo KC's, Louisa and Sylvain as well as Papi Kabondo, our translator, and sometime committee councilor. This delegation travelled to three of the six Kinshasa groups.

Kingantoko: The Subud Centre is now only 2 km from the boundary with Kinshasa Province, and 27 km from downtime Kinshasa. It reminded me of Cilandak on the edge of Jakarta in the 1970's. Eventually the city will overwhelm this rural area and Kingantoko will take on new importance as a community Centre. Already the inner suburbs are only 7-8 km away. The dream of Kingantoko with its aging but spacious, Muchtar Martins-designed Subud Centre is set on beautiful hills with vistas towards the Congo River to the north.



Subud Kinshasa- Njilli Subud house

The anchor here now is the third and newest of the CSCOM Community Health Centres recently completed and sponsored by a private family foundation based in Toronto. It is part of a \$1M joint venture partnership with SDIA. The large new modern buildings and maternity centre support a local community of 10-12,000 and are impressive and clearly over built to anticipate the city's growing health needs. Already the Kinshasa groups meet here monthly for latihan of 20-30 members.

Back to Europe

Lisbon was a physical and psychological shock being so clean organized and with mild winter sunshine! After four weeks in Europe and three weeks in Africa, I was reeling.



We visited the Lisbon group and its large 240m² single floor commercial space with large 110m² latihan room with spaces for daycare, counseling and kindergarten - a real feeling of blended group and SD spaces. Daniella, the principal, took me to visit the Alfrigide refugee school now 35 years old and we were all impressed by the team consisting mostly of young women providing counselling and therapeutic support for children of all situations from within the poor ex refugee suburbs.

Lisbon Alfragide school visit

Also striking was the deep emotional and spiritual bonds among the team. The children are so well cared for many literally don't want to leave to go home at night!

Vancouver

When I got back to Vancouver, I finished my odyssey with a short presentation to my home group. I felt strangely slowed down, more profoundly aware of everything around me. I realized (and quite unbeknownst to myself) I had been working alongside Ibu all that time! Not such a bad role to play. But home at last home, after 72 days and back in my own bed!

[Luqman/Luke](#)

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