



June 6, 2010

Dear SICA Friends,

Am writing for your input, inspiration, ideas, prayers, and support.

Our SICA co-vice chairs, Susannah Rosenthal and Helena Casbolt, together with SICA Board member, Erica Sapir and Honora Foah of Mythic Imagination and a former USA SICA chair, and I — through the

grace of God and a little window of opportunity — are going to be able to meet together in Atlanta in another few weeks to latihan together and set goals and objectives for SICA as we go forward.

While all of you and all of us cannot all be together physically, we very much welcome and invite all of you to be with us in spirit. So I am sending on some of what we will be looking at in order to have your input before we meet. Feel free to share this with others so that we can include your feelings, thoughts, inspirations and experiences as we go forward.

We had initially planned to have a meeting in UK prior to the English congress which would have made it possible for more of us to be physically together and share face-to-face, but the WSA is meeting in that time and would like some of us to be present, so we have shifted our SICA meeting to another time. That means a smaller meeting, but thanks to the internet, we can still have you all in our feelings - and ask you to keep us in your feelings and prayers.

Because of some unexpected latihan experiences I've had since Christchurch about SICA and where we might be headed, I very much wanted Honora Foah and Erica Sapir to be part of this meeting. I wish we had more funds so more of you could be with us as well.

Some other things to share. In Christchurch, Bachtiar and I began to explore a new structural model for how SICA can operate, as an organization and as a catalyst for SICA activities on a local, regional, national, zonal or international level. And that is to follow the model of Rotary International. Rotary has a charter and a set of values. Rotary groups can form in cities, communities, etc. etc. so long as they embrace the values in the charter and live up to those values in what they do. There is also, in Rotary, one big international (USA nonprofit) that handles communication, coordination, databases, funding, publications, grants, etc. etc.; and there are approximately 5 other large regional centers in the world. (a bit like our zones). The whole organizational structure allows smaller local and national groups to function according to

their own culture, language, customs -- but to exemplify Rotary values. Susannah and Helena, our co-vice chairs, also endorse the idea.

So following that model, we are working to set up a SICA charter and also clarify our values. Values that underscore action. We also do not want to abandon the other definition of the letters, S-I-C-A, that we came up with in Christchurch: S= Spirit (Life Force); I = Inspiration; C = Creativity (Budhi); A = Action.

Since Christchurch you have not heard so much from us, but that does not mean we have not been at work. Susannah, our SICA co-vice chair, who also happens to be the chair of Subud Los Angeles, is looking into what it takes to have a local center also function as a cultural center. Helena, our other SICA co-vice chair who also happens to have a strong professional background in marketing and communications, particularly with regard to communication startups and ventures, has been working on the structure we want to have in a new and improved SICA website that will supplant the old site that presently comes up at subud-sica.org. I've been looking for funding to help support the work we want to do.

One of the things that has emerged for us is something that differentiates SICA from the other wings: SICA does calendar-oriented EVENTS. Whether it's a cultural event for the public — an exhibition, a performance, a concert — or a workshop on creativity within a Subud group, a conference, a retreat, a camp for kids, a ladies' tea, a film, our activities tend to be more event-centered than the initiatives of the other wings. (And of course, this doesn't mean that the other wings don't do events. It just means that events tend to be at the base of much SICA activity.) Aside from EVENTS, those of us in Subud who are active in SICA or actively doing cultural work also like to network and share what we are doing and how we are doing it with one another. So how do we foster and support these events, and our own wish to be able to network and share with each other?

So Helena has come up with a framework for looking at our vision, values and goals that we will be using at our gathering in Atlanta. It is at the bottom of this email.

Please note, that while it is not stated in the Aims and Objectives below, we will also be exploring the means to support these activities, the steps and strategies to achieve these goals. But mission, vision and values are key to any effective strategic plan.

We invite those of you who cannot join us, to please email your thoughts, ideas, inspirations -- so that you can be with us in Spirit, Inspiration, Creativity and Action.

It would also help us to hear from you about SICA events, exhibitions, activities that you all have done in the past that we may not know about.

Thanks so very much.

With love,

Latifah

Here is some of what we will be considering. Your input most welcome.

SICA AIMS & OBJECTIVES 2010

1. Define & document the Purpose of the Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) as an independent organization & an affiliate Wing of WSA
 - Establish 'Vision', 'Mission' & 'Core Values' for SICA
 - Clarify the goals of the international (SICA) body
 - Make an action plan based on the results of the previous activities
2. Clarify a SICA Charter
 - Clarify the organizational structure of SICA within the Subud Community (why are there different SICA bodies and what is their function? – i.e. international nonprofit, zonal, non-profit national, national, group/center, individual)
 - Clarify the 'Core Values' that all SICA bodies actualize through their activities
 - Develop a full "Charter" Document. Get membership feedback and contribution to the new 'charter' – revise as appropriate
3. Provide value to the Subud / SICA membership
 - Showcase, promote & support members in their activities, arising from their talents and interests, as individuals and within groups/centers, national bodies, zone
 - Create a 'community' for Subud members to share, update and perhaps find collaborators within their cultural/creative interests
 - Encourage a broad definition and acknowledgement of cultural or creative activity
 - Means to do above?
4. Create and Promote a Public Face for SICA
 - Base the public image and understanding of SICA on its Vision and Core Values
 - Create a clear identity for the international SICA body and flow-on to the other charter members
 - Provide a global platform for cultural expression that embodies the core values of SICA
5. Create a *place* for SICA within the 'Wing' membership of WSA
 - Identify the unique contribution SICA can make to the life of Subud members and Subud community
 - Establish an awareness & understanding of SICA, based on its currently defined Vision & Mission & Objectives, within the WSA
 - Have SICA be an included element when determining how all the Wings might better cooperate and support each other in this new WSC term