



Subud International Cultural Association



Report from the SICA Meetings in Vancouver June 2012

Taking SICA to the Next Level

Overview

National SICA chairs and SICA¹ met at the America's Gathering in Vancouver in June and envisioned a more stable and fruitful future for Subud's international cultural association, imagining for Subud members everything from Festivals of Art & Spirituality to artist residencies in France to Kejiwaan & Culture gatherings where receiving one's personal culture would lead to the development of rich experiences for Subud members everywhere.

As the SICA Board and national SICA Chairs from many countries expressed a need for a sustainable, shared knowledge base, united beyond their local communities and organized with continuity and communication in mind, we discussed practical ways to achieve our goals.



Harvey Peters, Zone Representative/WSA Director, and Principal of Minerva Consulting, UK, facilitated the meeting.

We began by sharing the outcomes we hoped the meeting would produce and where we would like to see SICA by 2014, and then we identified action steps to get there. We did this in terms of both cultural programming/services and the organizational structure to enable us to provide those programs and services.

Key Themes:

- ◆ Partnerships and collaborations
- ◆ Sharing best practices
- ◆ Becoming one.
- ◆ We all agreed that we can be much more effective if we work together.

Action Items:

- The following pages each include action items, and we request that on October 1, 2012, progress along these lines is reported back to SICA.
- Email any questions or documents to farrah@subud-sica.org
- Plans for a conference call soon after the October 1, 2012 will be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

¹ Throughout this document, SICA refers to the international organization or the aggregate whole of all SICA endeavors worldwide. "National", "Zonal", or other modifiers are used to describe national SICA representatives, endeavors, etc.

In terms of taking SICA to the next level of organizational, programmatic, and financial maturity, we discussed the idea that it is very important for national and/or zonal SICA groups to set up legal non-profit structures or other appropriate legal structures for such activity, separate from each country's Subud nonprofit structure.

Although of course national SICA groups should have intimate relationships in feeling and practice with their national Subud groups, organizing as separate and legal non-profits is useful – perhaps necessary – for the following reasons:

1. SICA is eligible for funding that can only be distributed to national member cultural organizations that are not under the umbrella of spiritual organizations, and therefore would only be able to distribute meaningful amounts of such funds to national SICA groups in countries that had established their groups as legally separate from their national or Zonal Subud organizations.
2. National SICA groups themselves could apply for government and/or foundation grant funding for cultural programs that are not under the umbrella of spiritual organizations.
3. Some countries don't have national Subud organizations, and even for those who do, it is not particularly fair for the national Subud chair to be responsible for SICA's growth. It should be SICA's responsibility that SICA build capacity in the short and long term.
4. Ibu Rahayu has reminded us that both SDIA and SICA can sometimes operate in countries and areas that Subud cannot, for political and cultural reasons local to those countries. In such instances, SICA and SDIA organizations may also be the doorway to the latihan.
5. SICA may also be a way for isolated Subud members to connect with each other in countries where there are no national Subud organizations.
6. SICA may also be a doorway through which estranged members return to the latihan.

The criteria for how each national SICA organization should be set up is that it must be able to deposit funds into its own bank account and must be able to receive charitable donations. National SICA chairs should research how arts/cultural service organizations are formed in their respective countries.

Some members from Zone 3 and Zone 4 wanted to explore the idea of creating a Euro-SICA. This might also provide access to programs, services, and funding from the European Cultural Commission. There are calls for innovative approaches to deal with cultural content and respect for cultural diversity from the ECC now: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm

Some useful links:

- ◆ Setting up NGO or NPO in Switzerland: <http://mandint.org/en/guide-ngos>
- ◆ From Board Source² in USA: http://www.boardsource.org/dl.asp?document_id=17

² Board Source is a highly respected source of information on nonprofit organization and board development in the USA.

Also attached:

- ◆ Value Statement and Aims for international, zonal, national SICA organizations.

Some useful Subud contacts who attended the meeting and can serve as resources:

- ◆ Harvey Peters, Zone 5: Zambia: harveypeters@btinternet.com
- ◆ Robiyan Easty, Zone 4: Marousi, Greece: Zone4rep@gmail.com
- ◆ Bachtiar Lorot, Spain: MSF Chair and former SICA Chair: blorot@valnet.es

Action Items:

- **Each national SICA chair or group should investigate his or her individual country and /or zonal requirements and report back to SICA on how to establish an identifiable organization.**
- **Please compile & communicate data by October 1, 2012**

Strategies for Achieving Continuity

In terms of achieving continuity within our SICA organizations, we discussed a few strategies, including:

1. Creating an international office that is a physical and potentially virtual place, where documents can be located.
2. Instituting overlapping terms for chairs and suggesting that previous chairs test to become parts of the SICA board
3. Referring to the organizing documents of each country's non-profit structure: the guidelines in the legal organization of each group can be very instructive about procedure
4. Making conference calls between board members on a regular basis a duty of the organization.
 - a. Part of the protocol for these calls is that each person would share where they are with respect to fostering connection
5. Having interns learn the details of the jobs that are being done and the ways in which Subud operates, to provide continuity between generations.

Bapak spoke of culture as being "very wide" and "including everything."³ He spoke of cooking being as much a part of culture as painting or theatre; each is a practice that, for Bapak, "comes about as a result of the threefold unity of: 1) its existence; 2) its nature; and 3) its working (function). These three produce the outcome, the result."⁴ In other words, not only does a meal or a painting exist, but also it has an intended function of some kind, as well as

³ *Bapak repeatedly explained the meaning of budhi, the root of kebudayaan, the Indonesian word for culture: budhi=life force; daya=action. "Budhi is an extraordinary power which in its working includes all culture, including social work. So Budhi in its flowering gives rise to all culture and in its understanding, includes everything." (Cilandak, July 1984, to SBIF and Wings).*

⁴ *Zat, Sifat, Asmo, Af'al are the Javanese terms Bapak used. Zat is Zat Allah, Essence of God, that is inside everything and everyone God created; Sifat is the nature of the creation – material, vegetable, animal, human; Asmo is the working of the essence in accordance with one's nature; and Af'al is the result of the other three working together.*

an actual consequence.⁵ That unity can make observers or participants, as Bapak put it, “really aware of their lives.”

Action Items:

- **Build continuity and reinforce our connectedness with shared access to virtual office and shared documents.**
- **Build institutional memory and best practices with overlapping terms of office.**
- **Regular latihan and conference calls among chairs – national and international.**
- **Please report back to SICA on the steps being taken towards these goals by October 1, 2012.**

Strategies for advancing and celebrating the cultural expression of all Subud members

Databases

SICA is an organization that hopes to represent all aspects of Subud culture, and we are at this time reaching out to each nation, asking that SICA chairs/coordinators help us to know the wealth of talent exhibited by their nation’s members. Please tell us about active and inactive members in your area, and what they do with their lives.

1. In the interest of connecting Subud members globally, zonally, and locally, we are beginning to conceive of a Culture Map, which would be a new online tool developed in collaboration with Subud Youth Association International. Please let us know:
 - a. The URL of your SICA Website, if it exists.
 - b. The URL of your SICA Online Newsletter, if it exists
 - c. Your name, location, and contact information
2. A talent registry of members in your area. For each person on the list, please include:
 - a. Name (Professional name if different from Subud or Given Name)
 - b. Website, Email address, and contact information
 - c. Location and languages
 - d. Skill/Profession and CV (If more than one, list all relevant ones)
 - e. Ability/Willingness to mentor or accept interns.

Action Items:

- **Build online interactive Culture Map of Subud cultural activity and talent, possibly working with SYAI’s online, interactive Subud Universe map.**
- **Please compile and send data by October 1, 2012**

⁵ *If a person cooks, for example, with the latihan in the feeling, then the unity of the intention, the cooking, and the feeling of the cook will have the result of really pleasing the feelings of the one eating the food. And it will taste really good.*

World Congress

We are also planning for the World Congress in Puebla in 2014. There will be a place for all of the talents of Subud members at this Congress. In order to help us find the right way to showcase each of these pieces of culture, please do your best to send us:

1. A list of members in your area who feel that they have some skill or experience that they would like to share at Congress. For each person on the list, please include:
 - a. Name
 - b. Email address
 - c. Location
 - d. Skill/Profession
2. Any notes you would like to add regarding the cultural contribution that your country and its members can make at Congress.
3. As a part of the cultural work of Subud members at Congress, we are looking for specifically cultural producers who can develop something site-specific in and for Puebla. If you know of anyone in your area whose practice it is to respond specifically to a place – whether through sculpture, performance, writing, cooking, science, or other cultural product or process – please make a special note of it in your correspondence with us.

Action Items:

- **Identify cultural producers who are keen to participate in the cultural programs of Subud World Congress 2014.**
- **Identify people who would like to investigate some aspect of Puebla, whether through artistic, scientific, or otherwise cultural activity, and who may wish to install the results of their investigation in Puebla during Congress.**
- **Please send data by October 1, 2012.**

SICA Prize

We would like to institute what we will call a SICA Prize on national level and international level, aimed at 19-26 year old people who show an extraordinary talent in some field. The prize is meant to motivate and enable them to continue developing that talent.

In each country where there is a SICA group, a “call for entries” can go out from the national SICA chair, asking for applications by a particular deadline. Judges in each country can be more experienced people of reputation within each national community. Entries should be in all areas of culture, from scientific research to journalism to painting.

It can be up to each country whether or not the winners of the prize receive money, for which the country would have to fundraise. Even if the national SICA prize does not include financial reward, the rewards can be seen to be as follows:

- ◆ Having youth work seen and evaluated by people who are leaders in their fields is an honor;
- ◆ Winning national recognition for one’s work is also an honor;

Lastly, one of the physical exhibition spaces we would like to reserve at the World Congress would be exclusively for display of each nation’s top three SICA prize entries. SICA, at the World Congress in Puebla, will then select the top three finalists of all the national prizewinners and award a significant cash prize to those winners.

The value of this action for Subud and for SICA is to:

- ◆ Create links between generations and between local, national, zonal, and international entities;
- ◆ Create space for professional and personal aspirations within the Subud context, including specific professional activities young people can include on their CVs.

A suggested template for your country or zone's "Call for Entries" is attached. Please edit this as you see fit. We have left the details of how works are submitted up to you, depending upon the way in which you would like to receive the work.

Please stay in touch with the International office as you develop your National or Zonal SICA prize, letting us know who are your country's judges and what are your thoughts as to how the process might better develop.

As we collate all of the materials that begin to come in from each country, we will stay in touch about the development of each of these projects. SICA is excited to facilitate the cultural development of individuals and groups all over the world and looks forward to seeing these projects unfold.

Action Items:

- **Develop national or zonal criteria for SICA Prize.**
- **Select judges for nation or zone for 2013.**
- **Report progress back to SICA by October 2012**
- **Distribute calls for entry after that date.**

"What is My Culture?" The Kejiwaan side of SICA

The culture Bapak charged SICA to support and encourage is a culture that expresses one's real inner self. It is embodied in Bapak's prayer that invites each of us "to explore and find that art or culture of our true self." (The phrase repeated on the homepage of the SICA site.)

While SICA, the organization, cannot wave a magic wand over individuals so that their latihan becomes more alive, we can work with the helpers to encourage gatherings that really allow for a deeper latihan experience of one's own real culture. Not a testing session, but latihan sessions. Some expressed the feeling that many kejiwaan gatherings have somehow turned into "tasting" sessions more than deep receiving from the latihan, and that testing to solve problems has increasingly occupied more time and space than just doing the latihan.

In the afternoon of our last day, we began our session with a latihan in which each of us silently asked to receive a latihan that would show us our own inner culture. It was a most satisfying experience for everyone. We felt we have been shy to approach our International Helper Dewan about such matters, and that we are remiss in not following up on this. So the last thing we agreed to was to approach our sisters and brothers serving on the International Helper Dewan to see what we might do together to encourage such gatherings.

Action Items:

- **Launch a global "What is my Culture?" initiative that begins with the latihan.**
- **Report back to SICA on plans in this regard by October 1, 2012** ■

Published by
Subud International Cultural Association
9509 Ketona Cove Austin TX 78759-6260 USA
July 2012