

Minutes of Zone 1&2 council meeting held at La Trobe University,
Melbourne, Australia, 6th and 7th January 2009

Present: Renata Peek, Zone 1 &2 representative to the World Subud Council (WSC).
Dahlan Simpson, (Australia) International Helper (IH) for Area one (Zone 1&2)
Asmaniah Fraval, (Australia) IH for Area one
Judy Gibb, (New Zealand) IH for Area one
Raina McKechnie (New Zealand) IH for Area one
Sebastian Nicholas, Committee Councillor(CC) for Australia
Liliana Johnston, KC for Australia
Luqman Wynne, KC for Australia
Balu Subramaniam, CC for India
Halimah Hachisu, Kedjiwaan Councillor (KC) for Japan
Ichiro Nakamura, (CC) for Japan
Lailani Graham, KC for New Zealand
Ramzi Addison, CC for New Zealand
Sebastian Tiano, CC for Thailand
Halimah Thuy, KC for Vietnam

Observers: Amalijah Thompson, (Australia) Archivist for WSC, Rasjaad Johnston, (Australia), Alexis and Hidayani Gleeson, (Australia), Peter Jenkins(Australia National Chair, incoming) and Isti Jenkins,(Australia), Rohana Fraval, (Australia), Renee Goetz,(Australia), Samara Schionning,(New Zealand), Hammond Peek,(New Zealand), Lambert and Melissa Anderson, (New Zealand), Howard Meldon, (Australia),Maxwell Fraval,(Australia), Hadrian Fraval, (Australia), Minh Su, (Australia/Vietnam)

Apologies: Subud Bangladesh, Subud Indonesia, Subud Iran, Subud Malaysia, Subud Pakistan, Subud Singapore and Subud Sri Lanka.

Minutes of the previous meeting held in Bangalore, India on 4th and 5th August 2006, had been previously circulated and were accepted as read and correct.

Country Reports had been requested and circulated before the meeting, with thanks to those that had prepared them. The reports are available on request from Renata Peek the zone rep. Email renatapeek@xtra.co.nz . The **Zone 1&2 report** had been drafted and was tabled at the meeting and will be finished and circulated to the zone countries before being submitted to the WSC and posted on the WSC pages of the Subud World News website.

Zone 1&2 financial report for 2007 and 2008 circulated and tabled. Available on request from Zone rep.

2.

Renata Peek formally welcomed all country delegates and observers to the meeting. We formed a circle of chairs and had a moment's quiet before we began.

The first item of discussion was about the process of appointing the next Zone rep. A call for nominations before the meeting had resulted in one candidate, Samara Schionning, (New Zealand). Another candidate stepped forward during the meeting, Asmaniah Fraval, (Australia). The present Zone rep spent some time outlining what the job of Zone rep entailed, having found that the greater part of the work was dealing with matters of the World Subud council (WSC). The Zone rep.s are the only voting members on the WSC between World Congresses, there are 9 zones and 7 zone rep.s at present. The WSC has requested that efforts are made to ensure continuity of management of the WSA and its affiliated bodies, (MSF, Susila Dharma and S.I.C.A), by appointing officers well ahead of time, (at least 3 months) so that a better change over is effected and the new officers have a better understanding of the job they are taking on.

Our discussion continued with the roles of the Committee councillors and the Kejiwaan councillors as those that sit on the zone council and are the representatives of their countries from both the organisational and the Kejiwaan sides.

A question from Halimah from Japan about why only 6 of the 15 countries listed in our zone were represented at the meeting. The reasons were various, from group collapse in Pakistan to lack of funds in Iran and Bangladesh, to countries that maintain only informal links with the international structure of Subud like Indonesia. The country reports show more clearly the internal situation in each country. As we know membership in Subud and in the international organisation is entirely voluntary.

The discussion turned towards financial matters, as three of the country delegates had been sponsored by the WSA to attend the meeting; Vietnam, Thailand, and India. In our Zone there are only 5 countries that are regular contributors to the WSA; Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia and Singapore. (See financial report for details). Some countries and individuals support the functioning of the Zone activities by funding the travel of delegates to meetings and some travel costs of the Zone rep.

There was further discussion about the need for better communications between the Zone countries. A suggestion was made that more travel by the Zone rep accompanying the IH's at times may improve the members' knowledge of the international nature of the Subud organisation, for the Zone rep the benefit would be in getting to know the views of the members more directly. Despite efforts to send information to all the members via the internet, newsletters, websites and discussion groups there is still a big gap in many members understanding of how the international part of the Subud structure works. It may show in a lack of motivation for supporting and fundraising for activities like international meetings and Kejiwaan gatherings.

3.

One point put forward was the possibility of having a change in the way the Zone is funded by channelling all funds raised through the Zone account and then to the WSA which is the way Zone 3 (Britain, France, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal and Spain) and Zone 7 (Canada, USA, Mexico, Cuba, and Surinam) operate. But in fact our Zone does not cover its own expenses yet as we are subsidised by the WSA, it means a big change in our thinking about bearing our own costs for IH travel within our Zone and paying for our own meetings and any other things we may want to do.

The meeting recommended that each Zone country consider sending some funds directly to the Zone accounts in an effort to become eventually more autonomous in action.

It was recommended that the Committee councillors be more active in educating the membership about the needs and benefits of the Zonal community and encouraging an interest in attending neighbouring country's meetings, and fundraising through the National committees for funds for a Zonal budget.

In the hour before the lunch break the meeting separated to do some testing.

The testing related to the appointment of the next zone rep. The questions were:

How is it to test the zone rep position at this time?

How is it for the zone if the zone rep position is tested at this time?

How is it to test the zone rep position at the next world congress?

How is it for the zone if the zone rep position is tested the next world congress?

After the testing the consensus of the meeting was, to delay the testing of the next zone rep until the next world congress.

The issue of handover from the outgoing to the incoming zone rep and familiarisation of the job for the new zone rep will have to be addressed another way.

At the beginning of the afternoon session David Week (Australia, National Chair, outgoing) joined the meeting briefly. He outlined some concerns that he had about the lack of visibility of the Zone as an entity and his experience of the lack of good communication between the Zone countries, and between himself as National chair and the Zone rep. David felt that the Zone had four main functions but there appeared to be no programmes to activate the functions. His opinion is, that the structure as set up was more suited to a large organisation and that as it presently exists could function effectively enough through email and contacts by telephone.

David further said that we may be better served by asking what was needed by the members and setting up programmes to answer those needs.

4.

He suggested the Zone council could identify a single project for the next year and apply for funding to implement it.

David finished by inviting the Zone council to attend, and the Zone rep. to address the Australian National meeting that afternoon.

The afternoon session continued with a discussion of possible projects for the zone. The first day concluded with the forming of goals and an action plan for 2009 until World congress.

Action Plan 2009 - January 2010

Goal 1. (a) That new committee councillors have an inner as well as an outer understanding of the job before being appointed.

(b) A commitment from outgoing officers to spend the time to inform and support incoming officers until they are familiar with the role.

Action: outgoing CC's and KC's meet with and inform candidates for CC position. Be an ongoing support if required for new CC.

Goal 2. To identify and find funds to sponsor one young person with leadership qualities, from each zone country to attend the next World congress.

Action: National committees to nominate a young person from their country. Approach members and Subud bodies to donate to the youth travel fund. Encourage and support with advice, the youth in their country to fundraise for the travel fund.

Goal 3. Increase communication between members of the zone council to once a month at least.

Action: Zone rep to initiate regular communication with CC's and support neighbouring country communications about upcoming meetings and gatherings, and publishing zonal newsletters.

Goal 4. Longer term, plan a performance with members from each zone country to be given at the 2014 Subud World congress. To increase awareness of, and strengthen interaction and communication between zone countries.

Action: National committees to promote this goal with their members and to identify someone with the skills to lead this project.

5.

Day two of the zone 1&2 meeting

Amaliyah Thomson, the WSA Archives co-ordinator, gave the meeting a talk about the current state of the archives.

The aim of the archives is to collect, preserve, maintain and provide access to Subud members, all the records generated by the World Subud Association as an organisation.

The archives are meant to show members now and in the future how Subud developed into a spiritual association.

At present the archives are difficult to access because lack of funds has meant they have been put into storage and no new work has been able to be carried out.

The archives consist of papers, letters, articles and photographs. Documents, films, and also Bapak's and Ibu Rahayu's talks. Properly prepared and cared for these items should last for a long time, however, even though some of the archives are digitised experts have become aware over the last few years that digital files are liable to break down and the information on them to become corrupted. It was originally thought that digital media would be permanent and long term, it has been found that this is not the case and many files are viable for ten years or less.

The situation with original film and tapes is even more critical with these master copies degrading very swiftly. Films are becoming bleached out and hard to see and tapes losing the emulsion that holds the recorded signal. So we are in very real danger of losing the integrity of our only master copies before they can be re-mastered onto longer lasting media.

The WSA is working on setting up a website which will hold all documents. It seems this is one of the ways that data can be stored digitally without degrading, although this is still somewhat new and untested over time.

At the moment most of the records are housed in Wisma Subud, Jakarta, in Britain, and in storage in Canberra, Australia. The USA has trained personnel but not many records.

The needs are permanent premises and trained, paid staff with a mandate from WSA to properly establish and maintain the archives over at least a 25 year period. Amaliyah sees that, properly set up, the archives could become self sustaining financially, but at the moment funding is needed to support the implementation of a long term business plan for the archives viability to be secured.

It was proposed and unanimously accepted by the meeting that Zone 1&2 support and promote to the WSA, as a long term (25 year) project, the development and establishment of a permanent Subud Archive complementary to the Archive held in Wisma Subud.

6.

Action: Amaliyah to prepare and complete, with assistance where appropriate, a long term business and financial plan, to be presented to the World Subud Council (WSC) by the end of March 2009.

The afternoon session of the meeting was devoted to catching up with the news from the zone countries whose delegates were present at the meeting. We heard about problems and successes and as we sat quietly talking together a very peaceful atmosphere prevailed. It felt as though we were at a family gathering, sharing together, it was very special.

We closed our meeting in the hope that we would all meet again at the next world congress in Christchurch.

With best wishes and love,
Renata Peek (zone rep)

With thanks to Ramzi Addison for taking the notes used to write these minutes.