



C O N T E N T S Z O N A L N E W S .

This Zone3 News gives you information on the international, the World Subud Council and the World Congress in New Zealand. The next issue we will cover the national congresses in our zone in the second half of this year, and other activities.

World Subud Council meeting, Amanacer, 23 July – 4 August

This year's council meeting was held in Amanacer, Colombia, during the Gathering of the America's, together with the Susila Dharma AGM and a meeting of zone 7. Basic principles of the work of WSC were discussed, including the workload of the zonal representatives. Further a procedure was agreed on the selection of the World Congress of 2014. Several members reported on the work of the external relations committee. The international helpers decided to discontinue the 'helpers without borders' programme, but promoted the idea of cross-border helpers travel, although on a more informal level.

World Congress 2010, New Zealand

The congress will start with two days of kejiwaan activities, followed by nine days delegation programme and then a gathering. The delegation programme is only part of the total, continuing congress programme. There will be maximum five working parties and a limited number of WSC sponsored workshops. Delegations must come well prepared to limit the workload at congress itself. The youth pinpointed a list of attention area's.

The second initiative, 'looking at our organisation'

Stephan Freedman was asked by the WSC executive to process the reactions to the second initiative into a report. It touches on problem area's and it gives suggestions for improvement by members and groups

The zone3 agenda of events is sent separately bimonthly

A R T I C L E S

World Subud Council meeting, Amanacer, 23 July – 4 August

This year the council met in Amanacer, Colombia, during the Gathering of the America's, together with the AGM of Susila Dharma International and a meeting of zone 7. A descriptive story of the setting is given by Osanna Vaughn, 'Celebrating the dawn' which can be found on subudworldnews.com . The council consists of the seven zonal representatives, the World Subud Association chair and deputy, the WSC executive team (the executive), the wing chairs and the 18 international helpers. Below an abstract of the minutes; the complete minutes can also be found on subudworldnews.com .

“ In some respects the World Subud Association is an organization that provides services to its members and in other respects it is a mission driven organization. One of its main aims is to facilitate a learning process on the benefits and use of the latihan, but this aspect of the work exists in a grey area that is probably not adequately covered by existing helper/committee/wing functions. The inner finds expression in the outer life of Subud members and consequently the organizational culture needs to embrace these grey areas. This indicates the need for spaces for systematic sharing of putting the latihan into practice or using one's inner guidance in everyday life, for learning to work together, for helper development, and for closer helper/committee relationships.

Zonal representatives

Possibly for the first time in many years, a lot of attention was paid to the role of the zonal representatives in their work within their zones as well as their work as WSC members and directors of the WSA. Ways to lighten the burden were considered, including the idea of empowering the committee councillors to work more closely with the zonal representatives. In some zones the zonal council hardly functions. This requires a re-evaluation of how democracy should work in Subud.

World Congres 2014

At the world congress in New Zealand the site for the next congress 2014 will be selected. The executive will ask countries to nominate themselves by the end of October 2008 and the WSA executive will work with those countries to develop comparable proposals by May 2009.

External relations

The executive will appoint a person to coordinate the external relations work of the WSA, as well as coordinating the various external relations activities. This person would also advise on matters such as websites, brochures, and the WSA Annual Report.

Frederic Richard reported on WSA's participation within NGO fora within the United Nations. WSA shares this activity with Susila Dharma International. SDI will carry on in the area of international development and the WSA would participate in the area of human rights and freedom, which includes dialogue to improve our knowledge of such fora, while networking and strengthening our contribution

Samuel Simonsson reported on Subud's participation in inter-spiritual dialogue including the *Middle East Festival of Spirituality and Peace* (MESP). An important upcoming event is Subud's participation in the *Parliament of World Religions* in December 2009 in Melbourne.

Frederic Richard reported on the WSA forum. This forum is an experimental program of the WSA in which spaces are created for dialogue with Subud and non-Subud experts on themes relevant to the aims of the WSA. The theme for the first program is development and governance. The plan is to have a conference on development and governance for Central Kalimantan.

Helpers without borders

The international helpers have decided to finish the “Helpers Without Borders” program. The WSA recognizes the benefit of volunteer helpers visiting groups in a country other than their own, and the international helpers are willing to help facilitate this. However, the feeling should be more of a normal experience for the volunteer helper(s) and the group visited and the approach less formal. The international helpers suggested that a line item be retained within the WSA budget for such helper travel, and that the WSA continue to promote the idea of cross-border helper travel. “

World Congress 2010, New Zealand

At the council meeting the world congress was discussed. It will start with two kejiwaan days, followed by nine days of delegation programme and then a gathering. The delegation programme is only part of the full, continuing congress programme.

It was agreed that the role of the congress should be more directed towards the priorities and policies for the development of Subud internationally and the needs of Subud members rather than the management issues best handled by the council and the executive. Congress should set a few priority goals and strategies for the forthcoming period; in this way delegations should not be swamped with too much work and information. There will be a maximum of five working parties: (1) the use and benefits of the latihan (including helper work) (2) supporting endeavors, projects and enterprises, (3) being present in the world (4) strengthening the organization and (5) a shorter working party on finance possibly together with MSF. Also there would be WSA sponsored workshops directed towards the needs of the development of Subud. These workshops would be experiential, interactive, and dedicated to major themes such as: the use of the latihan in everyday life, sharing experiences, developing projects, and capacity building.

Delegate / representative

A delegate is a person who must and can only vote according to the instructions received from his/her constituency. A representative is a person who votes according to his/her own discretion having received input from his/her constituency.

The council recommends that the “WSA member delegations” at congress are representatives, unless otherwise stipulated by the congress of their home country on specific topics. The reason for this recommendation is so that democratic processes of reaching consensus can take place during the congress, so that the decisions of congress can take into account various viewpoints and interests from a wider perspective of the WSA as a whole rather than being predetermined before any discussion. The WSA executive will send representatives an information pack on their work at congress.

It was agreed that all appointments made by the World Subud Association during congress require that candidates should have seen a job description beforehand. It was also agreed that candidates for organizational positions would need to submit a CV or resume.

The zone representatives agreed that support funds collected in their zones would be put into a collective pool to ensure a fair representative of countries at congress. The executive reported that Samuel Lesley in the UK had been appointed as representative support coordinator.

Youth

The youth organisation pinpointed some areas of attention for the congress:

- Create a safe space in which there is the ability to play music
- Include special cultural events such as a fashion show
- Include something similar to the Congress TV in Innsbruck
- Include kejiwaan spaces for young people
- Include special activities and excursions such as the “Yes Quest”
- Include spaces for creative activities
- Include spaces for sports

- Create dialogue spaces within the Congress
- Possibly include a one-day social project
- Possibly include a special support team for young people

The council agreed to launch a fundraising appeal to raise \$30,000 USD to support the travel of young Subud members to the congress. This fund would be based on principles similar to the existing International Youth Travel Fund (IYTF) although supplementary criteria may be required. The Muhammad Subuh Foundation kindly agreed to match these funds, as does the *Guerrand-Hermès Foundation for Peace* (GHFP), resulting in three dollars for every fundraised dollar.

The second initiative, looking at our organisation

At the request of the executive Stephan Freedman processed the reactions to the second initiative in a report, which can be found on swn.com. From his report:

What led up to this & what's the point?

World congress aims to hear members' views and turn them into actions. One theme that kept coming up at the last world congress was, that some Subud communities, fortunately, are thriving, with new enquirers and new members coming in, but many groups are experiencing the opposite:

- Membership aging, becoming too old to attend group latihan, dying off
- High percentage of new members leaving (often after about one year)
- Very few enquirers or applicants

This prompted an initiative called "Being Present" which encouraged Subud members and groups to become more open and accessible to the public. This is ongoing. It also prompted a process of self-enquiry. Is there something we could do differently? If the problem were a signpost, what would it be telling us? The executive then started a second initiative: Engage in an honest and fearless appraisal of how we function – from groups to the international (and all layers in between). So WSA invited Subud individuals and groups to ask searching questions about our Subud culture. What serves us and what doesn't? What needs to be changed and how might we do it better? This invitation is ongoing. The report includes voices from meetings of Subud members in many countries as well as, from individual letters and feedback.

Summary of area's being discussed.

The question was : is there some way that more people will find Subud ? Responses include the following suggestions:

- Glow more brightly. The key is not to get stressed or despondent. Deepen your latihan and people may be attracted by the stillness they feel in your presence
- Appreciate one another. Latihan, for many, is a respite from efforts and from words. Socials are times of celebration. So when can Subud members really get to know one another? How to discover one another's dreams, struggles and unresolved issues
- Be honest and authentic. Don't make everything sugar coated. When we can be "real" with one another new members will want to stay, and others will be drawn
- All gloom and doom? Far from it. Fresh breezes are a-blowin'
- Sharing vulnerability. Latihan can bring about changes – inner and outer – not always comfortable. What if we don't want to be "helped" but need a different support?
- Public visibility. Do you find it hard to talk about Subud? Do people see us as a secretive group? How can our leaflets and websites connect with the public?
- Help helpers communicate. Suggestions for mutual learning and skills to support helper work
- Improve the applicant's experience. Three months of torture in order to gain access?
- Understanding Bapak. Members hold contrasting views on the role of Bapak's talks in Subud's future. One member suggests a way to reconcile some differences
- Speak local lingo. To an outsider Subud can seem self-enclosed. How can we swim with today's current of ideas and words? What are the new generation of spiritually

orientated people interested in?

- Plant seeds in your own garden. Individuals and local groups are the beating heart of Subud. How can the organisation support you and your group?
- What are the “stuck” aspects of our association?
- How do we create a more flexible and responsive organisation? Change requires management. Easy to get enthusiastic about change, but hard to overcome inertia and habit. How about...?