



SUBUD®

SUBUD UKRAINE®

**Міжнародна громадська організація
Товариство «Субуд України»**

R E P O R T **to the World Subud Congress** **Puebla (Mexico) - August 2-18, 2014**

Dear brothers and sisters of the World Subud Association! First of all, we thank you for the kind words of support that we received from everywhere in this difficult period for our country and the world. We will continue our prayers in the hope that under Protection and Guidance of the Almighty, Subud Ukraine and the whole country will withstand and start flourishing for the benefit of mankind and peace on the planet.

Membership Trends

Subud came to Ukraine in July, 1992. Then within a week more than 90 people were opened in two cities – Kiev and Cherkasy.

At present Subud Ukraine numbers **67 active members** (23 men, 44 women) in three groups: in Dnipropetrovsk – 30 members (9 men, 21 women), in Kyiv – 15 members. (7 men, 8 women), in Cherkasy - 22 members (7men, 15 women).

Also, there are individual members in four towns (3 women in Kryvyi Rig, 1 man in Luhansk, 5 members (3 men, 2 women) in Slavyansk. In Kharkiv several years ago the group fell apart, but after the events in the country at the beginning of the year started developing tragically, 10 members (5 men and 5 women) began again to do regular latihan together.

Two groups – in Dnipropetrovsk and Cherkasy – have their Subud house, in Kyiv and Kharkiv the groups rent premises, the rest do the latihan at home or at work.

Over the last years there has been neither decline, nor considerable growth of the membership. Five people (3 men and 2 women) have been opened in Kyiv. Three of them do the latihan regularly, while the other two had to leave abroad in search of a job.

In Dnipropetrovsk there are people interested in Subud but so far there is no adequate cooperation among the helpers.

In the Cherkassy Subud house there is an information board with brief information about Subud, the helpers' contact telephone numbers, the dates of “open doors” for those who may be interested in Subud.

All the groups are provided with introductory materials for candidates.

Helper Activities, International Helpers Visits, Kejiwaan Gatherings

The latihan in the groups are regular – twice a week in Dnipropetrovsk and Kyiv and three times in Cherkasy. In Kyiv there are regular helpers latihan, men and women helpers get together regularly. In Cherkasy the women helpers do their latihan once, sometimes twice a month, but there is a problem with men helpers. One of the helpers has no possibility to attend the group and helpers latihan, the national helper has to combine his function with the function of the group helper. Also, there are no close contacts between men and women helpers. The same refers to the helpers' interaction in Dnipropetrovsk.

Every first Thursday the members do the national latihan in their groups. There were latihan in support of peaceful resolution of conflicts in the country with tests about our attitude, unity, etc. Also, the members participate in the monthly world latihan.

On Bapak's birthday, on Subud Ukraine birthday (end of July) and during National congresses (usually on August 24th, the national holiday – the Independence Day in Ukraine) all-Ukrainian kejiwaan meetings are held, which enliven interest in regular latihan and unite the members. As a rule, the helpers invite to such meetings the members who were opened in Subud but for different reasons stopped attending group latihan.

The members in Subud Ukraine are at present served by **17 group helpers** (8 men, 9 women and **4 national helpers** (2+2)). The helpers from different groups help each other by mutual visits, telephone, e-mail and Skype contacts. Special thanks in this respect to the Kyiv helpers who rendered assistance to the Cherkassy group helpers and the national helpers.

The current national helpers set to work last September after testing at the National congress. Since then they visited the Subud groups in Kyiv, Dnipropetrovsk and the members in Slaviansk. They keep contacts with the groups and helpers by e-mail and telephone.

The relations between the national helpers and their joint work are at present far from harmonious, but the sense of responsibility, devotion to Subud, sincere intention to surrender to God and serve the members will, hopefully, bring fruit and harmony will be restored.

As for relations between the members and the helpers, they need to be improved in all the groups. The members complain about lack of attention on the part of the helpers, whereas the helpers believe that the active Subud members should themselves be responsible for their spiritual development without shifting it on the helpers' shoulders.

Organization

Currently only the Cherkassy group committee is complete. The Kiev group committee is represented only by the chairman, the national treasurer combines her function with the function of the group treasurer. In Dnipropetrovsk the chairlady is on a maternity leave and there is no group committee, but some members are in charge for various spheres of Subud life: contacts with the renters, payment for utilities, maintenance of the Subud house, etc. If it is necessary to take decisions, a meeting is held.

Current chairman of Subud Ukraine Oscar Dmytrash was elected last August but up to now the national committee is not completed: there is only a treasurer who is at the same time the Kyiv group treasurer. The national helpers tried to help by testing candidates but no results so far. Because Oscar does not speak English, Marsiya and Rebekka help him with correspondence.

Once a month Oscar comes to Cherkassy (where there are all the four national helpers) to do the latihan, to test and discuss things. In case of need, the Kyiv helpers (because Oscar lives in Kyiv) do the latihan or testing on his request,

National congresses are held every year, re-election congresses once in two years. Between the congresses the organizational issues are decided by the National council, which meets as required.

One of the interaction problems between the national committee and the groups is lack of feedback from the groups. Partially this is due to the fact that many members still do not have access to the internet.

Last January a joint meeting of the helpers and committee members was held in Cherkassy with the purpose of harmonization of spiritual and organizational sides of Subud Ukraine development.

Economic situation of the members

The economic situation of the members is not satisfactory. There are many pensioners and members of a pre-retirement age, an average pension is below the minimum living wage and amounts to \$80-\$100 per month. Half of it is spent for ever growing utilities, while a possibility of extra earnings is limited.

The financial situation is worsened by political and economic instability, especially now that hostilities are raging in the East of Ukraine. All this also affects the psychological state of the members and their families.

Subud houses

There are two Subud houses in Subud Ukraine: in Cherkasy and Dnipropetrovsk. They were purchased thanks to a loan and grants by MSF and private donations. Membership dues would not be enough to maintain the Subud houses, so, renting out the premises to yoga groups, belly-dances etc. is of great help. For special needs like repair or reconstruction jobs, the groups render mutual assistance to each other.

The expenses for the national helpers' and chairman's trips, the National council meetings are covered by contributions of the groups and out of remains of the reserve formed by private donations of our foreign Subud visitors in earlier times. Our feasible annual contribution is estimated on the basis of 1 euro per person.

The available funds are mainly used for vital needs; therefore there is no possibility so far to subsidize the participation of the Ukrainian delegates in the Zonal or international meetings. The Zonal committee comes to the rescue, and we would like to express our deepest appreciation to the countries of the Zone for helping us to be part of our international Subud family.

For cost savings, all-Ukrainian meetings and National congresses are held in the last years in the Cherkasy Subud house, which is located in the midway between Kyiv and Dnipropetrovsk, and the members pay less for traveling. Also, there is no need to rent premises for the latihan and congress activities, and the members are accommodated in the guest room, on two couches in the library and just on mattresses in the latihan halls. The food is cooked by the members themselves, which brings them closer to one another and contributes to putting the latihan into practice.

Subud activities

All the groups practice joint tea parties, birthday greetings, holidays celebrations. Also joint cultural outings are popular. Sometimes family members and non-Subud friends join in.

In Cherkasy cultural outings became a tradition. Once a month on Sundays the members listen to Bapak's or Ibu Rahayu's talks after the latihan. However, it should be noted that the group members do not participate actively in the national Subud events that are mostly held in the Cherkasy Subud house.

Subud Dnipropetrovsk was split into two separate groups many years ago. One of the groups left to follow a guru-type leader, while the other group remained in the Subud house. The national helpers made regular visits to Dnipropetrovsk to work with both the groups. Two years ago many members of the second group participated in the National Congress held in their city. There were tests and discussions with the International helpers Hassan and Ragna, and joint tea parties and singing together. Perhaps since then things got moving. Recently the Subud members from the second Subud group started attending the latihan in the Subud house more actively, so, we can say there is now a transition/adaptation period in Subud Dnipropetrovsk.

'Wings' Activities

Now there are no joint projects or organized wings activities in Subud Ukraine. For all that, several members in Dnipropetrovsk are working on the ICDP, in Cherkasy the group keeps contacts with the "Faith" school for mentally handicapped children, and a room in the Subud house is placed at their disposal free of charge. Occasionally, fruit, sweets, clothes are handed over for Christmas to the children's departments of cancer and tuberculosis clinics.

Enterprises

There are no joint Subud enterprise projects but some members put their entrepreneurial abilities into practice developing their talents. Thus, in Cherkasy two Subud sisters (mother and daughter) organized a school of oriental dances both for Subud members and women from outside/ They also develop their talent as landscape designers in the Subud house, their flower compositions in front of the house delight the eyes of the members and passers-by. Three Subud sisters are internationally known in the Subud world as knitters of Subud slippers. One Subud brother conducts guitar playing courses, another one organized a "Heath School". One Subud brother runs dietary supplements enterprise, another one tries to develop meat production and one Subud couple - to afford the Braille project. In Kharkiv one Subud sister develops her sewing workshop. There are needs in wider contacts with Subud and non-Subud entrepreneurs and product markets abroad.

Cultural activities

On the initiative of a Subud brother, the “Poetry for peace” evening took place in the Cherkasy Subud house last year following the initiative of SICA international. Hopefully, there will be continuation.

In Kharkiv a jazz group «PUR:PUR» was established several years ago. A young talented Subud brother is its inspirer, musician and composer. Included into the group are non-Subuders and a Subud sister - vocalist. The group successfully plays on tours in Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Lithuania, and participates in international jazz festivals. The musicians gave charitable concerts for cancer sick children and inmates of a children's home. Of course, they are interested in contacts and cooperation with Subud and non-Subud musicians – why not?! – and in an impresario far abroad. ☺

Translations and publications

About 20 years ago a translations and publications unit was established in Subud Ukraine thanks to financial support of SPI to provide the Russian-speaking Subud community (Ukraine, Russia, Moldova, Lithuania, Latvia) with Subud literature. Volumes 2-22 of Bapak's talks have been translated and Volumes 23 and 24 are ready for publication. Volum 25 is translating now. About 200 Ibu Rahayu's talks and letters have been translated. Bapak's books “Susila Budhi Dharma” and “Autobiography” are at our members' disposal in Russian.

Added to this list are several books about Subud for candidates, Subud author's books about their Subud experience, video of two Bapak's talk and six Ibu Rahayu's talks with Russian subtitles, a video “A Gift from God” about Bapak and Subud. Also, the members of the translation unit help with the translation of WSA and Zone 4 information. Currently materials about preparations for the World Subud Congress are regularly translated.

Apart from the above-mentioned Russian-speaking Subud countries, there were orders for Subud literature from Uzbekistan, Kirghizia, Turkey, Serbia, Italy, Germany and the USA.

Owing to lack of funds, there are uncompleted projects for four books in the publications portfolio. Also, money is needed for the publication of Leonard Lassale's book “Source of Life” and Luqman Keele's book “Journey Beyond the Stars, a story of the early life of Muhammad Subuh” which arouses our members' interest.

It should be also noted that the Ukrainian Subud members feel shortage of international materials with kejiwaan contents. In the period from 1994 to 2001 Subud Ukraine was publishing its periodical “Light of Subud”, where the translated materials from “Subud Voice” were placed along with articles about Ukrainian Subud experience and information about international Subud. At present, to our great regret, Subud Ukraine has neither finances, nor possibility to regularly translate the “Subud Voice”.

International Subud Life

At present the members do not display much interest in international Subud life. There are certain reasons for this: lack of finances to participate in international Subud events, difficulties in obtaining visas, urgent everyday needs in connection with the current political and economic situation and social instability in the country, etc. But the main issue is language barrier which prevents them from really being part of the world Subud family.

With Love, Thanks and Respect ~

*Rebekka Lykhatska
on behalf of Subud Ukraine national helpers*

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