

Report from Zone 7 for the Mid Term Review Conference Call on February 24/25, 2012.

Some achievements, key issues/challenges and plans for the future.

1. Achievements

- Continuing intention to hold annual “in person” Zone 7 Council meetings.
- Successful Zone Council Meeting in Puebla, Mexico in 2011, with good representation from all of the countries in the Zone, and incorporating a visit to the site of the 2014 World Congress.
- Regular (quarterly) Zone Council conference calls held, with participation by 4 out of the 5 member countries in the Zone and IHs.
- Good support from Zone Treasurer and Zone Secretary
- Annual Zonal Budget includes contributions (by wealthier countries) that allow financial support of Cuba, assistance for delegates to travel to Zone Council Meetings and some Zone Rep travel.
- Although the numbers of Subud members in each Zone 7 country vary significantly (and consequently the way that the respective national dewans operate), reports indicate that the Subud organizations are running relatively smoothly in the US, Suriname, Mexico and Canada. Cuba is more difficult to determine - see later.

2. Key Issues/Challenges

- **Cuba:**
 - (i) Personality “difficulties” between former Chair and current Chair of Subud Cuba. Led to split in 2011 of Subud Guacanayabo (members in and around Manzanillo) from Subud Cuba. Subud Guacanayabo seeking official membership of (or at least recognition by) WSA and Zone 7. International Helpers are currently visiting Cuba. It is hoped that this may provide some clarification on the current situation!
 - (ii) Language. Current national chair and most of dewan don’t speak English. Zone Rep doesn’t speak Spanish. This makes communication (both verbal and written) a continuing challenge and currently Subud Cuba doesn’t participate in Zone Council conference calls.
 - (iii) But, encouraging news that Subud Cuba may be close to receiving official recognition by the Cuban government!
- **Caribbean:**
 - (i) Isolated members spread around a number of Caribbean islands.
 - (ii) We were informed in 2011 that they were calling themselves Subud Caribbean and wanted to be recognized as a member of the WSA. No formal structure (National Committee, National Helpers etc.), so cannot currently qualify as a member of the WSA.
 - (iii) Some “concern” from members in Jamaica that they had been poorly treated by the international organization in the past. Resentment that Subud USA Regional Helpers had taken on responsibility for their kejiwaan support.
- **Zonal Project**

For some years the Zone has been searching for a suitable “Zonal Project/Enterprise” that could give us a common goal or focus. The upcoming Americas Gathering and 2014 World Congress in Mexico is somewhat satisfying this need.

- **WSA**

(i) Continuing ignorance and apathy by many Subud members about the international organization. Apart from IH travel, what does the WSA do?

How does the WSA affect me?

Concern that the international structure is too large, complicated and cumbersome for the size of the membership.

(ii) Although there is little interest in the WSA Budget by countries in Zone 7, there is concern about the successive projected budget deficits.

What is our money being spent on?

How does our country's contribution benefit Subud/me?

Annual budgets should balance, particularly in the current difficult and unsettled economic times. Don't ask us to contribute more!

It is very important that we initiate a more proactive response to these widely-held concerns and provide simpler, more effective and regular communications about the international organization and what it is doing for the members.

3. Plans for the future

(i) An enthusiastic Organizing Team in Canada is hosting and working on preparations for the **Americas Gathering** in Vancouver in June 2012. (see www.americasgathering.ca) This will be held in conjunction with meetings of the WSC, MSF, Subud Canada and the Zone 7 Council. Assistance from members in other parts of the Zone. Eg. translation, rental deposit for the facilities etc. The Gathering will be immediately followed by the Subud USA Congress in nearby Seattle.

(iii) Both Subud Cuba and Subud Suriname have already indicated an interest in hosting the 2013 Zone 7 Council meeting.

(ii) 2014 COT in Mexico is working well, with assistance from other parts of Zone 7, including Marston Gregory (Subud USA) to help with the Finances and Lucida Garneau (Subud Canada) with Regonline, together with Maya on behalf of the WSA Executive. There is an ongoing commitment from Subud Canada, and other countries within Zone 7, to provide support and assistance to Mexico, as and when it is needed.

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