



THE WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION
Executive Office

What would it be like?

By Hannah Baerveldt, WSA treasurer 2018-2022

Have you ever wondered what Subud would be like without the organization of the World Subud Association? What would happen?

For starters, there would be no protection for the copyrights and trademarks of Subud, including the Subud symbol and Bapak's talks. Anyone could copy, manipulate, misrepresent, alter and twist the original gift Bapak brought to us. And eventually, they would distort Bapak's message – for sure.

There would no longer be international helpers to correct these distortions. Arguments about whose interpretation was correct would ensue – eventually leading to schisms within Subud, each faction claiming they know the correct path. The entire organizational structure, right down to the center level would splinter, with each splinter group having their own unique definition of Subud. Perhaps national helpers could assist, but which faction would they side with? And what if the national helpers themselves needed assistance?

Bapak's videos and talks would not be translated into different languages, and so Bapak's message would be only accessible to those speaking Indonesian or English, leading to an erosion of our international quality. OK, perhaps someone somewhere would, casually on a personal basis, do some translation work, but what if they got the interpretation wrong because they have no one to check their work? Eventually, this would lead to a deviation from the original path Bapak set out for Subud, which would then result in some countries going in a completely different direction than the rest of the Subud world.

Yet, no one would be able to go back into the files to check what the true guidance of Bapak was – because there would be no archives. His guidance would be reduced to word of mouth and the dwindling number of books and documents held by individuals – slowly deteriorating as the decades pass, and these would be handed down from generation to generation – with the original message slowly being changed over time. It's true books can be re-printed, but who would ensure that Bapak's message would not be changed to suit whoever was doing the publishing at the time? Remember, there would be no copyright protection, because there would be no WSA...

And let us not forget the other parts of our organization, the support groups like SESI, Care Support, Youth, SIHA, and IT communications, not to mention the affiliates SDIA and SICA. These are all currently linked through WSA. If WSA were no longer in existence, there would be no common venue to talk to each other. Each entity would be isolated in different locations, with no cohesion, no coordination.

Would members still feel they were part of an international group? Would there be international gatherings anymore? Without the WSA, there would be no need for the zonal structure because there would be no reason to have the zone representatives. Who would they represent their countries to? Perhaps some countries would begin to establish their own small fiefdoms and forget about other parts of the world, forget that we are an international association that is so diverse, so encompassing, so challenging, that it boggles the mind. So, without the international aspect, what kind of an example would Subud be to the world? Where would our outer strength be? How would we be challenged to be more accepting, more culturally aware, and more harmonious in spite of our outer differences?

It is clear: Without the organization of the World Subud Association, slowly over time, humanity would lose Bapak's original message and the Grace of the *latihan kejiwaan*.

Therefore, **the undeniable purpose of the World Subud Association is to protect, nurture, support, and preserve Bapak's true and complete message** so that it may be embraced by the coming generations when the time is right.

We need the WSA organization so that we can ensure Subud survives.

We need the WSA, and WSA needs your support. Your good wishes, prayers, and yes, your financial support, are all greatly appreciated – and very much needed.