



Congress in Puebla

The 2014 Subud world Congress in Puebla August 3-17 was a great success. Firmly founded on the latihan, it was an explosion of colour and vitality in every sphere of life



Puebla welcomes us.

About 1700 people attended and there were 38 national delegations.

Puebla proved to be a safe, welcoming and exciting city. The Convention facilities were of a very high standard and worked well for everything we wanted to do. For Subud Voice I have produced this impressionistic overview of the Congress. Still, I hope that I have covered the main themes and the main outcomes which are of most interest to people, such as where the next Congress will be held and who are the new office holders.

I have also tried to capture some of the colour and energy of this extraordinary gathering.

We have not yet received enough subscriptions to ensure that we will be able to continue Subud Voice for another year. Therefore, we will leave it open until September 30th to get more subscriptions. If it has to be decided after that, that we must cancel our subscription plan because we have not found enough subscribers, all moneys paid by subscribers will be returned to them.

For more news and photos about Congress go to www.subudworldcongress2014.com and check out the Facebook link.

Also go to www.youtube.com and enter Subud Congress TV to see many videos about Congress.

Thank you to the Congress Organising Team, and to all those hundreds of people who worked together to make this such a great Congress.

Harris Smart, Editor. ●

Ibu Rahayu's Message to Congress

Best wishes to the Subud World Congress in Puebla, Mexico.

To my Subud brothers and sisters from all around the world whom I love and respect; the time to hold the Congress is here. I thank the WSA officers, the World Congress committee and our brothers and sisters in Mexico who made it possible for the Subud World Congress to be staged as planned.

Through a grace from God, those who undertook this task, those who did the work, received strength and an easing of the way, and I know that it took a high level of energy and commitment and a willingness to work without expecting anything in return.

With this written message I inform you that, as your elder sister in Subud, I am unable to attend the Subud World Congress in Puebla, Mexico. Do not be disappointed by this news, but accept it in the knowledge that nothing in this world lasts forever. I am steadily ageing and my physical strength is much less now. It means that I must measure myself and not travel too far. But do not take this news as a letdown; instead, look on it as training for each section, each with its own task to do, to carry out those duties and responsibilities in the right way.

As Subud people, Subud members, by attending the Subud World Congress and other Subud congresses, you will obtain a benefit. During such meetings, you will discuss reports from many countries about the development of Subud, and the program also provides for kejiwaan events and discussions about Subud's needs. As a result of that, new members, the new generation who never met or knew Bapak, will gain understanding from these meetings.

When we do latihan together – women with women, and men with men – one spontaneously feels a power from within that accompanies our latihan. It is proof that God's power is all embracing and can fulfil the needs of all God's creatures who worship God, even though thousands might do latihan together at one time.

That is my news. Let us pray for the smooth running and success of the Subud World Congress in Puebla. Amen.

My best wishes for a fruitful, enjoyable, and peaceful World Congress,

Ibu

(Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo.

Pamulang, June 11, 2014.)



A memory of Ibu Rahayu from the Christchurch Congress.

The Kejiwaan Side of Congress

This was a congress firmly based in the spiritual nature of Subud. Latihan for men and women were held each morning and night in the Convention Centre spaces which could accommodate the large numbers participating.

As well as the written message, Ibu sent a brief message on video, opening Congress, as well as a full length talk on video.

But for many people, one of the Congress highlights were testing sessions that Ibu had conducted in Indonesia towards the end of Ramadan. These were replayed at Congress and both men and women were able to join in the testing.

Many people were moved by the power of this experience. One person said to me, "I was in Indonesia and participated in this testing when Ibu gave it in person. And here at Congress when it was replayed, my experience was exactly the same."

One hopes that it may be possible for these testing sessions to be made available back in our groups.

There were as well, of course, opportunities for personal testing and also more general testing such as the "Peace Testing" which many found to be of great value.

The Opening of Congress



Dr. Rafael Moreno Valle, Constitutional Governor of the State of Puebla, attended the opening of Congress.



Folkloric performances were a feature of the opening ceremony. This photograph was taken by Livingston Armytage who writes, "I hope this image captures the joy and vitality of the opening ceremony of the Subud World Congress at Puebla, which was rich with latihan, friendship and activity. For those of us new to the region, Mexico offered a distinctive indigenous and colonial history, and a refreshingly diverse culture to experience."

The Next World Congress



Bonn.

The next Subud World Congress will be held in four years time in the city of Bonn in Germany. There were three submissions presented to hold the next World Congress, from Indonesia, Britain and Germany.

All were excellent and the German proposal was finally selected by testing by the international helpers.

Bonn is a small but international city, less than 300,000 people, situated on the Rhine river. It was Beethoven's birthplace and is known as a cultural centre. It was previously the capital of Germany which means there are many excellent facilities available for holding our Congress. Bonn means JOY!

In introducing the German proposal Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg (who is now the WSA Executive chair) said that not only Germany but all of Zone 4 could join together in working on the Congress.

She hoped that the theme of peace would strongly emerge as this Zone contains some of the countries most powerfully affected at present by conflict.

To read the German proposal in full go to:

http://www.subud.org/dyn/file/resources_wsa_members/worldcongressdoc/Germany_FullProp_WorldCongress2018.ENG.pdf

New Office Holders



< Marston Gregory (left), new chair of MSF, with Elias Dumit, new chair of WSA. Marston is from the USA and Elias is from Brazil. In his acceptance speech, Elias said he would make the development of Subud at the grass roots a priority,



< Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg from Germany (left), new WSA Executive Chair. She has been the chair of Subud Germany and presented the Bonn World Congress proposal.

< Sebastian Flynn, from Australia (right), the new chair of SICA. He is a classically trained violinist as well as experienced in organising major festivals and events. One of Sebastian's hopes is to make SICA more enterprising.



< Kumari Beck, outgoing chair of Susila Dharma International (left), with the new chair, Kohar Parra Bustillo.

< Kohar is originally from Colombia but now lives in the USA where he works for an NGO. He has had long experience with Susila Dharma..



< Hadrian Fraval, from Australia (left), the new Subud Enterprise Services chair. Hadrian has served on virtually every position in Subud you can think of, and as well as that, for about 30 years has been the driving force behind the highly successful company, Rofin Australia, which amongst other things, makes some of the leading forensic science instruments in the world.



< The Glutton for Punishment Award at this Congress goes to Maxwell Fraval from Australia. At this Congress he retired from being the WSA Executive Chair and then without pause became the SIHA Representative. Seriously, he is ideally suited to be SIHA Rep since he is one of the world's leading cranial osteopaths and has just created a marvellous Wellness Centre in Canberra combining many different health practitioners.



Other Appointments

Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF) announced three new trustees:

Michael van der Matten (UK),
Rasjidah Franklin (USA) and
Marston Gregory (USA).

The new **International Helpers** for the 2014-2018 term have been selected.
They are:

Area 1 (Zones 1 & 2):

Isti Jenkins, Lewis Hayward, Nahum Harlap, Australia;
Rashidah Cooper, Rosario Moir, Matthew Moir, New Zealand.

Area 2 (Zones 3, 4, 5 & 6): Arifin Conrad, Austria;

Sachlan Krona, Sweden;
Sanderson Topham, UK;
Dahlia Drejza, Norway;
Olivia Brady, South Africa;
Sharifah Roberts, Scotland.

Area 3 (Zones 7, 8 & 9): Brigida Rodriguez, Colombia;

Myriam Ramsey, Suzanne Renna, Hoan Toan Phan, Sjarifuddin Harris, USA;
Mahmud Nestman, Canada.

In addition, new Subud Youth Activities International representatives have been chosen for the three Areas:

Area 1: Rahman Schoening (AUS) and Davina Flynn (AUS)

Area 2: Marcus Vagany (HUN) and Rhyana Blakely (UK/SPAIN)

Area 3: Zuleika Pevec (USA), Arif Rivero (MEX) and Konrad Muñoz (COL)

It was agreed that there would be a coordinator for these reps, who will liaise with the World Subud Council and attend their meetings. George Demers of Canada was elected for this position.

Please forgive any mistakes.

Music Around Every Corner



Leonard Hitchcock, retiring chairman of Subud Britain, sends these impressions of World Congress...

Puebla seems now like an exotic dream; colourful spicy streets against the backdrop of the smoking volcano - the Old World still lurking below the surface with its hard gods still demanding sacrifice. The bloodied and gory Christ in the gold-spattered churches, the death skulls grinning in the streets, the joyfully beautiful buildings, the lovely people so kind and considerate, the music 'round every corner.

We came as a global Subud family, to share our lives and hopes. The dispensation of grace could be felt - glimpsing the true human content for this world, asking for forgiveness and uniting in feeling in the wide and expansive latihans and testing. Enjoying each other in the cafes and bars; the old theatre filled with music and song and fantastical puppets, the triumph of the human spirit and the redemptive power of storytelling in shadows and light.

The frustrations of pointless talk in the delegate forums; sequestered away from natural light [and natural joy!] while the 'real' congress happens elsewhere. Allowing the structure to sit on top and forgetting why we are there, forgetting Bapak's vision and the flow of guidance, the depth just below the surface. Hoping to make it better next time...

The rich and spicy food, chicken and chocolate, chalupas and chillies, the rushing to the bathroom in the night [and other times] - the days of water and not a lot more... if you knew what was good for you!

Welcoming the new international team - the courageous and foolish carrying the mantle of aspiration and optimism through the next four years. Feeling confident in the wisdom and humility being shown and reassured that we are going forward and growing and grateful for those that are empty enough to be shown the way forward and caring enough to want to make a difference.

Thankful for this opportunity to widen my heart, to embrace my family, to feel the Oneness.

“ *To feel the oneness...* ”

The Business of Congress

The members of 38 National Delegations met throughout Congress to discuss a variety of issues, proposals, resolutions and recommendations, including the particularly difficult one of defining consensus.

The results of their deliberations will be available when the minutes come out.

Many people, including delegates themselves, wondered why it all took so long. This comes up at every Congress. Isn't there some way to make the process of dealing with business quicker and easier? This is a frequently heard cry.



"We made it!" Delegates share a celebratory circle hug at the end of Congress.

One of the delegates, Ramzi Addison from New Zealand, had a dream during Congress...

Ramzi's Dream in Puebla:

Part 1.

I had died and gone to stand before God.

"Buenos Dias, Dios." (It turns out God is Mexican.)

"Who are you then?" asks God.

"Mi llamo es Ramzi." (I've now exhausted all my Mexican so all following will in Inglezi)

"Ramzi, eh? St Thomas! Get this man's records! While we're waiting, tell me what you've done."

"Well," I said, "when people said they didn't believe in you, I always stuck up for you and said I believed."

"Hmmm – what else did you do?"

"Well, I prayed quite often, even sometimes when I wasn't in big trouble!"

"Yes, Yes – what else?"

"Er, I did Ramadan quite a few times and once or twice almost properly!"

"Yes well looking at your records here, I think things are not looking good for you, Ramzi. Have you done anything recently?"

"Well yes, God. I was at the Puebla congress as a delegate and we spent six hours trying to define the meaning of consensus!"

"Wow! And did you reach a conclusion?"

"Not really."

"Well, that's splendid – what hard work and sincerity! St Peter - take this man straight through immigration and put him in first class!"

Part 2.

Now I'm alive again in my dream and arriving home to be met by the members in New Zealand at the airport.

"Hey - Oh Great Leader!" they said, "what did you do there at Puebla to make spending all our hard earned donations to send you there worthwhile?"

"Well, I spent six hours trying to define the meaning of consensus!"

"Wow! That's amazing! Oh great Leader, we would like you to stay on as National Chairman for another four years and spend our money wisely."

Part 3

Now in my dream I've got home to my Dearest Wife, the Light of My Life and source of all good things.

"Well Dearest Husband, whom I honour and obey in all things – tell me what you did in Puebla while I stayed here in Christchurch looking after the grandchildren and worrying about the money and tending to the business."

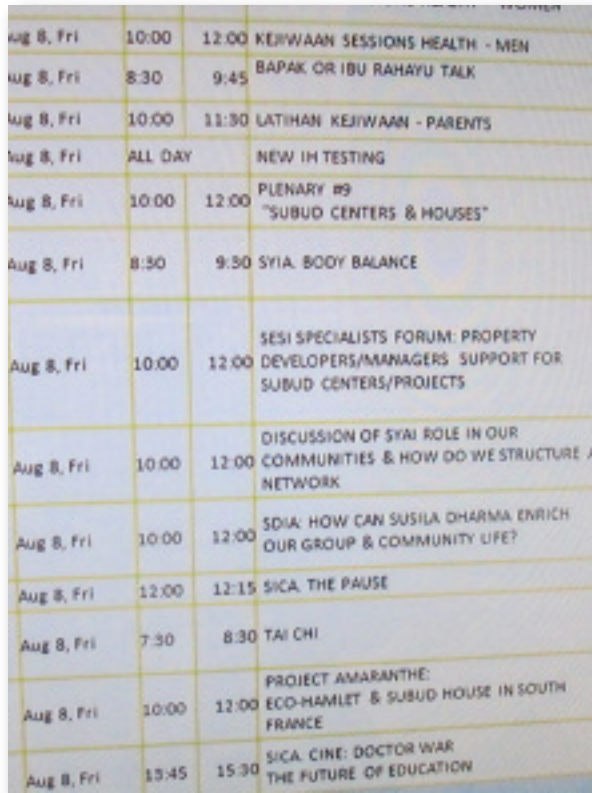
"Well, Oh Fragrant One, I spent six hours trying to decide the meaning of consensus!"

"I see. And, Oh Noble and Powerful Husband, did you come to any conclusion?"

"Well no we didn't, actually."

"WHAT?? That's disgraceful! Right – no dinner for you and you can sleep in the spare room for three months!"

Montezuma's Revenge (Mexican Tummy)... and Other Congress Missives



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|------------|---------|-------|---|
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | KEJIWAAN SESSIONS HEALTH - MEN |
| Aug 8, Fri | 8:30 | 9:45 | BAPAK OR IBU RAHAYU TALK |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 11:30 | LATIHAN KEJIWAAN - PARENTS |
| Aug 8, Fri | ALL DAY | | NEW IH TESTING |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | PLENARY #9 "SUBUD CENTERS & HOUSES" |
| Aug 8, Fri | 8:30 | 9:30 | SYIA. BODY BALANCE |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | SESI SPECIALISTS FORUM: PROPERTY DEVELOPERS/MANAGERS SUPPORT FOR SUBUD CENTERS/PROJECTS |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | DISCUSSION OF SYIA ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITIES & HOW DO WE STRUCTURE A NETWORK |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | SDIA: HOW CAN SUSILA DHARMA ENRICH OUR GROUP & COMMUNITY LIFE? |
| Aug 8, Fri | 12:00 | 12:15 | SICA. THE PAUSE |
| Aug 8, Fri | 7:30 | 8:30 | TAI CHI |
| Aug 8, Fri | 10:00 | 12:00 | PROJECT AMARANTHE: ECO-HAMLET & SUBUD HOUSE IN SOUTH FRANCE |
| Aug 8, Fri | 13:45 | 15:30 | SICA. CINE: DOCTOR WAR THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION |

Sent to Subud Britain members by Leonard Hitchcock...

12 Aug. 2014

Dear All,

As a national delegate it's been pretty full-on here but I've given myself a morning off today due to succumbing to the 'Mexican tummy' last night which so many people here are suffering from, par for the course in Mexico I'm afraid. If this e-mail appears a little faint on your screen this is the reason....

The testing for Germany to host the next World Congress was very positive and we won't know the reasons why this was preferable to the UK, but I also just wanted to thank all those members who helped with our proposal and in particular Marcus who has put in an amazing amount of work on this and gave a really good presentation here. It has been a very positive experience to go through this process and as national chairman it has been wonderful for me to witness the enthusiasm and willingness to help from so many of our members. It made me proud of Subud Britain! I also hope that we can harness this enthusiasm to work together on

other projects in the future.

I was also proud of the fact that so many of our members from Subud Britain were willing to stand for international posts which is part of that same energy.

Yesterday the St. Anne's team [David and Hussein] gave a presentation on the project which I couldn't get to but I have been told that it was well attended. I would have liked to have gone but was involved in the Zone 3 proposal [below]. They will also be presenting the latest developments at our national congress.

Solihin Garrard has been working hard here on the Archives programme as well as the SICA art exhibition with Sofia which looks really good.

The delegate programme has been very tedious so far because the proposals are mostly 'administrative' in nature but yesterday the delegates looked at the proposal that arose from our Zone 3 meeting in Orgiva in June and the atmosphere lifted considerably. I think we were all so relieved to be talking about suggestions which were outward-looking and in line with Bapak's vision for Subud in the world....in other words, it was something, like our World Congress bid, which we could feel enthusiastic about and relate to as having a practical benefit. I think that in future all proposals to be discussed by delegates at a World Congress should fulfil at least one of the following criteria; will it benefit existing Subud members or will it help to develop Subud in the world?

A lot of the Brits are staying here in the Colonial hotel which is about a 10 min. stroll from the Conference centre and it's an amazing example of Spanish colonial architecture. Built as a Jesuit seminary in the 1600s, it's a haven of peace and quiet in the middle of the old town which is very beautiful. For those going to our congress we are hoping to put together a World Congress presentation with pictures. Luke Penseneay, our outgoing WSA chair, is coming to our congress and I'm sure he'll also report back to us all.

Looking forward to seeing everyone in Malvern - I'll try and write again before that!

Love from Mexico!

16 Aug. 2014

Today, Saturday is the final day of the World Congress, and we, the delegates, were still working this morning - checking all the resolutions and recommendations that we have approved to make sure all is OK [and of course it never is!].

It has been frustrating to be, to a large degree, separate from the 'real' congress - all the fascinating workshops, presentations etc. and immersed in what has often felt like pointless talk without any real benefit. However, I have been very conscious the whole time that this activity is like a very thin [but sometimes very hard!] covering and just below this surface layer is something very different; a very joyful and wide feeling and of course this is really apparent in the latihan and testing sessions. I just wish that we could allow this deeper feeling to break through the surface a little more.

Anyway it has sustained me here in a remarkable way and despite the rigours of being a delegate I feel very grateful to be here and to experience the coming together of our global Subud family and the grace that attends that. Inwardly I know that it has been a great privilege.

All the new international office holders have been tested in now and the new teams starting to work together. In particular I feel very happy that Elias Dumit is our new WSA chair - I think he has the right inner quality to really be able to fulfil this role and to balance the inner and outer aspects of our organisation.

Davina, as well as looking after me, has been helping Leonard and Hannah Hurd in the SPI bookshop. They do an amazing job with irrepressible energy... and have also provided an invaluable service as a 'currency exchange' for many of the Brits here!

We have managed to see a couple of wonderful performances by Subud members in the old Puebla theatre here - one of the oldest in the whole of Latin America. The first show we saw was entitled 'Creativity in Captivity', an incredible collage of music and theatre written by prisoners of war and concentration camp inmates. Gregory Gudgeon gave a moving performance in several roles and Adrienne Thomas likewise sang brilliantly.

A couple of nights ago we experienced a wonderful puppet show [shadow puppets and others], masterminded by Erica Sapir and with a lot of input from David Anderson and Raphaella Sapir from Lewes.

The general standard of performances has been really high with the notorious exception of a fashion show which was horribly misjudged and cost a lot of money. This was an unfortunate hiccup in an otherwise impressive programme.

Yesterday late afternoon was another highlight of the Congress for me when I gave a presentation of the Orgiva Project... 'Subud Community in Spain'.

It was very refreshing to talk about and present a Subud project which I feel very enthusiastic about and has such exciting potential. It was a good counterbalance to a lot of the delegate discussion which feels so moribund.

A lot of us are flying back tomorrow evening.... maybe I'll have the morning to be a tourist! I fancy going on one of the open bus tours of the city... I don't think I'll be capable of anything much more demanding.

Abrazos from Mexico!

Leonardo

The Experience of Congress

I happened to attend a poetry reading organised by Paul Nelson from the United States. It was held in the gallery which was showing the SICA art show. Here is one of the paintings on show. It is very Mexican in style but is actually by Adrienne Thomas from the UK whom I knew before for her voice, but now also know her for her hand and her eye.

At the poetry reading, I was much struck by an offering by Aminah Herman from the USA. I thought it captured much of the vivid and diverse kaleidoscope of impressions of Congress in Puebla. She wrote...

Loud, full, meaningful, slight, jarring, happy, cosmic, yummy, exhausting, challenging, funny, loving, happy, insane, chaotic! Everyday, with moments of quiet and peace...

Sharing meals, conversations, languages, glances, hugs, kisses, tears, laughter, colores muchas...Tables full of Indians, English, Mexicanos, Germans, Aussies, French, Africans...and those undiscovered as of yet...

"Burned out volunteers", rude responses, angels of incredible mercy, misunderstandings, kindnesses abound, faithful, loyal, sincere and utterly forgetful...deep sighs, smiles and ALLAH!!!

Markets full of glittering trinkets, cobblestone streets in disrepair, aromatic foods wafting out of many doors...some too dangerous to consider unless you are Montezuma. Talavera, baskets, silver, toys and many souls begging in the streets. Tiny children with their practiced sadness...

Latihan, latihan, latihan, testing relationships, Mozart and Brahms, Hungarian folk music, salsa dancing, laughter yoga, birthday parties on the patio, workshops on service, communication, susila dharma, health, successful businesses...Subud books, gift shops full of this and that but nothing to buy...

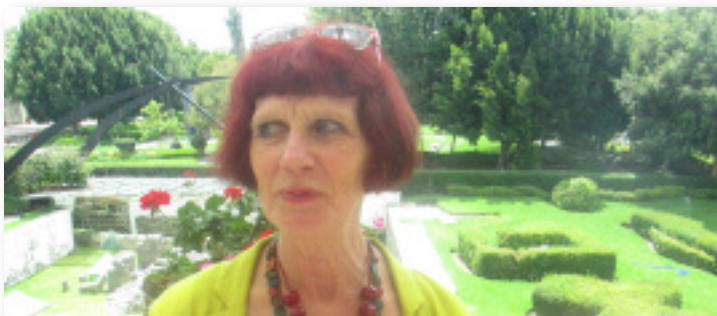
Asking for forgiveness, grateful for much, finding my voice, courage, affection, humor, a light touch, confusion of great proportions, prayers for help, seen obstacles and unrecognized gifts, self acceptance and appreciation for all that is, for those I am made to see, for help unseen but solidly there...

Multi sensory experiences graced by God.

Con Amore.



Painting by Adrienne Thomas



Adrienne Thomas. See the beautiful gardens behind her? That was the view we had from the Convention Centre and we often went down there for rest and peace.

The Family Congress

Child-care facilities and creative family activities were based in a school right at the Convention Centre. An excellent program kept children and their carers happy and busy. The program had outcomes too. A children's fashion show of hats and garments made from newspaper was a major hit.



(Photo by Labeeka Khan)

Banners

Banners were a major feature of this Congress. In a program organised by Isti Jenkins many countries and zones made banners defining their identity which were displayed at Congress and carried in the Closing Ceremony.

Banners were auctioned at the closing ceremony, raising a total of US\$5,700. The top price-getter was the Canadian banner which fetched US\$2,300 from a bidder from Russia.

Possession of a banner means that a place becomes a Subud Cultural Centre for the next four years, after which the banners will be auctioned again, supplying a never-ending source of income for SICA.

BACKGROUND TO THE BANNERS

Brief background on the World Wide Banner Project...

Isti Jenkins from northern NSW Australia began making Backdrops for Stage performances with the children of Rungan Sari, Kalimantan in 2002.

Her idea came as a way to inspire children to learn English through Art and Acting. Using the children's own original Art work she created Six Backdrops for each scene in a play created by the children themselves.

Then, Ibu Rahayu suggested that she teach the local women of Kalimantan to sew and make saleable products.

Isti has also continued to develop simple techniques of Fabric Art for School and Group activities over the past ten years.

Every year these activities have been used to raise funds for Subud Projects or the Wings raising between \$600 to \$3000 Australian dollars. You may remember the wall-hanging made by many members attending the World Congress in Christchurch, NZ 2010.

The money was raised to start a YUM SEWING PROJECT in Kalimantan near Rungan Sari. Last year she successfully trained seven local village women selling their products to support their efforts.

At around the same time, Latifah Taormina asked her if she would co-ordinate the making of Banners World-wide for this Congress in MEXICO. She responded by organizing the making of three Banners with voluntary help from Subud members at the Australian National Congress and set criteria for other Zones and countries to do the same.



Banners were auctioned at the Closing Ceremony by first-time auctioneer poet Paul Nelson from Seattle.



The Banner from Canada.

A True SICA Process

It seems that the making of the banners for the World Congress produced interesting processes as countries and zones really searched to produce images that reflected their true natures.

For example, in Germany a banner was first designed by Arifah Gebhardt but it proved to be controversial. Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg, who is now the Executive chair for the World Subud Council, writes...

“We left the banner hanging 5 days throughout our congress. On our last congress day we had an almost 2 hour dialogue - even though it was in public and with more than 40-50 members

“In a most wonderful and harmonious way each had the possibility to express their feelings and view on the banner, on the German history and heritage. It was most moving having Varda and Lavan from Israel as visitors and also participants in this dialogue.

“For me personally, this "Banner" process is an extraordinary or exemplary example for what SICA really is about: an artwork arises from an inner feeling or process. Being exposed to a group, to the public an new process of dialogue and interaction in-between the viewers starts.

“Works of art have the ability to lead us to our inner true human culture, they also help the shared true culture of a country to be unveiled and developed.”

““ *The shared true culture of a country.* ””



The first banner designed by Arifah Gebhardt.



The final banner designed by Rusydah Ziesel.

Fashionation

The FASHIONATION fashion show has become a regular feature of our Subud Congresses.

At Puebla six designers presented their work in an extremely professional show. However, the show did generate what was perhaps the one note of controversy in the Congress: some people questioned whether the inclusion of some brief lingerie in a public event was in accordance with “Subud values”.



Sofiah Thom danced at FASHIONATION.



These designs by Liora Lassalle were a crowd-winner.

Made from recycled materials, they combined circus, punk and space age motifs in an exciting way.



Male fashion was included.

Susila Dharma

Susila Dharma International ran an extremely rich program through the Congress presenting its many programs from all around the world, including health and development projects in Indonesia, India and the Congo.

It also presented its Annual Report in print plus a magazine entitled Impact about its projects. This is a great introduction to Susila Dharma for both people in Subud and the general public.

The SDI program included a Gala Evening on Wednesday, August 13. This extremely lively event filled the Convention Centre and provided one of the most joyful collective moments of Congress.

We know that the essence of Susila Dharma is in compassion and care for others, but this evening also showed it can be a celebration of joy.

Just one Susila Dharma story... The Birth of Anisha

Every day, while walking to college, Anisha founder, Valli Krishnaswamy, noticed young people rag-picking. She kept asking them where they came from, and eventually they took her to their slum dwelling. Many lived on a roof, and Valli managed to climb the wooden ladder to the rooftop. She was shocked to see this rooftop, where approximately 15 families had been living for 50 years. No water, electricity, or drainage: no facilities apart from a temporary thatched shelter. As a result of this visit, she started Anisha, a project that continues to serve hundreds of India's poor.



Valli Krishnaswamy, founder of Anisha.



*At the close of the Susila Dharma Gala Evening.
Not only compassion, but also joy.*



*Susila Dharma English-teaching project in
Moldova. One of many projects displayed at
Congress.*

For World Congress
Part 2
see October's edition

SUBUD BRITAIN'S NATIONAL CONGRESS

As before, the UK Congress took place at the big school in Malvern, Worcs. There was some concern as to whether enough bookings would come in, due to the large number of British attendants at the World Congress in Mexico. But at the last minute break-even point was reached. And some of those who went to Mexico also attended, giving the Congress an extra zest.

There was naturally disappointment that World Congress 2018 would not after all take place in Britain but in Germany, but also a willingness to offer help if needed. However, I did sometimes pick up a sense of "where do we go from here?" especially in the two Workshops concerning the spread of Subud.

However, according to Howard Ray's Report in the Delegate Pack, the UK membership is numerically steady and the latihan appears to be generally strong, with a harmonious and functioning organisation to support and foster it.

SDB and the Empty Room

Be that as it may, it seemed regrettable that there was so little apparent interest in Susila Dharma Britain's meeting. Stephanie Holloway is the new Chair, and the meeting was held in a huge room, in which sat only six of us, to tackle 'Volunteer Recruitment Work'.

However perhaps the lack of attendees could be explained by the fact that Kejiwaan sessions were also being held at the same time elsewhere. Stephanie later showed a video to quite a large audience, about Susila Dharma Britain's charitable work both in UK and overseas, and its scope was most impressive.

There were also two workshops discussing what actions Subud Britain should take to promote the spread of Subud, and in this context, I wondered if the work of SD could be an important element.

The St Anne's Project

As exciting property project is now developing in Lewes, Sussex. It concerns a most beautiful site, about 4 acres not far from the centre of town, with some dilapidated school buildings and wonderful views.

It is being sold to the Subud Lewes group by East Sussex County Council via a "Community Asset Transfer" which allows local authorities to dispose of potentially valuable land assets at a much reduced price to local groups provided public benefit will accrue. The Subud Lewes Group bid was accepted as being the most beneficial to the public interest.

The buildings and land might be used for several different purposes given the funds to make it happen. Many ideas are being considered as the project moves forward. The team are delighted to say that St Anne's has now received the whole hearted support of Subud Britain with a loan of between £500,000 and £600,000. It is anticipated that the sale of the old Lewes premises will raise a further £900,000 and additional loans have been offered along with donations.

I very much admired the energy and sense of purpose that were apparent in the two people who presented the project to us - Andrew Holloway and Annabella Ashby. As to the project's eventual outcome, funds have yet to be found, so it's not yet known.

However, the team is firmly of the opinion that this project is nationally and internationally significant and has the capacity to bring Subud into the public eye and to ensure its high standing and continued growth in the world.

For more information contact Hussein Dickie - Hussein.dickie@enthum.org

Annabella Ashby - annabella.ashby@gmail.com David Anderson - dafilm@yahoo.co.uk or

Andrew Holloway - andrew@greenoakcarpentry.co.uk

Daphne Alexopoulou (formerly Tibbs) is the new National Chair, replacing Leonard Hitchcock who has served Subud Britain so warmly and well for the past two years. You can contact Daphne as follows: chair@subud.org.uk

I really enjoyed the late night concert where several of the performers were of professional standard. And a nice touch throughout was being able to go to the room where Bapak's video talks were being played continuously all day, even if usually hardly anybody was there. –

Ilaina Lennard ●

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