



SUBUD VOICE

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Subud World Congress 2-17 August 2014, Puebla, Mexico

The main focus of this congress will be the Latihan:

- Our deeper understanding of where we are today, individually and as a group.
- The fruits of the Latihan for each of us, and how do we wish to express this in the world.
- Outreach and interactivity with the people of Puebla, who are opening their town to us with great generosity

For information and registration go to
<http://subudworldcongress2014.com>

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Human Force Heroes

Feel like joining a team of heroes? Then come to the Human Force camp in Puebla, Mexico from 26th July to 1st August this year – just before World Congress!

There you can help valiant Illène Pevec as she creates a garden in a built environment for a group of people who really need it – the little people who attend a day care centre for children whose parents cannot afford any other care for them, and the young local volunteers who help out there.

Apart from the gardening work, you may also be involved in creating a mural, and helping out with the little ones. What

is sure is that you will also meet new people who could well become good friends, you'll discover a side of Puebla you would otherwise miss out on, and find things out about yourself you did not know. There will be some more "formal" learning too, as we take a look at the issues that make this kind of project necessary and what people can do and are doing about them. Above all, though, we think you'll have a lot of fun.

The cost of the camp will be around \$300. How can such an amazing experience be so cheap? Well, we believe that this kind of experience is an invaluable way of getting people engaged in communities and in society. So in a way, it's an investment for the future. Our experienced facilitators are volunteers and camp costs are kept to a bare minimum, to just cover actual costs.

“ Create a garden for children. ”

So really, what is not to like? Find out more today on our Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/TheHumanForce?fref=ts> and contact getinvolved@susiladharma.org to apply. See you there!



Participants in a previous Human Forces Camp in Mexico.

Thanks to generous donors like the Guerrand Hermes Foundation for Peace, we usually have some funding to give a tiny helping hand to those who have difficulties raising the camp fees. We can also give you fundraising tips and support.

Seeking Musicians and Artists

Dahlan Foah Seeks Professional Musicians for Creativity in Captivity, a SICA Concert Event at Teatro Principal in Puebla at the Subud World Congress, 2-17 August 2014

We need professional musicians. As it is not a standard concert, we need the following musicians:

Two (2) guitarists, Clarinet, Alto Sax., Two Flutes, Trombone, Trumpet

String Quartet – Two violins, viola, cello + Additional violins

Pianist, Cabaret Singer, Percussion, Accordion

There will be a separate call for singers – a chorus and soloists – later.



Dahlan Foah conducts a concert at the Christchurch Congress.

Contact Dahlan Foah at: design at design@visioneering.com or +1 404 681 9028
For more information about this unique performance go to: SICA-Update-December-2013

Calling Subud Artists

We invite professional artists from across the Subud world to apply to exhibit in SICArte 2014, an art exhibition for the 2014 World Congress in Puebla. The exhibition will be online only — in the virtual art gallery Green Chair Gallery, the enterprise of Solihin and Sofiah Garrard from the UK. You can see Green Chair Gallery at www.greenchair-gallery.co.uk

As a virtual exhibition it will enable Subud artists from around the world to display and sell their art on a global basis.

- Over 2,000 members of Green Chair Gallery's international audience will see your work in addition to all the members in Subud!
- The exhibition will run from 2 August to 5 September 2014 to embrace and extend beyond the Subud World Congress period itself

APPLICATION PROCESS

Artists should submit their application together with examples of their work as set out below. Due to the online nature of the exhibition we must limit work shown to the following media: painting/drawing, print-making, collage, ceramics, sculpture, photography. Artists will be able to exhibit a maximum of three individual works.

Selection will be curated by Green Chair Gallery and a SICA panel of jurors

Application

To make your application, please email the following to info@greenchair-gallery.co.uk with "World Congress Art Exhibition" in the subject line:

- Your name, surname, address (including country), email address, and website
- Why you would like to exhibit your work in this World Congress exhibition
- A brief biography with your background and experience as an artist (no more than 100 words), with an artist's statement of up to 150 words

Three photographic images of the kind of work you would like to exhibit.

For full details and further information about how to apply, contact Solihin & Sofiah Garrard at info@greenchair-gallery.co.uk, and check out the gallery at www.greenchair-gallery.co.uk

Deadline for applications is 28 February 2014.

SICA Call for Proposals for an Outdoor Sculpture, An Angel of Peace, to be gifted to Puebla in 2014

This is a juried competition. One work will be selected.

Sculpture artists in Subud throughout the world are invited to submit a proposal for an original sculpture representing an Angel of Peace that will be gifted to the City of Puebla during the time of the Subud World Congress in August 2014.

This sculpture will permanently reside outside in a small park already dedicated to Peace that overlooks the city.

Organized and presented by SICA with the support of the World Subud Association and the City of Puebla, this exhibition offers established and emerging artists an opportunity to participate in an international cultural event with significant press coverage.

Why an Angel of Peace? Puebla's original name was Puebla de los Angeles, and the city itself has long been affiliated with the UN's Peace Day and similar initiatives. And of course, we know the reason we do the latihan is so that we can come to a place of peace and tranquility — something expressed also in the prayers of both Bapak and Ibu.

Deadline for entry: March 31, 2014

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Notification of Acceptance on or before: April 30, 2014

Install accepted sculpture: between July 18, 2014 and August 1, 2014

All costs and fees, not to exceed US\$10,000.00 will be awarded to the selected artist. This is to cover all costs of creating and installing the sculpture — including travel to Puebla. The artist or his/her designee must be present to oversee the installation of the work. Please note the money is to cover the expense of creating and installing the sculpture UP TO US\$10K. If the cost is 5K – for example – then that is the money that will be expended.

For detailed information and brief contact latifah@subud-sica.org

How to Make a Banner

Youth Coordinator Isti Jenkins writes...

All around the world people are getting ready to make banners to take to World Congress. Isti Jenkins who is well-known for the banner-making she has co-ordinated at previous Congresses, has already produced three with assistance from others at the Australian Congress. These banners represent Australia, the Asia-Pacific Zone and the World Congress Logo. In this article she gives some tips about how to make a banner...

Even though there have been a number of members participating and many who have witnessed the process and making of the Banners I am still asked, 'How did Isti do it, how did she pull it off?'

Well... mostly through determination and preparation I suppose, but because I have facilitated this kind of effort so often over the past 12 years I must be able to give you some clues!

Firstly, with the Congress logo Banner which was straightforward, I only needed to find the right colours and right fabrics for the exercise....but also to get everything in proportion I decided to send a photo of the Logo to a PRINTER who was able to enlarge the picture to the exact size I wanted and print it on paper so that I had a perfect pattern to CUT OUT, trace and copy in fabric.

From the HARDWARE Store I was able to purchase a FABRIC GLUE Spray and Fabric Glue Paint in some colours, plus the PVA wood glue that I use most of the time (but this does not work with FELT!)

KINDY GLITZ fabric glue comes in many beautiful colours and is used for outlining every piece of fabric glued and also for successful decoration.

The Banner is made from the Fabric of your choice, and backed with a fairly heavy CALICO, LINEN or heavy COTTON. For the border of the Banner a SATIN BLANKET BINDING is the easiest and will hold the layers together neatly.

For the AUSTRALIAN BANNER ...I did start with a concept in mind, so that I could then search for suitable colours and ask people to bring a suitable collection of materials and bits and pieces. (Thank goodness this worked well, and I was delighted with what turned up!)

The ZONE BANNER was the most complex, but again I did hold a rough concept on how I hoped it might look and followed through with the idea. Mostly about eight of the YOUTHFUL SUBUD MEMBERS were participating in the making of this one and spent many hours on the detail!

So long as there are at least THREE people devoted to the process on a daily basis.....anything is possible. There needs to be no demand really; it seems that the right people are drawn to get involved and this becomes a flow of comings and goings.

There are parts of the making where a sewing machine is essential for attaching the CASING behind >



Working on the Australian banner at the Australian Congress.

the Banner along the top, and whenever possible, also applying the Satin Border or stitching several layers of fabric together. (For example, the sewing machine was used to secure the SYMBOL onto a white felt background.)

A VERY BIG THANK-YOU to all those who made this Project possible and another extra special THANK-YOU to all those who donated money towards it.

These Banners are from ALL AUSTRALIAN SUBUD MEMBERS...whether attending the World Congress or not, and made with our love, so hope you enjoyed the process and MOST OF ALL the RESULT!

Good luck with the production of more World-Wide.

DESIGN A T-SHIRT

T-shirts are the most common piece of clothing on the planet, this is a scientific fact (alternatively it could just be a really good way to start this pitch and completely untrue... but we'll never know which one it is!).

So it makes sense that at this year's World Congress in Mexico, youth from around the world come together to design, print and sell a bunch of amazing t-shirts that will raise money for the International Youth Travel Fund (this is an awesome thing in case you didn't know!).

But wait, isn't there already an official congress t-shirt? Yes there is, but we are not looking to design a congress t-shirt, we are looking to design t-shirts that are simply pieces of creative expression from young Subud members. We want you to design a t-shirt that you would want to wear to the park, to school, to your friend's house, to the museum, to the discotheque, to your local boutique fashion outlet, on a hot date, on an airplane, while riding a horse... do you get the idea?

Whether your design is a Subud catch phrase like "show me your Bhuddi", or "where my Helpers at?" or a picture or an abstract image, we don't mind. All we ask is that it somehow expresses your connection to the latihan, to Subud or your inner self.

All designs need to be submitted by 31st of March. You can find t-shirt templates to use here and if you have any questions at all, contact the youth team at sya-international@subudyouth.net. So get busy all you creative little geniuses, and send us your designs soon!!!

World Congress Community Day Inclusive, Healthy, Supportive Communities... Workshop Leaders Needed.

Haris Wolfgang and I have been actively involved for many years supporting our Subud and non-Subud organizations in creating inclusive, healthy, supportive environments.

We are interested in collaborating with partners with the same skills and interest who want to work on creating a workshop during the Community Day. We hope to include representatives from all cultures attending the Puebla World Congress this summer in Mexico.

Currently, we are envisioning a two-stage workshop which would have these components:

1. Attendees would understand and create the components of a safe space. It would serve as an example of the type of community environment in which sisters and brothers are inspired and empowered to step back into the circle of their Subud community. This example would offer the possibility for the members of our worldwide communities to re-invent and revitalize their own Communities. Through this reinvention, >



our communities would have what they need to grow.

2. Members would participate in different workshops where they could learn new skills and practice them in a safe, supportive environment. These new skills would enable the participants to return to their home communities and begin the work, allowing for this re-vitalization to get started. The workshop would offer an opportunity for inspired members to reach out and connect with local, zonal, international partners to support and carry this out.

If you're interested, please contact us within the next two weeks. We want to schedule a conference call where we can start this work and be ready for congress.

We will send you a brief outline of this two step workshop as a starting place for what we've thought of so far. We're interested in this being a collaborative process in which the members of this group co-create the material that will be presented.

Looking forward to hearing from you. Oswald Norton, Email: onorton@hotmail.com

Become a YES QUEST facilitator in Puebla!

If you have ever wanted to become a YES Quest facilitator then now is the time.

As part of the YES Quest, being held in conjunction with the World Congress in Puebla this year, Subud members are being given the opportunity to become trainee facilitators.

The focus of the training will be on skilling up facilitators to deliver YES Quest activities and shorter events in their own countries.

“We would like to have trainees from different zones around the world. Then, once they have completed their training, we hope they will return home and bring YES Quest experiences to their own Subud communities. This way the YES Quest will become more accessible to everybody”, Marlena Basser, YQ Director.

Trainee facilitators will attend a 3 day training program prior to the YES Quest and an extra day at the end of the program. They will have the opportunity to develop and apply their skills during the YES Quest itself and in mentoring the Quest participants during Congress.

“Over the years we have been approached by people wishing to become YES Quest facilitators. Now with some financial assistance from GHFP, we are able to make it happen”, Peter Jenkins, YQ Director.

Opportunities also exist for young people wanting to attend the YES Quest as a participant. Special funding to help young people to get there is available however, the deadline is April 1st, so interested people are urged to get their applications in as soon as possible.

“The YES Quest promises to be amazing. It is a great opportunity to explore your true nature and bring it to life. Plus, participants will become part of a dynamic, fun team of young people delivering the coolest activities at Congress” Roland Fraval, Congress Entertainment Coordinator.

For information about becoming a trainee or participant of the YES Quest contact Marlena Basser – marlena@yesquest.org



Action-packed SES

Two Action-Packed SES Activities trialled in Australia are now heading to Puebla...

DRAGON'S DEN

Three nervous but excited groups of Young Entrepreneurs waited for their turn to pitch their enterprise ideas to three fierce dragons.

This activity at the recent Australian National Congress was based on the TV Show 'Dragon's Den' (in the US it's called Shark Tank). The idea is to convince one or more of the Dragons to invest in your business for a percentage of the action.

Our Australian Dragons, Stephen Armytage, Hadrian Fraval and Peter Jenkins, might have been more friendly than fierce, but they fired questions at the would-be entrepreneurs, focussing on such things as target market, cash flow, ability and experience of the team etc.

Interestingly, all three contenders were from Melbourne, they were all young, and their businesses were, Fun Beach Bags, Cheeki-Bum Undies (for teens) and a new form of Speed-Dating.

SES Australia had put \$800 on the table, and the Dragons chose to invest \$300 in one venture, \$200 in another, and \$100 in the third. Then the Dragons added some money of their own, and each enterprise went away with \$400.00.

Now we want to get Dragon's Den up for Puebla, but with some real money on the table and a much fiercer grilling for the contestants.

All we need is a bunch of budding businesses, some grizzly dragons... and yes, lots of money.

It will be great entertainment AND it could be a big boost for Subud Enterprises.

If you want to pitch your business or well-developed business idea, or if you are sufficiently inspired by this idea to put up some cash, don't wait, contact the Subud Australia SES Rep, Steven Bryson-Haynes at s.bryson-haynes@hotmail.com

INSTANT ENTERPRISE – DOUBLE THE MONEY

At the 2013 Australian Congress, Peter Jenkins sat at a table on which sat a pile of \$5.00 notes. He divided the 50 people present into 7 groups and invited them to spend 20 minutes sharing about a time in their lives when they had felt really entrepreneurial. It didn't have to be business, it could have been any kind of project.

Then the groups were given a further 20 minutes to come up with an enterprise idea, which they could do during the Congress to double the money Peter would give to them if the audience liked their idea.

All the ideas were good and every group received \$5.00 cash for each member in the group.

One group noticed that there were no coat hangers in the bedrooms. They went out, bought several dozen and doubled their money the first day.

Another group took orders for good quality cappuccinos and lattes and delivered them every morning at 7 am.

Tickets were sold for movie screenings by one group, while another offered shoulder massages during the film.

A group with an expert photographer took portraits and emailed them to buyers at \$5 a pop.

Every group more than doubled the money with a total return of \$700 on the initial \$250 investment. Some groups donated their earnings to Subud Youth and others to Susila Dharma.

The exercise proved that you can start an enterprise now.....right now.....and the activity energised the whole Congress.

So, watch out for 'Instant Enterprise' at World Congress in Puebla.



Subud India Congress

Hadrian Fraval, Asian Zone Co-ordinator, reports on the Indian Congress held 31st January – 1st February...



At the Subud India Congress.

As always the Indian Congress was filled with colour, laughter and good fellowship. The meeting was held in Chennai where most of the membership live. I was invited as the Zone Co-ordinator to accompany the International Helpers (Luqman Harris and Isti Da Silva) on their visit.

About 60 members from all groups in India attended. The Chairman

Brother Sathiyamurthy opened the Congress and called for nominations for Chairman, and other roles. Following Testing Ashok was elected as Chairman for the next two years. Ashok has been the Chair of the Subud House Trust and was also confirmed after testing in this role for a further two years. Brother Gopi, of the Ashoka project, was elected as SD Chairman.

Ashok listed the achievements of the previous two years in his address to the meeting:

1. Construction of SUBUD house compound wall,
2. More young members joining SUBUD,
3. Renewal of 80 g for tax exemption & FCRA initiation for foreign funds by brother Sathiyamurthy,
4. Re-initiation of many old SUBUD members by brother Ganesan,
5. SUBUD Souvenir preparation for SHT, towards fund collection,
6. Rupees 4 lakhs, fund generation under guidance of brother Shyam for SUBUD House compound wall,
7. Creation of SUBUD India website with brother Mike from USA ,
8. Visit to zone meetings in Rungan Sari and Bangkok,
9. Meeting IBU for 2 hours and discussions with her,
10. Compilation of beloved Bapak's Ramadan talks by Brother Ashwin,
11. Construction of a Lathian Hall by Bro. Yusuf in Coimbatore on his own for members' benefit.
12. Surveying the SUBUD land measurements by Tamil Nadu govt officials.

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13. Visit by Human Force group organised by Anisha, assisted by SUBUD youth.
 14. Creativity of art work from mini-youth – Trisha, Ranjani and Kalpana... much more to come from Coimbatore and Erode.

We had latihans in the morning and evening on Friday and Saturday which were all well attended. It was good to see the enthusiasm the members expressed for doing the latihan in a larger group of 30 members.

After a power-point presentation on the activities of the WSC and World Congress, 10 members indicated that they would like to attend.

We visited the Subud House land while we were in Chennai. All of the approvals have been obtained, now all we need is the fundraising to top up the funds already banked to start construction.

We also visited Malaysia on our return journey and did latihan with 15 members. Thanks for your hospitality, Michael, Sarinder, and Major Harjit.

This was the second opportunity I have had as a ZR to accompany the IH's on one of their trips. From the comments of the members in India and Malaysia it was well received.

A big THANK YOU to members in India and Malaysia for your hospitality.

(If you have any questions or suggestions, contact Steven at the above address, or send an email to peterjenkins4@gmail.com)

You Cannot Visualise the Soul

The following question and answer with Ibu Rahayu was sent to us by Emmanuel Elliott, whom as you probably know, edits an online publication "Reminders of Reality" composed of experiences sent to him by Subud members. He writes, "A brother shared this with me, and it is well worth passing on. It is a question-and-answer exchange with Ibu Rahayu."



Ibu Rahayu at the Christchurch Congress.

Q. I would like to ask one question about the jiwa or soul. What it consists of, whether it comprises of light or something else. (Brother Syed Mohamed Mashure).

A. Dear Syed Mohamed, Concerning your question about the jiwa and the soul, the jiwa is the eternal part of a human being, it is what gives us life and that life comes from the essence of God that is present in the jiwa. When we imagine that the jiwa is like anything we know in this world, we only succeed in creating a mental image that can impede the development and growth of the jiwa. Many spiritual methods or movements tell their followers to imagine or visualize the soul and the power of God as light and so on, but such images are generated by the mind and the mind cannot know the soul.

You cannot imagine the soul or the life of the soul with the mind.

So in answer to your question we cannot visualize the soul in any way. In Subud we feel the reality of the soul when we do the latihan. If we are truly quiet, patient and surrendered to Almighty God in the latihan, we feel a movement within that can be described as a vibration. That movement is the movement of the soul that takes place when the great power of God enveloping the universe makes contact with the power God that is within the soul. Once the contact is made we experience the latihan. Then, through the movements we make in the latihan by feeling that contact, our soul

starts to develop and grow and be purified by the power of God. So at some point it will hopefully become a true human Soul.

If your soul develops to become a true human soul and if it is God's will, the soul can unfold and go beyond your physical form and take you – not your physical body but your consciousness – beyond this world. Then you will experience the life of the soul, that experience can only happen by God's will; we cannot make it happen or hope for it. Only then will you know what the soul is like and you will realize that you cannot imagine the soul or the life of the soul with the mind. So until you have that experience, it is best not to think about this.

I hope this explanation will help you.

With best wishes, Ibu Siti Rahayu Wiryohudoyo

Laying the Foundations

Ismail Fido reflects on the Australian Congress...

It has, I think, taken some considerable time for the foundations Bapak laid to really set so Subud could begin to grow as he foresaw. This is not to decry what has gone before. I think that is all included in these foundations. We cannot go back and fix what went wrong but we can take it on board, learn from our mistakes and move on.

The kejiwaan side of the Congress was what convinced me that the foundations had been set. It was the latihan with the National Helpers and the various Helpers' sessions, which emphasised the necessity of regularly doing the latihan and reading Bapak's talks, which gelled things for me. I was particularly pleased the International Helpers were absolutely explicit about the need for reading Bapak's talks.

Getting back to the mosque analogy: how can you construct a building without plans? Bapak, as the one who first received the latihan and established Subud, surely knew what he was doing. He was referred to as the Spiritual Guide because he had been there and could show us the way. Like the architect in the fable, he knew exactly what he was doing.

It may well be that we in Subud need to continually keep coming back to the foundations and the plans. We neglect them at our peril. My feeling is that there is a depth to them which we individually will never completely fathom.

There was much else at the Congress such as the normal business; Wings and social stuff. Some of it, such as the work to do with Susila Dharma, was quite awe inspiring.

I think everyone connected with the Congress: the organisers; the National Committee and the International and National Helpers needs to be acknowledged and applauded.

One thing I felt when at the International Congress I attended or that unique occasion when I met Bapak personally was that the roof had been lifted so you could see the sky. That happened at Tallebudgera in real life with all the normal distractions going on. It does happen in real life. Where else could it?

I hope, coming back to our groups, we can give them some of what we received there.



*Full moon at the Australian Congress.
(Photo by Mariamah Vernon)*

Subud and the Stumbling ‘Student’

Let’s say I finally become aware I am a bad student – lazy and / or inattentive – or disruptive to others – or a show off – or disrespectful to the teacher – or I don’t see how much the learning will change my life for the better later on – or how much grandparents and relatives have sacrificed to get me in the school.

Well, normally one such as me will probably never “get it”, ever, and eventually will feel alienated or hold on to being aloof and secretly feel unloved and feel “I am bad” and become useless.

Of course a human teacher could not change this, only encourage a type of suppression of bad behavior at certain times. BUT if the teacher is The Power of the One Almighty God, then it is completely different. I will eventually feel the power of love and understanding and respect and eventually want to be the best possible student and will really trust the lessons are filled with love and value for me.

Time has shown me the latihan is completely different than anything else. It is so important for me to never forget who my teacher inside is and the importance and meaning for real change this brings. The power of over-riding love has made me want to be a better and better recipient with full trust in the holy teacher.

Even when “I” screw up royally or daydream etc. or am bad, I am loved and given the right guidance that brings me back to the needed attitude. All this just because I keep coming to school and observing and feeling and listening to the holy teacher within.

Of course I would eventually like to be a little bit like the All Loving Power so I need to keep on and put faith in only this teacher, not even an older kid. Only my true “teacher” is the very best and understands my future place and is completely unlike all others in all respects.

There has never been a large school like this before and I am very fortunate. Each grade follows another so it’s not even a big deal if I don’t know what grade I’m in; just show up each day with a quiet, attentive, and patient attitude. The teacher easily knows if I am out of sorts or sick. Everything will be looked after.

And if I admire a student three grades ahead that’s fine, but it is not relevant in any way to my day in the classroom. They are not trained to understand my nature or future abilities added to the fact that by adult standards they are immature.

David M (full name supplied) ●

MISSING AUDIO RECORDINGS

Armand Bisson, WSA Archives Co-ordinator, writes...

Some original audio recordings of a few of Ibu Rahayu’s Talks are missing and the WSA Archives Team would be very interested to hear from anyone who has audio recordings of any of the talks listed below.

If you have audio recordings of any of the Talks listed below please send them to the WSA International Archives Center at:

Subud International Archives,
Wisma Subud,
Jl RS Fatmawati 52,
Cilandak Barat,
Jakarta Selatan,
DKI,
Indonesia, 12430

where they will be processed and restored for current and future generations of Subud members to hear.

Please let Farlan Williams, WSA Archives, Indonesia, know the details of the recording/s that you are sending and if you have any questions please contact him at: saiindo@cbn.net.id

Thank you in advance for your help with finding missing recordings.

EMAIL: francios.bisson0422@orange.fr ●

The Spring of Compassion

Harris Smart writes...

This article is about a project in Indonesia which I first visited in 1984. However, while that was long ago, the project remains in my mind as an outstanding example of what Subud enterprise is supposed to be about. So I believe there is a value in publishing again what I wrote about it.

As you will see, the project, Gunung Sempu, was outstanding in many ways. Not only was it a very practical project on quite a large scale providing housing to a large number of people, but it also had profound social, environmental and cultural values.

Also of great interest, I feel, is the way that the founders, Susilo and Rukmini Roharjo, came up with creative and innovative ideas to fund this project and others in which they were involved. They manifested the truth that Bapak articulated that “your capital is yourself”.

I recall that Bapak also said that when we are opened we receive the complete latihan “from A to Z”: in a sense it is all there from the beginning, so with Subud enterprise something from the past may continue to be an inspiring model today.

Also of great interest to me with this project was how it took me into the cultural milieu of Central Java, its myths and legends, its unique spirituality, in a way I would never have been able to penetrate if I had not been in Subud and these doors were opened to me by other Subud members.

Gunung Sempu provides a model for development. It not only addressed the problems of providing housing in a Third World country, but also showed how development may take place with sensitivity to the needs of people, the environment, and local traditions and culture.

I believe that Susilo Raharjo passed away some years ago and I do not have any recent news of his wife, Rukmini, or his children, or what has happened with the projects they founded. I would be very grateful to anyone who can give me any up-to-date information about these things.

In 1984 I went to visit the historic city of Jogjakarta in Central Java. This area is the fountainhead of ancient Javanese culture, and I visited the famous Buddhist and Hindu temple sites at Borobodur and Perambunan. While I was there, I was invited to visit the Subud members Susilo and Rukmini Raharjo.

As a young woman, Rukmini had been Bapak’s favourite classical dancer. Now she was married and lived with her husband and their three children at a place called Gunung Sempu about five kilometres out of Jogja. I had been told they had an enterprise, a building construction business.

We soon left the outskirts of Jogja behind and were into the familiar Javanese landscape. Farmers in conical wicker hats worked the emerald green rice paddies which stretched away into the distance. On the horizon loomed the great volcano Gunung Merapi, its cone surrounded in cloud.

We turned off the main road into a street which ran between kampong houses. We crossed a bridge over a small ravine and came to a triple-storeyed A-frame structure, made of bamboo with a thatched roof rising above the treetops. I was welcomed by Rukmini and Susilo, a friendly, bespectacled man in his mid-forties.

This A-frame structure, combining modern design with traditional building materials and techniques, was both their home and the headquarters of their company P.T. Indonesia Bhakti Sarana (IBS). It was also a symbol of their development philosophy which was always to work in a way that is in tune with local tradition.

Susilo took me up on the top of the hill (Gunung means mountain or hill) and showed me what he had created. It was a housing estate designed for low and middle income earners. The overall plan was for 500 houses sweeping in terraces around the hill; 240 had already been built.

Legends

One of the many legends associated with Gunung Sempu is that the sixteenth century saint, Sunan Kalijaggo, once came by here in a time of drought. Sunan Kalijaggo is something like >

St. Augustine in the Christian tradition, a sinner who became a saint. He was a bandit before he experienced the conversion which changed his life and led to his becoming one of the nine walis, or saints, who spread Islam in Indonesia.

He is usually also thought to be the mysterious mystical figure who sometimes appeared in the life of Bapak, such as the man who advised Bapak's parents to change his name from Sukarno to Subuh.

According to the Gunung Sempu legend, the drought-stricken farmers of the area begged Sunan Kalijaggo to give them water. He thrust his staff into the ground and water spurted forth. The spring has continued to flow ever since and feeds a little pond. It is called Sendang Kasihan, the Spring of Compassion. The story could be a symbol of what was happening at Gunung Sempu, where Susilo and Rukmini were working to bring this formerly desolate place back to life.



At Gunung Sempu. The legendary pool formed by a spring.

Created out of Nothing

One of the most remarkable features of this project was that it had been created out of almost nothing. When Susilo came to Jogja in 1977, he was able to carry everything he owned in the world in two suitcases. One of them contained his savings, Rp400,000 (about US\$400), with which he hoped to start a career in project development.

Susilo was originally from Jogja but had been away from the city for a number of years. As a civil engineering student in the early 1960s, he had attracted the attention of talent-spotters sent out by President Sukarno in search of young people who had the potential to be trained for the next generation of leaders.

When his studies were interrupted by the events following the 1965 coup, Susilo went into business. He became a fisherman first, managing several small boats on Java's north coast. Then he moved to Jakarta where he tried himself out in a variety of businesses, seeking to get as wide an experience as possible, particularly in the area of marketing.

He finished up working in building contracting, and after several years of that, decided he was ready to go out on his own. In Jogja, he hoped, he might be able to get a start. For several months he studied the planning needs of Jogjakarta and searched for land for a housing project.

One day his search took him south of Jogja to the district of Bantul where he was shown the land at Gunung Sempu. It was not, at first sight, a very inspiring proposition. It was a wasteland, an inaccessible and abandoned place. The soil was thin and chalky. There was no water. Snakes and scorpions crawled amongst the rocks. It had become a haunt for thieves and bandits, avoided by decent people.

Officials were Amazed

The government officials were amazed when Susilo said he was interested in the land. Previously they hadn't been able to give it away. But Susilo could see possibilities in it. From his study of the planning needs of Jogjakarta, he knew that the city's development had become unbalanced, with too much development to the north and not enough to the south. A housing estate here could help create a satellite town to the south of Jogja, which would be in line with government planning policy. There were many low and middle income earners, government employees, in Jogja who would be attracted to housing here.

The next step was to find out the capacity of these people to make monthly repayments on housing loans. Armed with this information, he began to draw up a project proposal and feasibility

study. Knowing the market's ability to repay, Susilo and his architect calculated the cost of the housing they could provide. They designed four models of houses which could be built using construction materials readily available in Jogja. The most expensive of these houses, a semi-detached three-bedroom house, would cost Rp8 million (about US\$8,000).

Susilo was able to go to a bank which guaranteed to provide the housing finance. On the basis of that he was able to go to another bank which agreed to put up the construction finance. Susilo spent six months doing the feasibility study, and in 1979, the proposal was accepted and the land (which had belonged to the Sultan of Jogjakarta) made available. The proposal was for a housing project for low and middle income earners, to be situated on twenty-three hectares of land, and to combine environmental, social and cultural aspects.

“
*240 houses had
been built...*
”

Bringing the Land Back to Life

The first task was to bring this marginal land back to life. But this work also had a social aspect, a bringing to life of the surrounding community. In an area offering almost no work, 120 local people were employed in the rehabilitation of the environment. Wells were sunk and hillsides landscaped. Waste from a nearby factory which processes sugar cane was found to be ideal for building up the soil. Gradually the local people saw that a task which had at first seemed futile was in fact possible.

As the mountain took on a covering of green, Susilo began to plan the housing development. There would be 500 houses, sweeping in terraces around the mountain, a shopping plaza and religious, community and cultural buildings. There would be a small-industries estate and a section of houses with workshops attached, specially designed for artists and craftspeople. It was to be a balanced and integrated community of five thousand people.

The industrial estate and the resident craftsmen would teach the children and the people of the surrounding area new skills, open their eyes to new ways of being productive. First the infrastructure had to go in. The entire cost of water, roads and electricity had to be borne by P.T. Indonesia Bhakti Sarana, as government services did not extend to this area.

This difficulty was compounded by delays in funding. The work proceeded in stages. First, the environmental rehabilitation. Second, the building of 126 houses with water and electricity. When I first went to Gunung Sempu in 1984, 240 houses were complete and there were over 600 people living on the site.

A Community of Displaced People

The people who bought houses at Gunung Sempu came from different places and had little in common. They were like a community of displaced people. So, as well as building a physical environment on the mountain, the framework for a community had also to be created, a ground prepared for the development of social and cultural activity.

At first the responsibility for this fell on the company, but gradually the people themselves took over. They started to form clubs and a branch of HANSIP, the Indonesian volunteer civil defence force which not only looked after security, but also became involved in community development and environmental improvement.

At one point, when the company no longer had the money to build roads, the people themselves got together to do it. Through these efforts, the traditional Indonesian characteristic of gotong royong, or mutual co-operation, was encouraged at Gunung Sempu. At the next stage, they became capable of co-operation with neighbouring villages. This was particularly true in the cultural field. Situated just below Gunung Sempu was a famous dancing school run by Bagong Kusudiarjo who trained students from all over Indonesia in the traditional dances of the archipelago.

A program was designed involving the people at Gunung Sempu, Bagong Kusudiarjo's dancing school and the local government, to preserve the culture of this area. There are dances unique to

this locality which are not even known in Jogja, five kilometres away. Part of the program was to build a performance amphitheatre at Gunung Sempu. The craft workshops were also a way of preserving culture. The headman at Gunung Sempu was a maker of leather wayang puppets.

Susilo and Rukmini's achievement at Gunung Sempu was recognized in a series of awards made to the project by local government, by the Governor of Jogjakarta and by the Minister of the Environment.

Apart from its environmental success, the project attracted attention because of its contribution to a balanced urban and rural development at a time when there was a tendency for the cities to develop at the expense of the countryside, creating an ever-widening gap which causes even more emigration to the already overcrowded cities with an ultimately deleterious effect on national development.

The commitment to social aims was also seen in the decision to provide housing for low and middle income earners, a neglected market segment because of its low profitability. Gunung Sempu was recognized as a contribution to the development of Jogjakarta, a satellite town, the first major settlement to the south.

Something Very Special

There was something very special about Gunung Sempu: so many of the themes and cross-currents of Javanese history and culture seem to meet here. Around the middle of the eleventh century there was an enormous volcanic eruption near Jogjakarta. Gunung Merapi exploded, burying the surrounding countryside in ash and lava. If you dig a little beneath the surface at Gunung Sempu, you find the ash deposited by the eruption.

The eruption laid waste the surrounding countryside for several generations. It split in two Mataram, one of the mightiest of the Hindu-Javanese empires. One part went off to found a new community at Perambunan where there is still today a complex of ruined temples. These people were Susilo's ancestors, and it was commonly believed by the people here that this ancestral link was the reason Susilo had been able to found a new community at Gunung Sempu.

Excavations at Gunung Sempu turned up many ancient weapons. It appears it was a battlefield in the days of the kingdoms. The name "Sempu" derives from "empu", the mystical power the old weapon-makers had to create the blade of a keris by drawing it out with their bare hands. Susilo once showed me his collection of kerises. Some were just rusted blades. Others he had restored and fitted with new hilts and scabbards.

Some had been found on the land, but others had been given to him by strangers who suddenly appeared at his house to say: "This keris belongs to you." In Javanese tradition, weapons are often symbols of power or possession. The legitimacy of the Javanese kingdoms was often determined by the possession of sacred heirlooms such as weapons or by the gongs and other musical instruments of the gamelan orchestra.

Bathing in the Pool

The princesses of the Jogja court used to come to the spring-fed pool, Sendang Kasihan, to bathe. The sides of the pool were walled and a pleasure garden with pavilions and changing sheds built up around it. It was now sadly neglected and dilapidated. I went to visit it with Susilo, Rukmini and their children.

The children dived straight in and began to splash around. I walked more sedately down the stone steps and joined them. Tiny fish came at once and nibbled on the hairs of my legs. Susilo told me he was thinking of asking the Sultan's permission to restore the pool to its former glory. The connection between the pool and the princesses of Jogja dates back to the reign of Senopati, who founded the first Islamic sultanate at Jogja.

A man called Ki Ageng Mangir led a rebellion against Senopati, who decided to solve the problem by sending his daughter, Roro Pembayan, disguised as a dancing girl, to seduce his enemy. On her way to carry out this mission she stopped at this pond to bathe. She danced for Mangir and he fell in love with her, not knowing she was the daughter of his enemy. They married and the >

princess became pregnant. She asked Mangir if they could go and visit her father before the baby was born.

At first Mangir refused, but the princess prevailed upon him and he reluctantly entered the palace to greet Senopati. Senopati promptly killed him with a blow on the head while he was bowing down to do sungkum, the ritual obeisance. Senopati beheaded the body and buried the head inside the grounds of his kraton or palace and the body outside, symbolising that “he was my son-in-law and he was not my son-in-law”.



*Creating a
framework for
community*



A Sequel

This link with an ancient rebel may appear somewhat tenuous, but, there was a sequel to the story of Mangir which Susilo later told me. “Once we had a terrible drought here. We needed water badly for construction work. Everything had dried up, all the wells and the river and everything, and the only water was in Sendang Kasihan.”

Susilo took a pump down to the pond and tried to pump some water up the mountain. The pump refused to function. He tried again and it still wouldn’t go. He tried a third time and this time the pump caught fire. He had to push it into the water to put the fire out.

It was strange. The pump was almost new; it had always worked perfectly before. Why should it break down now? It felt like there was something more behind it than a simple mechanical breakdown. That night, Susilo did latihan by the pool. The figure of a man appeared to him out of the darkness. He had long, black, flowing hair and was naked to the waist, wearing a sarong and carrying a sword; a man from Java’s past.

The man told Susilo that he was Mangir and that he was the guardian of this pool. The reason why the pump had blown up was that Susilo had approached this place thoughtlessly and without the proper courtesy. But if he now asked permission properly, he would be able to draw water. Susilo made a respectful inner request to be able to continue his work. The next day he had the pump repaired and went back to the pool and he was able to draw all the water he needed.

More Proposals

In 1984 Susilo felt that Gunung Sempu was well enough established that he could think about starting some new projects. He developed eight proposals, thinking that perhaps one or two of them might come off, but seven were accepted. Then he has added another five so that when I met him he had a dozen projects in various stages of development from feasibility study to construction.

Among the most interesting of his new ventures was a feasibility study he carried out for the Ministry of Housing to provide a thousand houses for poor fishermen at Pemelang on Java’s north. Studies of the fishermen showed that their income was both too small and too irregular for them to be able to make repayments on even very modest housing loans. So before Susilo could think about what sort of housing to provide, he had to find ways to increase and stabilise their income.

Improved equipment and skills would increase their productivity, but it still would not be enough. The answer was to design a house-and-land package which would include a shrimp pond. The yield of the shrimp pond was calculated to be sufficient to lift the family’s income to the point where they can pay off the package.

Tending the shrimp pond enabled the whole family to become productive, as it was work which could be carried out by the wife and children. The system was further refined by the discovery that it was more productive to have one large pond for a group of houses than to equip each individual house with a small pond of its own.

The complete project called for a thousand houses, but Susilo believed it was essential to proceed cautiously. “We are dealing with people whose lives have been unchanged for generations. Too much change too quickly could be very disruptive. I’d rather not build a thousand houses, or even a hundred houses, straight away. Better to build ten and see what the effect is. Then another ten.

“

My work can be a way of worshipping God

”

After ten years, there will be a thousand houses, but the change will have happened smoothly.”

A Pioneer in Helping Little People

The same principle of combining a dwelling and a supporting enterprise was evident in other projects of Susilo’s in Central Java.

The people of Samigulah, site of another project, were relatively well-off because they grew cloves for which there was a good market in the cigarette industry. (Indonesian cigarettes are flavoured with cloves.) But they lived in a mountainous region which was remote and poorly serviced. Susilo’s project was to build shop-houses that would bring commodities within easier reach.

Thirty of these ruko (shop-houses) were already been completed at Wates, west of Jogjakarta. The people here were also well-off from their crops of bananas, melons, pineapples and coconuts, but lacked access to manufactured goods. The need for a few nails might mean a trip all the way into Jogja. At the official opening of the thirty ruko, Cosmas Batubara, Minister for Housing, described Susilo as “a pioneer in helping the little people”.

The A-frame at Gunung Sempu was built of waste materials. The same pioneering spirit was to be seen in its garden, which was a series of experiments with fruit trees, fishponds and poultry in an effort to discover the most productive forms of domestic industry. Susilo seemed to have the capacity to turn every aspect of his life into an enterprise with social benefit.

Susilo’s company, IBS, always had a policy of employing high-school drop-outs. Of its twenty-one employees, five were always drop-outs who had had to leave school because of the financial situation of their families. These boys and girls were trained for a year at IBS in various skills such as draughting, secretarial and clerical work and then employed permanently by IBS or placed with other firms.

After five years of operation, all of Susilo and Rukmini’s trainees had found work. Susilo and Rukmini also supported a kindergarten at Gunung Sempu and provided scholarships for local children who couldn’t otherwise attend school.

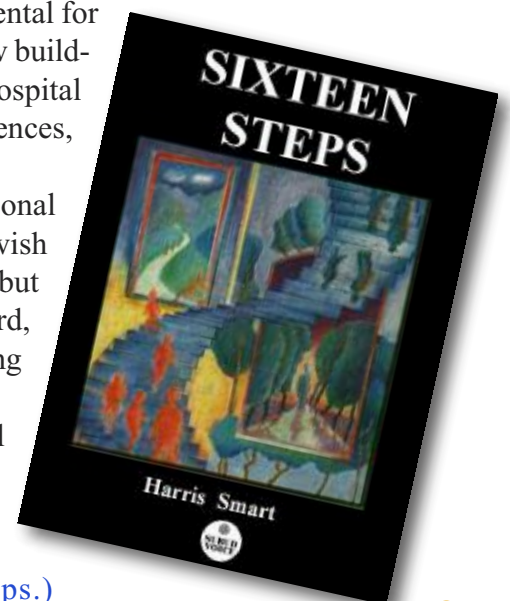
A Philosophy of Development

The last time I visited Gunung Sempu, I went with Susilo to the top of Gunung Sempu where there was a 360-degree view of the surrounding countryside. This area had been reserved for religious buildings. So far a mosque had been completed and there was land set aside for a Catholic church. The church’s well had been sunk and the cross raised. Susilo said he would also like to build a latihan hall here.

He wanted Gunung Sempu to be a model of religious tolerance and co-operation. Belief in God and the possibility of receiving the guidance of God in one’s work were fundamental for Susilo. He wanted to make Gunung Sempu a complete community. A new building housed small-industries development, and Susilo wanted to see a hospital and a high school that would specialise in teaching environmental sciences, drawing on the experience at Gunung Sempu.

Susilo was moved by three motives. “First, of course, there is my personal need. The need to support myself and my family. Second, there is my wish to help to build this nation. This goes back to my training in the 1960s, but I have learned it all over again through my work at Gunung Sempu. Third, is my worship of God. I believe that my work can be a way of worshipping God and consequently I must do it as well as I possibly can.

“Gunung Sempu has become for me not so much a place or a physical development as a spirit, an attitude. It is where I have learned my philosophy of development.”



(This article first appeared in Harris Smart’s book Sixteen Steps.)

CALLING ALL SUBUD AUTHORS

For the British National Congress, Ilaina Lennard (with the help of the Subud Voice team) produced a four-page, A5 colour leaflet entitled 'Books by Subud Authors' carrying images of the covers of 20 books. Alongside each cover, there appeared a brief synopsis and the author's contact details and/or a 'where to buy' URL and price.

Each author was charged £25 for an entry to cover printing and distribution costs.

The original idea was to repeat the exercise for as many gatherings or congresses as possible, with a final print run for World Congress in 2014.

In practice, we realised that this is an unwieldy way to do it, and that using pdfs and email is probably the best way, with those agreeable home-printing a small run from a pdf and distributing it at their local gathering or national congress. If anyone would like to help do that, please email Ilaina on ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk and she'll send you a pdf of the leaflet. Alternatively, you can view and download the pdf – **the link is directly below the link for this month's Subud Voice on the home page.**

However, we still would like to produce a good size run of actual leaflets for World Congress, so, if there are even more authors out there who would like to participate, let Ilaina know as soon as possible. In time, you'll be asked for a jpg image of your cover, a synopsis and details of where the book can be purchased; then we can price it up to find out what each author has to pay per book featured – the more of us that participate, the cheaper the cost.

The Subud Voice Team

Some sample pages from the leaflet:



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Any problems – contact me, Ilaina Lennard, e-mail: ilaine.l@blueyonder.co.uk

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STOP PRESS:

NEWS FROM SUBUD UKRAINE

Because of the recent political events in Ukraine, Ilaina Lennard wrote to some members there about their situation and received this reply from Sandra (Rebekka) ...

Dearest Ilaina,

Thank you for your message!

Praise be to God, in Kyiv and other places with Subud people and their families all is okay (as well as with me, personally, and my family and parents; yes, in Cherkassy it is relatively quiet now).

Ilaina, dear: this moment it isn't possible for me to tell perspicuously about current events in the country, all the more so to give a kind of analysis ... just ... just my feeling is that it isn't the end of story yet... Anyway, people in Subud worldwide can test for themselves what kind of forces are active here now and what is the character of current situation and then – how things would be if those forces were in balance...

What is possible now – although we have been shocked by those events – it is to keep, a.m.a.p., our regular Subud life here and have places where we are doing our regular latihans as safety islands and centers of Love and Life.

Also, on behalf of members of Subud Ukraine, I would like to express deep thanks to brothers and sisters around the world for their latihans – individual and in groups, for their prayers, for their messages of love by e-mail, skype, tel., on Facebook, which we have been received and still are receiving a lot! I do not dare to list all countries, names or groups ... Norway ... England (so many!) ... Canada ... Russia ... Lithuania USA ... even Hawaii Germany ... Latin America ... Australia! ... our Zone 4 ... Zone 3 Luqman Pensenev ... International helpers ... for example, thanks, Gregory Perrin from Loudwater Farm Subud Center, for his so cheerful mood and a lot of short messages and even an offer of some musical project to develop here!

Sure, brothers and sisters all over the world will not be offended because it isn't possible here to name all of them. I try to translate all their messages into Russian and forward to our members here. And may this message to you, Ilaina, be a chance to answer to all of them – all together :

LOVE and THANKS and BLESSINGS to all of you, Dears! God's Will, may be, for us, 21 years old Subud in Ukraine (and a contemporary of new, independent Ukraine), it is a time of our majority – to test ourselves how our trust in Almighty is and how we value and take care of the Gift of latihan kejiwaan of Subud. Along with this we here have a privilege to be in unity with Subud community worldwide, and their spiritual support during heavy trials in Ukraine is the real evidence of this! From our side, we send feelings of love and compassion to all people around the world because conditions in the world at all aren't easy and peaceful. Let us stay united always and continue to pray in the name of Peace and Humanity in our country and everywhere on the earth.

LOVE from here ~

Take care, Ilaina, dearest, too.

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A Spanish facsimile edition usually appears a little
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Send articles, photos, cartoons etc. to Harris Smart,
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