

A GUIDE FOR LOCAL GROUPS TO MAKE THE LATIHAN MORE AVAILABLE:

This is a brief and amended version of a document presented by Taufik Waage to the Subud Norway Annual General Meeting (AGM) in November 2006

1. BACKGROUND

In October 2006, ISC invited WSA member countries to follow up the recommendations from the World Congress in Innsbruck concerning our presence in the world. ISC proposed a yearlong collective working of the WSA member countries on this theme. The idea had been presented to various zone meetings in June and discussed at the WSC meeting in August. The original document says:

“We recognize that this does not mean that we should push or proselytise Subud. We do not want to make propaganda or try to convince people to do the latihan. Nevertheless, many Subud members recognize we can do more to make latihan open and available, and ourselves more ready to receive more members.”

At the WSC meeting in Bangalore, the ISC chair gave this clarification:

“Our hope is that many countries will participate and invite local groups and individual members to join us in our united effort to make Subud more available in their local community.”

2. POSSIBLE QUESTIONS TO ADDRESS:

The invitation to each national committee is to participate. We feel that the right way to do this might be to launch a process within the local groups of self-evaluation, testing, planning and action. Each group might also contribute to a national plan which, when appropriate, could be discussed at the zonal meeting.

a) Evaluating and improving our attitude to a possible growth:

- Does the group/the individual really want new members?
- How do we unintentionally convey the feeling of being separated/closed from people not in Subud (in other words being a sect or a cult in their eyes)?
- How can we change this?
- How does it really feel to be open and receptive to people who are not in Subud?

b) Improving our capacity to communicate with applicants/new members

- How can we improve the way we treat applicants?
- When is it appropriate to reveal personal experiences?
- What do we do well/ not do well in interacting with applicants (sharing practices)
- How do our applicants feel?
- Why don't they come back, and how many don't come back?

- Do we rather adapt ourselves to the applicants' needs and listen to them, or do we just give them our ideas of what Subud is?
- In what way do we follow-up new members? Do you have any procedure for following up new members?
- What are their reasons for leaving Subud/staying in Subud?
- How does the way we interact with new members affect their wish to come to the latihan?
- How can we improve the way we take care of new members?

c) Possible actions to make Subud more known:

- Is it a good idea to place books in libraries, numbers in telephone directories, place informational notices in newspapers, and discrete posters in appropriate places?
- How can we open-up the local Subud house?
- How can we best make our projects and programs more easily identifiable as made by Subud members and inspired by Subud?
- How does the group best support local initiatives where Subud interacts with the public?
- How can we improve our web pages (are international and national guidelines needed)?
- Do we need to prepare better materials about Subud such as brochures?
- When we are asked to tell the public about Subud, for instance when using non-Subud premises, or when we are turning to public offices for visas, how may give an explanation that is clear, precise, modest and respectful, adapted to what the person and the situation need?
- How is the explanation that we give on these occasions, when people might be curious, different from those we give when we are addressing applicants or people interested to join Subud?

3. A POSSIBLE TIMETABLE FOR THE PROJECT

From today and till 15th February:

The local group can work to put up a local activity plan and propose a policy statement and a guideline for their country, as well as propose activities for the country plan.

Beginning of March:

A proposal for a national activity plan is ready. The plan is adapted to local conditions in that country.

Between March and June:

The plan will be put in practice and brought to the zonal meeting for discussion, and from there, the zonal chair will bring proposals to be included in the world plan.

A world plan and report will be worked at and ready at the WSC meeting next summer. This might include policy statements, a set of guidelines, as well as possible actions for countries, local groups and individual members, which are common for all countries.

4. WHAT IS NEEDED IN ORDER TO MAKE LATIHAN AVAILABLE?

- a) To be in a state of surrender and awareness in our daily life.
- b) To convey relevant information about Subud adapted to the need of the inquirer
- c) Arenas and activities in which Subud people meet the public.
- d) To increase the quantity and the quality of helpers' presence.
- e) To find a good balance between our inner and outer life.

5. BAPAK'S ADVICE:

1. The latihan is for all of mankind because.
2. The latihan can create harmony in the world and harmony is badly needed.
3. To enable human beings to feel that we are one and that we have God's power within us.
4. This is a way for us to repay what we have received.

Bapak's warnings:

1. Don't spread Subud by propaganda (using only your heart and mind).
2. Don't act condescending and feel better than others and think you have all the right answers.
3. Don't worry, criticise or complain.

6. POSSIBLE ACTIONS IN YOUR GROUP AND COMMUNITY:

1. An up-to-date national web page with a focus on wing activities or what we do.
2. A number in the telephone directory.
3. Subud books in the library.
4. Informational posters in appropriate places.
5. Common arenas with people outside Subud.
 - a) Organising cultural events inviting Subud artists and painters
 - b) Organising social project like camps for children, youths and families
 - c) Organising social project for elderly people.
 - d) Renting out the Subud house for community events.
6. Starting enterprises and following your talents.
7. Help young people to get work/working experience.
8. Organise school, courses of different kind for people in your community.
9. Making presentation of Susila Dharma project to raise support.
10. Strong helper group willing to be open and help new members to stay without being condescending.