



INTERNATIONAL HELPER DEWAN

6 December 2006

Area 1

Asia & the Pacific

Asmaniah Fraval
asmaniah@ozemail.com.au

Judy Gibb
j-gibb@xtra.co.nz

Raina McKechnie
rainamck@hotmail.com

Mason Cook
masonic46@yahoo.com.au

Robert Goonetilleke
robertgoonetilleke@yahoo.com

Sugandi Prawira
sugandiprawira@yahoo.co.id

Area 2

Europe & Africa

Héloise Jackson
heloisejackson@hotmail.co.uk

Farah Czviertnia
farah@rhc.at

Lora Bilger
Email: lorabilger@gmx.de

Andrew Holloway
andrew@greenoakcarpentry.co.uk

Jorge Guerin
jguerin@teletel.es

Saroni Bassi
salubas@tin.it

Area 3

The Americas

Dorotea de Arenas
subudista@yahoo.com

Sarah Becker
sarahpauli@yahoo.com

Sylvia Margolin
sylvargo@uicalumni.org

Emmanuel Aronie
emmanuelaronie@hotmail.com

Mattheus Kaslan
mattheus_kaslan@yahoo.com

Paul Roberge
marc_paul_roberge@hotmail.com

BEING PRESENT INITIATIVE: KEJIWAAN PERSPECTIVE
From the Dewan of International Helpers

The World Subud Association Executive (ISC) recently put out a call for suggestions to Subud helpers, committees, and members on how to implement the Innsbruck world congress recommendation for Subud to be more present in the world. In the words of the message that was sent, "we could do more to make the latihan available and ourselves more ready to receive more members."

In Bapak's words, "The latihan-which you have all received-brings with it the responsibility or the burden to spread this latihan, spread this understanding that it brings to your fellow human beings so that they may also be able to receive God's gift, so that they may live in harmony with each other. So it may be your responsibility to work for this and to spread the latihan." (From "*Loving your Fellow Man*," 1984; Code Number: 84 CDK 6)

Yet, in most places in the world, Subud does not grow much. Our population of members is unbalanced on the side of those who are aging. Many are concerned that we are not open enough to the outside world to allow our association to touch those who may be searching for a spiritual path.

We are not talking about creating propaganda. Again, as Bapak said, "If you want to spread Subud you do it by loving your fellow man, and it will awaken his interest in Subud, and his understanding of Subud. If you lecture to people, that is propaganda and comes from the nafsu. When people love Subud because you love them, then that is propaganda from God." (From "*Loving your Fellow Man*," 1984; Code Number: 84 JKT 4)

From the kejiwaan perspective, the initiative for us as helpers has more to do with talking and testing with other helpers and members to heighten our awareness and understanding of what it means to "be present" and to increase our intention to act on what we receive.

As international helpers, we would like to offer some suggestions from the kejiwaan perspective as to how to focus more closely on the "*Being Present Initiative*". However, we want to emphasize that these are only suggestions. Ideally, each group will discover for itself what is most needed to make the latihan more available and ourselves more ready to receive members. We are sending this to you in the hopes that you share these suggestions and others with the helpers in your country at national congresses, at kejiwaan gatherings, during visits, or in any other way. We emphasize that this list is not intended to be exclusive but rather to stimulate helpers at all levels to focus on the initiative in a way that is most meaningful to them.

1. It may feel right to run a workshop on “*What does Subud Mean for Me.*” In this way, members can become more comfortable talking about a subject that is centered so much in the feelings. For example, do members feel comfortable saying, “*I am a Subud member*” when in a non-Subud social or work setting? Do they feel comfortable describing Subud to non-Subud people? In addition to receiving our own benefit from doing the latihan, what is the responsibility each of us has in making Subud available and known to others?
2. It may be of benefit for groups to talk and/or test about the situation in their group, any aspects that could be improved upon, and how this improvement might be achieved so that the group can become alive and vibrant.
3. Helpers and committee may feel to test questions about how committed they are to their helper/committee work and how it would be if they were truly fulfilling their role as a helper (or Bapak’s helper) or committee member. Development or evaluation testing has been strongly recommended at both the Bali and Innsbruck world congresses.

Clearly the world and its inhabitants are not in a good place at the moment, as we witnessed in Bangalore where Ibu tested with us about the state of the earth and of humankind. While no one would claim that Subud is the only way, we do have something very precious to share that has the potential to bring peace and understanding to the troubled peoples of the world. This initiative is an attempt to ensure that each one of us fulfills our obligation and responsibility, whether member, committee officer, or helper, to make the latihan available to others. We encourage you in your role as KC or NH to take the opportunity to be part of this process and to share this initiative with others in your country.
