

CONGRESS CONTENT BRIEFING PAPER

April 2009

1. GENERAL PRINCIPLES:

We would like to have a Congress that is a happy, relaxed and powerful event for all those who attend it. It would be structured but in an open way and provide all participants with a varied and deep personal experience. Therefore, The Congress program should not be dominated by the official WSA business and should provide activities that directly meet the needs of Subud members. We need a full and varied program that caters for all kinds of interests and needs, which at the same time strengthens the Subud experience.

The WSC asked that the Congress try to avoid falling into the trap of having mostly either pure kejiwaan activities (helper work) or pure business meetings (committee work). So in addition to these, we would like to have activities that help to strengthen the expression and use of the latihan in everyday life, and which enable participants to better understand the use and benefits of the latihan.

For these reasons:

- a) The WSA will proactively organize a program of experiential, discussion-based and other workshops covering all aspects of Subud life in conjunction with other aspects of the Subud organization such as SICA and SDIA.
- b) The business of Congress (which is primarily for the delegates although all members are most welcome) will be more directed toward the priorities, goals, and policies for the development of Subud internationally. We should not spend Congress time on management issues best handled by the council and the executive. Congress should set a few priority goals and strategies for the forthcoming period. In this way, delegates will not be overloaded with too much work and information.

2. OVERALL PROGRAM:

There should be a general Congress program distinct from the official delegate business schedule. There will be two kejiwaan days at the start of Congress; a delegates' program concentrated into nine days of work, followed by a Gathering. During the delegate program days, there will be general Congress program and Kejiwaan activities running all through congress for members.

The overall Congress schedule has six components:

- a) Big events: general latihan, opening ceremony, Ibu Rahayu's talks, kejiwaan days, major performances and major cultural events
- b) The cultural activities schedule
- c) Other activities schedule, including those for young people
- d) Official Workshops and forums
- e) WSA delegate business program
- f) Other Subud business meetings

This does not include excursions.

Please note that some of the WSA forum events would be open to the general public, and we would aim to have some forum events organized in conjunction with local institutions such as the university of Christchurch and perhaps local social service organizations and NGOs.

3. WSA DELEGATE PROGRAM:

a) The delegates' business program is the official meeting of the WSA. It is conducted primarily through plenary sessions to which all Subud members are invited and delegates' working parties. A delegates' official working party is a working group of delegates established by Congress dedicated to answering a particular set of questions set by the WSA plenary. These working parties are carefully planned in advance of Congress, with input from the WSA member countries. Observers may attend.

At present, the five suggested delegate working parties are: (1) the use and benefits of the latihan (including helper work) (2) supporting endeavors, projects and enterprises, (3) being present in the world (4) strengthening the organization and (5) a shorter delegate working party on finance possibly together with MSF. These will occur during the business days of Congress. The WSA executive will write preliminary briefing papers for these working parties based input from the countries and the WSC.

b) The WSA will also hold other official WSA business meetings such as zone meetings and WSC meetings during the Congress, meetings of helpers to pretest and/or test candidates for official roles such as international helper.

c) There will also be meetings related to specific parts of the Subud organization such as publications, translations, care support and archives.

4. OTHER ORGANIZATIONAL AND OFFICIAL BUSINESS MEETINGS

In addition to the meetings of the WSA, there will be official business meetings of other parts of the Subud organizations such as SDIA, SICA and MSF and wing functions of the WSA.

Some of these meetings are organized by the wings for the wings. Some of these meetings might have implications for the deliberations of the WSA Congress and might need to take place early in the congress to input into the relevant working parties.

- 1) The future of SICA
- 2) What do Subud members need from SES?
- 3) Subud youth role and needs, including mentoring and volunteering
- 4) SIHA program
- 5) SDIA program
- 6) MSF board meetings and discussion groups

We suggest that these meetings be clearly marked as business meetings and should be distinguished from the workshops about content (item 5 below). In other words, a meeting about the future of SICA (or about the role of painters in SICA) should be

distinct from a workshop about painting. A meeting about the work of SDIA should be separated from a thematic workshop about education or development. Of course, there may be overlaps.

5. WORKSHOPS:

Whereas past Congresses provided a free space for informal workshops, the World Subud Council has proposed that for this Congress, there would be WSA sponsored workshops directed towards the needs of Subud members and the development of Subud. These workshops would be experiential, interactive, and dedicated to major themes such as: the use of the latihan in everyday life, sharing experiences, developing projects, and capacity building.

The WSA executive will work with the 'wings' and other parts of the organization to develop a unified Congress program regarding workshops. Thus WSA sponsored workshops can be co-sponsored with say SICA and SDIA or we can leave the sponsorship open and simply signal that these are official workshops.

The WSA and wings will invite Subud members to facilitate official workshops in the following three general areas. These workshops will be open to all members and will take place throughout the Congress, and would be part of the official congress program. The general topics listed here are ONLY examples. Obviously, each workshop would have a more specific theme or focus, which depends on what parts of the organization and individual members are willing to offer.

A) The Latihan in one's Life:

- 7) Using the latihan every day
- 8) Men-women relationships
- 9) Family life
- 10) Latihan and work
- 11) Latihan and talents
- 12) Surrender
- 13) Expressing artistic talent from within such as Free form singing and Painting from the inner and Spontaneous dance
- 14) The relevance of Bapak's and Ibu's talks and the book Susila Budhi Dharma
- 15) Expressing susila dharma in our everyday lives

B) Subud Activities Themes

- 16) Supporting Projects
- 17) Nurturing Initiatives
- 18) Business sharing
- 19) Young people sharing
- 20) Meetings related to business exchange
- 21) Meetings for young people organized by young people related to Subud

C) WSA Forum Themes

- 22) Education
- 23) Sustainable Development

- 24) Health
- 25) Seeing creatively
- 26) Inter-religious and inter-spiritual dialogue
- 27) Models of business and entrepreneurship
- 28) Global governance and the United Nations

D) Capacity Building Workshops

There will also be capacity building and sharing sessions as part of the Congress schedule. The purpose of these is to build capacities rather than to discuss and share information. Some of these capacity building and development sessions would be on the official capacity building day (Organizational Capacity Building Day, Sunday 10th January), when delegates are available (such as 1 and 2 below). Others that do not involve delegates could be spread out during the Congress (such as 3-9)

Here are some examples of possible capacity building sessions:

- 1) National chairperson's role (including international participation)
- 2) Zone council role
- 3) Bringing a local Subud group together, including chair role.
- 4) Facilitating meetings
- 5) Conflict resolution
- 6) Treasurer's function and local fundraising
- 7) Best practices and Subud houses
- 8) How to describe Subud to friends and family (sharing experiences)
- 9) Understanding better the helper role

Recommendations from Workshops: We suggest that if workshops (as opposed to WSA delegate working parties) have recommendations for the WSA organization then they would send those recommendations to the new World Subud Council rather than to the Congress Plenary. The reason for this is to keep the official work of Congress to a minimum. Workshops would be encouraged to complete a sharing-form so that others can know the content and results of the workshop.

In addition to these "official" workshops, the Congress would reserve some limited time and space for non-official workshops, which the WSA or other aspects of the Subud organization does not sponsor.

6. KEJIWAAN DAYS:

The content and process of these days still has to be determined.

7. GATHERING DAYS:

The content and process of these days still has to be determined. However, the gathering days will also have a strong kejiwaan content. We envisage a sharing day in a plenary session on or near the last day as well as some more general sharing sessions.