



INTERNATIONAL SUBUD COMMITTEE
19396 Ashe Lane, Burlington, WA 98233, USA
ISC@Subud.org

6 October 2006

To all National Committees

Dear fellow Subud members,

The world congress in Innsbruck made several recommendations concerning our being present in the world and making the latihan more readily available to the public. As the recommendations emphasize, this does not mean that we should try to convince people to do the latihan, for example through propaganda. Nevertheless, the Congress working group states that we could do more to make the latihan available and ourselves more ready to receive more members. Perhaps, in our wish not to push, we have not done enough to make Subud openly available.

To help put this recommendation into reality, ISC would like to invite the World Subud Association and Subud members around the world to participate in a process of dialogue between the countries and interested individuals regarding the implementation of this Congress resolution. We hope that it is much more fruitful to do this together as an international community and by working together, we can support each other.

We realize that some countries, such as Subud USA, Canada, Australia and Indonesia, have already begun to work explicitly on this theme, and we urge them to share their ideas and experiences. Furthermore, many groups have tried different actions at various times. The first part of the process will be to exchange such ideas and experiences, and to discuss the next steps.

This exchange and discussion might consist of three parts:

1. Possible actions of communication to make Subud more available.
This might include, for example, the use of Subud houses for public events, presentations to the public, improved websites and so on. What has worked and what hasn't and why? What have we omitted to do?
2. Improving our capacity to communicate with applicants/new members.
This might include questions such as, for example, how can we improve the way we treat applicants?
3. Improving our attitude to possible growth
This might include questions such as how do we unintentionally convey the feeling of being closed? How does it feel to be really open and receptive to people not in Subud?

These examples are not intended to preempt the nature of the discussions (and testings) but rather to indicate the scope of the issues before us.

ISC and the WSA officers will provide coordination, with the help of the zone representatives and the international helpers. On the national level, the national committee would be responsible for coordinating the work as part of the World Subud Association, but might wish to appoint a special coordinator or focus group to help.

One outcome of the first part of the process would be a short document containing a summary of the results of our discussions and also suggested possible actions for countries, local groups and individual members. In addition, we would invite countries to draw up their own simple action-plans, according to their own local conditions, and share those plans with other countries in February.

During the first part of 2007, the countries would be invited to put their own action-plans into practice. If these actions could be evaluated nationally prior to the zonal meetings, then there could be sharing and evaluation at the zonal meeting (most zones tend to meet around May-June). This would permit better follow-up work by the WSC in July (e.g. general guidelines for how we could be more public in a responsible way).

Please write to us at isc@subud.org and mawaage@online.no, which is the email address of Taufik Waage from Norway, ex-international helper who will be working with ISC as part of the external relations committee of ISC. This committee is chaired by Samuel Simonsson and Frederic Richard. We will build-up a list of email participants.

We feel that this issue is very important for us as a community, and that we have a lot to learn from each other. Please join in and together let us form a collective intention to make the latihan available to anyone.

With very best wishes and many thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G. Thomson', with a horizontal line underneath it.

Garrett Thomson
Chairperson of ISC (WSA executive)

ps: This letter will be translated into Spanish and French.