

EXECUTIVE FUNCTIONS REPORT FOR 2008 WORLD SUBUD COUNCIL MEETING Internet, Subud Publications International (SPI), Care Support

WORLD SUBUD ASSOCIATION INTERNET COORDINATION

Matthew Weiss, Ireland mweissie@aol.com

This year was dominated by the definition phase of what our Subud presence on the internet would be and the proper use of the major domain names.

The decisions were:

- Subud.com would be our outward presence.
- Subud.org would be our organizational site for internal use.
- Subud.net would be our networking and sharing between members.

Technical management, registration and Organization of the domains has been done so that in the future all these remain in the hands of Subud and are regularly paid for and administered.

Towards our final goals the following has been done:

- Quotes were obtained and the construction of Subud.org by Hassan Czwiertnia has begun.
- A decision to merge Subud.net with Subudlife.com was made. Each will still remain a separate entity with its own look but will share some of the content and facilities of each other.
- The concepts and ideas for Subud.com has been thrown open to the Council for discussion. It was felt that as our “front door” it was important to find an approach that was what all the Countries wanted since it represents all of us.

Beyond our website presence the World Congress Website has been organized. Quotes were obtained, negotiated and a contract was given to Stewart Horthy for the construction. This was coordinated with the New Zealand team and the site is about to go live under www.subudcongress.com. We have re-built the system used for the Innsbruck Congress and secured the domain so that this can be used by the various Congresses as an event package for the future. This was done in this way so that we do not have to continually re-invest in the same work again and again and make putting together a Congress Website and quicker and easier process.

The run up to the World Congress will be trying to have all three major websites functional and working toward our better website presence. We believe that doing this correctly will aid us in our relations in the world, bring members, help members, and help the organization to communicate and share information easily. These are good exciting goals which we hope we can achieve with everyone’s help.

**SUBUD PUBLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL
REPORT TO WSA FOR THE PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2007 TO 31 DECEMBER 2009**

Leonard Hurd, 1 July 2008

BAPAK'S TALKS PROJECT PROGRESS

2007

Volume 17

Published November 2007.

Volumes 12 and 13 – Russian edition. Published.

2008

Volume 18

Volume 18 comprises 15 chapters – available August 2008.

Volume 19

Volume 19 is due to be available in January 2009.

This edition includes talks given at the Third Subud World Congress, Tokyo, 1967 and also talks from the Fourth National Subud Congress of Indonesia. Sharif & Tuti and Raymond have reported that the Indonesian transcripts for these talks have been 'very thoroughly' edited by somebody and do not match the recordings. Tuti is re-transcribing the talks that Sharif and Tuti are doing, before they start on the translation (and Raymond likewise). The old transcripts should be destroyed, and in marketing *Volume 19*, we should highlight the fact that the Tokyo congress book (*The Growth of Subud*) is suspect, and so, in a sense, these talks will be available for the first time.

2008

Volumes 14 and 15 – Russian edition. To be published 2008.

2009

Volume 20 Anticipated to be available August 2009.

Volume 21 Anticipated to be available December 2009.

2009

Volume 16 – Russian edition. Anticipated to be published 2009.

PROJECT FUNDING

Since mid way in 2004 SPI has self-funded all of its activities including the English and Russian translation costs. We receive a grant from the GHFP, donations from individual members and revenue from the sale of books. We anticipate making an application for funds to ISC/MSF in 2009.

OTHER PROJECTS

1. SPI website

www.subudbooks.net

The SPI website was launched June 2008.

2. A Life Within a Life – by Dominic Rieu

This title has been out of print for many years. A UK member kindly offered to sponsor the re-printing of this edition. Re-published May 2008.

3. Susila Budhi Dharma sung

A UK member has sponsored SPI to make available a DVD mp3 audio disc of Susila Budhi Dharma being sung in Javanese. This was previously archived as a set of 13 cassette tapes – however the quality of these recordings was poor, therefore restoration and enhancement work has been carried out prior to conversion to audio digital files.

4. DVDs

Sales of Bapak's talks and Ibu Rahayu's talks in DVD format (video & mp3) are progressing especially via our website.

CARE SUPPORT PROGRAM REPORT

Rayner Sutherland, Care Support Team Administrator, Canada Rayner@dccnet.com

Subud Emergency Fund and the Bigger Picture: At the Innsbruck Subud World Congress a resolution was passed that allowed for the formation of a body to oversee the caring for of Subud members in need. This body is called the Care Support Program. Currently, this consists of the WSA executive (ISC) chairperson, Garrett Thomson, Rosanna Hille, Kumari Beck and its administrator, Rayner Sutherland. The Care Support Program oversees the work of the Subud Emergency Fund (the new name for the old International Almoners). The Care Support Program also oversees the formation of the soon to be up and running Subud scholarship program called the Subud Education Fund. This program is coordinated by Kumari Beck. She and a small group of experienced Subud educators review and approve scholarship applications from Subud members. In the future, the hope is to have more programs available for Subud members through the Care Support Program.

The Care Support Program members have begun having regular conference calls. This has been helpful and has helped keep us on track.

It was hoped that the Subud Education Fund would have been operational, or close to it, by now, but this hasn't been possible. Soon, though, this scholarship type of program will be available and announced as such to the membership.

The focus between now and the upcoming Subud World Congress is to have the Subud Education Fund fully operational and to have provided at least two scholarships; to get our Care Support Program website up and running; to have a new Care Support Program virtual office up and running; to participate with SDI and other Subud bodies in more effectively supporting our Subud members in the Congo; and to possibly bring on one or more new members to the Care Support Program.

The WSA Executive/ISC has begun work on creating a new website for the various funded bodies of the World Subud Association. As part of this larger website, the Care Support Program will have its own web page. This will inform members about the Subud Emergency Fund and the Subud Education Fund, how to apply for assistance to either program and what the eligibility criteria are. Members will also be able to download applications for either program.

The Subud Emergency Fund already has a virtual office using Google mail. This has been very helpful, especially since the committee is split between Vancouver and Montreal. Roger van der Matten is putting

together a virtual office for the WSA Executive/ISC, and the Care Support Program will have its own virtual office within this larger one.

The rest of this report is about the Subud Emergency Fund since this is the only program under the Care Support Program that is fully operational at this time.

Set-up of the Subud Emergency Fund: Whenever a Subud member in need can't be adequately supported by his or her country's government and non-government programs, that member may apply to the Subud Emergency Fund for support. Also, if a member lives in a country that has a Subud national assistance program, but his or her need exceeds the capacity of that member's national assistance program, then that member may apply to the Subud Emergency Fund for assistance.

There are roughly three separate phases to handling a request for help and each phase is dealt with by a fairly distinct part of the Subud Emergency Team. Initial contact with the Subud Emergency Team is usually made with the three-person committee. This committee portion of the Subud Emergency Fund reviews all of the requests for help and decides when an application is valid and complete and ready for the helpers to test about. The second phase of handling a members' request involves the helpers' dewan of the Subud Emergency Fund conducting all of the testing about a member's request. The final stage involves the Subud Emergency Fund treasurer disbursing the money.

Initial Stage: Three-Person Committee Dealing with a Request for Support: The bulk of the work involved in processing a member's request for help is done in this first stage. Often, requests for help come in as informal e-mails from national or international helpers on behalf of a member in need. Often, there isn't adequate information at that time to know if a request is valid. For a request to be valid it must be: (1) on behalf of an active Subud member or his or her dependent child or spouse; (2) for something that the Subud Emergency Fund covers; (3) and has already been positively pre-tested by that country's local, regional or national helpers (or the international helpers if there are no helpers in that country). An actual application also needs to be completed. The application provides detail of the person's circumstances and what the particular request is for. An amount is also requested based on the need. Often the amount requested seems larger than necessary and this has to be clarified. Communication with our contacts in some countries or with the member in need directly is problematic and sometimes requires an actual phone call to make contact. In some countries, transportation (?) to an internet café is quite difficult and the cost is very high. Faxes in some countries can also be very high.

A fair bit of work goes into ensuring that all of the necessary background information is collected. We then thoroughly discuss whether or not an application is ready for testing. The helpers need to have sufficient context and details to be able to properly test for someone, particularly since the request is for a member in a distant country that the helpers often know very little about.

Besides being the administrator for the overall Care Support Program, Rayner Sutherland is also the coordinator for the Subud Emergency Fund. The Subud Emergency Fund Deputy and Secretary roles are shared by Ruth Thomas and Maksum Gonzalez. They are married to each other and live in Montreal. Ruth is fluent in French and Spanish. Maksum originates from Colombia and is fluent in Spanish and can speak French. It is very useful to have members on the team who speak Spanish and French since most of the applications come in one of these two languages (i.e. either from South America, typically Colombia, or from Africa). Ruth is also the sister of Virginia Thomas, who also lives in Montreal and who is the Executive Director of S.D.I. This makes collaborating on certain needs sometimes easier and less formal. Together and through consensus, the three of us decide when a request for help is complete and valid and ready for testing by the helpers.

Second Stage: The SEF Helpers Testing about a Request: We decided to have all of the helpers living in the same area so that in person testing could be done. This has worked well. When an application is deemed ready for testing, the helpers all meet in Vancouver to test together. We have two standard questions that we test for every application. The first question is something to the effect of: “Is it right for the Subud Emergency Fund, at this time, to consider supporting X’s application for assistance?” Once we all agree to proceed further, we test what amount would be right to provide. The amount requested is determined at the time the application is submitted. Typically, the testing question is something to the effect of: “Should the Subud Emergency Fund provide (person’s name) with a grant of (whatever the amount listed in the application states), at this time?” Based on this sharing we decide if the original amount tested is the right amount. If not, then based on our receivings we decide to test another amount. We continue testing amounts until we have a consensus within our women or men dewan regarding a proper amount.

We then meet together as a whole group to share our receivings. Sometimes, we find that both the men and women dewans have received virtually the same, and if so, we confirm the amount that will be sent to the member. This can take just a few minutes. If there is some difference between the men and women’s receivings, then we may decide to test some further questions or another amount. After this second round of testing we come together again to share our results. If one or two of the eight members still receive somewhat differently than the rest (e.g. they receive not to provide a grant at all while the rest all feel quite strongly that we should) then we ask permission of the one or two dissenting helpers to go with the majority. This has never proved to be a problem or to have caused any hurt feelings.

The Third and Final Stage: Disbursing the Money to the Member in Need: The Subud Emergency Fund treasurer is Leonard van Willenswaard, in Rotterdam. Leonard is also the WSA accountant. He has a separate WSA account in Rotterdam used just for SEF matters. The annual budget for the Subud Emergency Fund is \$12,000 (U.S.).

Once the helpers have agreed to provide a member a grant, a SEF committee person e-mails Leonard the completed application. This application includes all of the personal banking information necessary to transfer the funds. Typically, though, the funds are transferred via Western Union. The cost for transferring funds this way is a bit higher, but in some countries this method has proved much more efficient and timely than trying to transfer the money to the person’s bank account.

After Leonard transfers the money from Rotterdam, he receives a reference number or code. This code is then passed on to the member via e-mail so that the member can quote this reference number when going in to their local Western Union to pick up the money.

The member and/or our national liaison there is supposed to also write back to us at some later date to provide us with a bit of an update. This seldom happens and we don’t push the matter.

Examples of Actual Approved Grants:

From 2006 onwards the Subud Emergency Fund has supported Subud members from a variety of countries who are in real need, and with nowhere else to turn, with one-time financial grants for basic life necessities. Some examples included:

- Supporting a long-time member and his family from being evicted from their place with nowhere else to stay. In some countries, to secure a new place to rent one has to pay up to six months' rent in advance, something that is far beyond the means of some people to do.
- Supporting another member with the funding needed to obtain a badly-needed and life-changing medical operation. The government would not cover the cost, and the cost was far beyond the means of this member. This member has said a number of times that the emotional support he received from the SEF (on behalf of the international Subud membership) has been as important and encouraging as the grant itself.
- Providing the funds for a national committee to re-start their own national assistance program in a country where the basic monthly wage is about \$30 per month. This program has been very successful in the past and has been managed very well. Each group is given a small amount of money to manage themselves in whatever way they feel is needed for the most basic of necessities for their fellow members.
- The SEF participated in and helped to support a very successful fundraising drive to support a long-time Subud member and his/her family in need. The help provided was of great benefit and relieved the member and the family of considerable stress and worry.
- Supporting a member with the cost of tuition to complete his nearly-completed university program. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the member and the family could no longer continue to make the tuition payment. The member was not able to obtain a student loan.
- Supporting a member with the funds needed to repair his home after it was badly damaged in a natural disaster. The children were sleeping in rooms that often had rain pouring into them.
- Supporting a member with the cost of an urgent and potentially life-threatening operation that the government would not cover.
- Providing a member with the cost of ongoing medication to treat an illness that the government did not cover and which was badly needed.

Typical Needs that are Covered by the Subud Emergency Fund

Assistance is typically a one-time grant to relieve a temporary but urgent need that cannot be met elsewhere. Such needs would include the following, although any reasonable request would be considered:

- Emergency medical and nursing costs
- Emergency travel costs for compassionate reasons
- Unavoidable debt for essential services or utilities
- Child care costs arising from illness or incapacity of the parents
- Payment of fees necessary to complete training or avoid loss of place
- Payment of living and housing expenses due to unforeseen circumstances, including those caused by a natural disaster
- Costs associated with practical support for a member suffering hardship.

Typical Needs Not Covered by the Subud Emergency Fund

Due to limited funds, the following needs cannot be met:

- Loans
- Funding of business enterprises
- Travel/immigration costs for economic reasons
- Long-term support
- Loss of employment
- Repayment of overdrafts
- Legal fees due to personal fault
- Help for non-dependent relatives or friends not in Subud