

## FRENCH NATIONAL CONGRESS, SÉTE 29th of October to the 2nd of November 2008

**Report of IHS: Farah Czwiertnia, Heloise Jackson, Jorge Guerin, Lavasir Nordrum**

A cold breeze blowing, Lavasir and Farah were welcomed in the middle of Montpellier by a smiling Lilliane, Committee Councillor of Subud France. Without taking even a minute's pause from the chatter they nearly missed the station and the bus to their hotel in Sète, a little Mediterranean town, where the national congress was taking place. Martin (Netherlands) and Bennet (Belgium), both Kejiwaan Councillors in their respective countries, joined them until dinner was ready.

Thursday, the day of arrival, Jorge and Heloise joined them as well as nearly 100 members from all over France including 20 participants from abroad. Everyone had come to spend this long week-end together in "Le Lazaret" an ideal place situated next to the sea, with its many lovely guest houses and various large and middle rooms that could be used for latihan and meetings. Subud France had invited Ibu Ismana and Pak Haryono. We had one very open and relaxed evening where they talked about their lives and what it felt like being a family member of Bapak. Ibu Ismana also gave a great report on the Cita Buana School, in Jakarta that showed everyone, through this example, how to put into practice the gift we all get through the latihan in our daily life. It was very impressive to recognise what abilities one had, as well as being ready to give one's strength and qualities to a project such as this school that was enabling young pupils to get an excellent apprenticeship.

A latihan with all the national helpers gave us a good start to the meetings. The ladies went on with some testing about their roles at the congress. All of us were shown the immense gift of doing this work and we felt a deep inner connection to each other. This would accompany us throughout the whole congress. In the evening all the national helpers and the Kejiwaan Councillors from abroad, men and women, met to discuss the programme enabling us to make a good start for the kejiwaan meetings the next 2 mornings. Ibu Ismana shared with us how important it is to be correctly prepared to receive the latihan and tested with us "May God show us how to prepare for latihan?" She added that we c  
*Immanuel Bryson-Haynes & Ibu Ismana*  
how to prepare for that day?"

Every morning started with Latihan and testing for the council members, followed by the general latihan and some testing. We divided into 6 groups (3 men and 3 women groups) where, for the next 2 mornings, we explored through testing, different themes such as "Subud in our daily life?" "How to prepare ourselves for the day and for the latihan?" "love, respect



and trust?” “the use and influence of the Life Forces” “What is the importance of MSF/ the World Subud Congress in New Zealand for Subud in the World? for France? to name but a few, showing us how to deal with our own daily life and giving us greater inner understanding.

Later that day, we meet with Osanna (WSA Chair), Maya and Reinbrand (zone 3 coordinator) not only to talk about the international organization but also how the next Zone 3 meeting could be done in the best possible way. We also found time to talk over some issues concerning our own International Helper teamwork and our last visits. After dinner a meeting took place, with all the KCs, CCs and some Chairpersons of the countries from Zone 3, where we explored the possibilities for a gathering combined with a Zone 3 meeting sometimes towards the middle of next year. No resolution was made as the process is still ongoing.

There was a helpers meeting attended by at least 40 people. We all shared our experiences about helpers’ work and our own work as IHs, how we see this work? and how we need to focus on particular areas where we see a need arising? It became

*Sonia Faik – Chairlady, Subud France*



evident how important the work of the helpers in the various groups was, and how it was linked to the development of Subud. We talked about how easily we fall into habits whilst doing our work and the need to have more inner awareness of our brothers and sisters. Through lack of time or through not really being aware of each other, the feeling of respect and care can easily be missed. A helpers’ meeting for a whole weekend would be very helpful and would allow deepening our work as helpers.

There was also another meeting, at the same time, about enterprises in Subud. Osanna attended and wrote a report of her impressions. It was a shame many couldn’t attend, showing we needed even more time than one week-end!

The AGM which was held in the late afternoon was attended by many people. It was very lively and gave us a glimpse of how active Subud France is.

On Saturday evening some helpers attended a meeting organised by the Youth for the Youth. There were nearly 30 youngsters, some opened, and others not yet. Many questions and topics were discussed, among them: Talents; “how to find out ones own talent / qualities?” Later that evening, a newly opened French girl found the testing on this subject very helpful and strengthening.

There were other discussions on “helper testing about talents on behalf of youngsters who were not yet opened?” initiatives put in place allowing the young to go to the next World Congress, How to strengthen the relationship between the young people themselves? On this subject it was very clear through the experience many had acquired at the meeting held in La Source last summer that they had felt a strong bond between them giving them the strength and trust to do latihan. It is very important for them to go on with such meetings on a regular basis. Many of them will go to the "New year Jamboree" at La Source, where Leonard and Melinda Lasalle will be supporting them as helpers. It seems that this inner need for sharing, doing latihan together and enjoying being together is very much alive and a wonderful base for trust, love and respect for each other. During that meeting we could not feel any barrier between them and us, older members. The general feeling was just very open and natural. Out of these meetings, action will surely come, without a doubt.

Sunday morning, the international officers were not only asked to report on WSA in general but also on the upcoming World Congress in New Zealand. Questions were asked and answered in a very satisfying and helpful way. Finally, Ibu Ismana gave a brief report on MSF which was very much appreciated as it gave everyone an understanding of what this foundation is.

With a last latihan the congress ended. There was a real feeling of love and gratitude between us all. Thank you Subud France for that wonderful opportunity to be with you.

Farah, Heloise, Jorge and Lavasir