

Hello everyone,

My name is Rayner Sutherland and I was recently appointed CEO of the Muhammad Subuh Foundation (MSF). As of yesterday we have a number of new trustees so I would like to quickly introduce you to these new trustees as well as our continuing trustees. Let me start with our continuing trustees and in particular our outgoing chairlady, Olvia Reksodipoetro. Olvia lives in Indonesia and under her leadership the trustees and staff have worked hard to become more professional, accountable and transparent in how the Foundation is run. Next is Ibu Ismana from Indonesia. Also living in Indonesia but from the United States is Hannah Baerveldt. Our new trustees are:

- (1) Samuel Simonsson from Spain. I'm very happy to announce that Samuel is the new chairperson for MSF. As you know Samuel has just finished his term as treasurer for the WSA Executive.
- (2) Lawrence Fryer from Germany. Lawrence is currently both a trustee and treasurer for SDIA, as well as assisting Subud Germany, Susila Dharma Germany and the zone 4 with their finances. He is the new MSF treasurer.
- (3) Shyam Wadhwa from India. Shyam has twice been National Chair of India and has served the members of India in other key national roles. Shyam has also held numerous senior management roles in key corporations and other organizations in India

Lillian Shulman, from the United States, is our administrator. After serving MSF for many years our accountant and trustee Leonard van Willenswaard from the Netherlands will not be continuing on and a new accountant Elwyn Waugh from Britain will be taking over in the coming few months. Leonard will be missed very much. I would also like to thank Simone Paige. Simone's term as MSF trustee just finished. She played a key role in helping to establish an MSF Investment Advisory Team and to work with these investment advisors to establish MSF's Investment Policy Statement. Thankfully she has agreed to remain on as an MSF National Liaison for the U.S. I'd also like to thank Dahlan Foah whose term also just finished. Dahlan brought investment expertise to the Board.

Almost 20 years ago the Muhammad Subuh Foundation was established by the World Subud Association at the initiative of Varindra Vittachi and others to serve as the repository for bequests and endowments left to Subud. Established as an independent non-profit foundation, registered in the United States, MSF has slowly but surely been moving forward in trying to build a foundation capable of providing the financial resources to fund the long-term needs of our Subud Association for the generations who will follow us.

It is not the purpose of MSF to fund day-to-day operations of our various organizations or projects; for this we have the World Subud Association or WSA and its

affiliates to address these more immediate needs. MSF supports projects and programs which endeavor to establish long-term benefits for our members such as the acquisition of Subud centers around the world, the international archives, the translations of Bapak's talks, support for the spiritual work of the international helpers through their travels to groups throughout the world, caring for Subud members in real need through the WSA Care Support Program, providing scholarships, capacity-building to make all our organizations and affiliates stronger, and so on. In the future, we hope MSF will, among others, also be in a position to support the work of Susila Dharma International Association in the creation of hospitals, schools, homes for the elderly and many other worthwhile social investments.

To-date, 33 trustees have served on the Board of MSF. What has been achieved so far is a credit to their efforts and their work has provided the current Board with a solid foundation upon which to move forward. However, despite its years, MSF is still in its infancy. Much work is still needed to bring us in line and on par with other reputable foundations in the world.

The board is aware that it needs to work hard to further improve its governance, transparency, accountability, and communications. To achieve these improvements we strive to meet the highest standards of integrity, trustworthiness, and dependability that other reputable foundations are able to achieve. We need to look at these other well-established foundations and to apply their good, time-tested, common-sense practices to our own foundation. By studying the success of other foundations, we are learning how to improve our fundraising, supervision of grants, investment policies, communications, self-evaluations and the cooperative implementation of our plans. While we look to these other foundations to learn how to improve our operations we do not lose sight of the fact that we must also rely on our inner guidance as we seek to grow and strengthen MSF. The MSF team of trustees, staff, financial advisors, national liaisons, translators and volunteers set ourselves the challenge of becoming as good as, if not better than, these other foundations.

In comparison to most other international organizations, our Subud Association is still very small and our financial capacity is limited. Therefore, MSF is concerned with capacity-building for our various Subud entities. Strengthening our various organizations will enable our Subud Association to become stronger for the future. To build our capacity, however, it is not only money which is needed, but also knowledge and hard work. MSF is creating a plan to work closely with other Subud organizations in order to share practical advice and the experience of mutual capacity building strategies. In this way we hope that our collective effort will proceed more efficiently and gain strength as we all take responsibility for our unified work.

We have, in our Subud Association, organizations which can provide services to society in general and therefore could be of interest to donors from outside Subud. Susila Dharma International Association and its social projects already do some of this, the Subud International Cultural Association, with its talented members, and the Subud

Youth Association, with their energy and vision, could all become worthy of funding from the general public. MSF would like to work with these entities on this so that together we can expand our opportunities to grow.

MSF will also be seeking the active support from our members who own successful enterprises. While there have been some very generous enterprise supporters of MSF over the years, the amount of funds MSF receives from enterprises is still small relative to funding from individual donors and those leaving bequests. MSF wants to gain the trust and confidence of our Subud business people and for them to know their contributions will be prudently managed and invested and that MSF will always strive for the highest standards of excellence.

For the next four years, MSF would like to work together with you to:

- Ensure that any funds provided to MSF by way of a voluntary bequest, enterprise contribution or donation will be managed prudently and professionally.
- Invest funds wisely and responsibly in projects with long term benefits and potential
- Improve our organizational relationships with one another;
- Strengthen the capacity of our collective organizations in governance, transparency and effectiveness;
- Assist those organizations which can be of public service to attract outside funding to make it a reality;

Our Subud association is essentially an association of volunteers. MSF is no different, all financial donations and grants are given voluntarily and we rely heavily on a team of honorary trustees and volunteers to augment our three part-time staff members. We are extremely grateful for the dedication, willingness and hard work of our staff, the numerous MSF national liaisons, our financial advisors, our translators and volunteers. We are also equally grateful for the support of the international helpers who work alongside us in support of our efforts.

On Thursday January 14th from 2:30-4:00 over in the Salvation Army building MSF will be giving a presentation and we invite you all to attend. Over the next few days we will be thanking specific supporters of MSF with a lapel pin which has been hand-engraved with the words "Muhammad Subuh Foundation". We will be encouraging these supporters to come forward at our presentation to say a few words about why they felt moved to work for MSF and/or donate to MSF.

At this same presentation each of the 33 groups that over the years have received partial or full funding for their Subud center will be presented with a commemorative plaque to put up in their foyer or entrance. The plaque has the Subud symbol at the top and says: "With Gratitude to Almighty God for the Establishment of this Subud Center" and then at the bottom says "Muhammad Subuh Foundation...Promoting the Aims of Subud for a Better World." The wording on the plaques has been translated into the relevant language for each group.

It is hard to imagine how a Subud group can really grow and establish itself in its home community without a Subud center of their own where they can freely do latihan together, come together as a group to share and plan activities, where applicants can be properly greeted and where the public as a whole can interact with Subud members. While some countries have understandably started their own endowment funds it is hoped that their National Committees and members will still feel moved to remember MSF so that those groups in other countries without these same resources can also benefit from having a Subud center of their own. Being able to support each other in obtaining a Subud center is something we all no doubt consider important and essential. MSF could not do this on your behalf without your continued support. So, again please come and share in this experience with us on Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>.

I would like to get back to the awarding of the MSF engraved lapel pins for a moment. As we would like to take this opportunity of having all of you present here to present one of these pins right now. MSF has only ever had two life-time trustees. One was Varindra Vittachi and the other is Ibu Rahayu. Olvia will present Ibu Rahayu with this special version of the gold plated MSF engraved lapel pin.

We would like to very sincerely thank ALL of you who have supported MSF over the years. Highlighting the contribution or donation of a select few people runs the risk of failing to acknowledge the very valuable contribution of others. It means every bit as much to MSF and the trustees and perhaps even more when someone of limited means provides a small donation to MSF as it does when MSF receives a very large donation from a Subud member who is better off. We would also like to particularly thank those of you who dedicated a portion of your proceeds from the sale of PT S Widjojo. Such PT S Widjojo contributions truly assisted MSF in its work.

We are very grateful to each of you for your support in so many ways. In turn, the Muhammad Subuh Foundation wishes to support you and your efforts to make our Subud Association strong.

Let us all work closely together so that we can build something truly significant and meaningful for Subud and society in general.

Thank you everyone.