

## **Indonesian Youth Attend the Australian Congress**

This year MSF and ISC, together with the SYIA international coordinators, created the International Youth Travel Fund (IYTF), a travel fund for the youth to give them the opportunity to experience the latihan and working within the larger Subud world. Rhyana Blakeley and Hamilton Manley, the International Youth Coordinators, agreed to actively promote fundraising with young Subud members who would share their experience of fundraising to support young peoples' initiatives and to replenish this fund.

Two young people from Semarang in Indonesia were sponsored by Subud Australia and the IYTF fund to attend the Australian Congress. This was after the international helpers had visited Indonesia and felt the benefits that such a visit might bring between Australian and Indonesian members.

Asmaniah Fraval, international helper from Australia has forwarded comments from Yuli and Andrini, the two Indonesian young people who wrote on their experience of the Australian congress in January. (A fuller article by both Andrini and Yuli will be out soon.)

Andrini: January 17<sup>th</sup>: It's my pleasure to meet with Subud family. . . doing latihan together and sharing with each other. God gives me a lot of good experiences, opportunities and beautiful gifts. . . I express my gratitude to Allah, just saying deep in my heart thanks God, latihan and trying to be a good human being. This is a memorable journey for me – I will always remember in my life.

Yuli: January 30<sup>th</sup>: Sometime I feel longing for Australia. Everytime I look back on my time in Australia, I keep believing that it is a magic land. Every face I saw was good looking face and every place was a beautiful one. Australia reminds me about elves city and the hospitality of the hobbit of shire in J. R.R. Tolkien's book.

Asmaniah writes: this sponsorship has broadened their experience of Subud and also that of other members of their group. They have experienced first hand that despite cultural and religious differences the essence of the latihan experience is the same, whether we do it in a hall or a marquee, are smartly or casually dressed. This is something many of us have experienced during our travels but for someone who has not been outside their country, it is quite profound. They have talked and shared about many aspects of Subud life with people in Australia who have grown up in a very different Subud and cultural environment, eg in Indonesia the cultural respect for older people still permeates group life, so it is the older people who are the helpers who may give advice rather than sharing in some testing, whereas in Australia there are many young helpers and the culture is to find out and understand for oneself. From contacts made during their visit, there is even the possibility of an enterprise link between one of the members in Semarang and an established enterprise in Australia: the Australian members are visiting Semarang in March to follow up on this. Everything points to a very worthwhile outcome.