

Board Meeting in Bangalore

This was the first official meeting of the Foundation after the World Congress in Innsbruck where the composition of the Board was drastically changed, and so the first opportunity for the Trustees to spend a number of days together and lay the fundamentals for our co-operation in the years to come. Unfortunately Rusdi Bustillo and Wayne Lerrigo could not attend, and Osanna Vaughn was completely absorbed in the proceedings of the World Subud Council, but nonetheless the five Trustees present succeeded in dealing with an extensive agenda.

One of the main topics of the agenda was the relationship between the World Subud Association, and specifically the World Subud Council, and the Muhammad Subuh Foundation. Because of the continuous financial shortages of WSA/ISC a strong tendency had come up in recent years to consider MSF as just the financial arm of WSA, where MSF's first priority was to fund the WSA/ISC organization with MSF basically following WSA/ISC guidelines and instructions. MSF Trustees, with history and the MSF bylaws in mind, felt very reluctant to follow this pattern, as they consider that both bodies need to cooperate closely but, rather than one body being subordinated to the other, the two should supplement each other. Testing with the international helpers strengthened that feeling, and it is now up to both parties to make that cooperation concrete.

The Foundation has at present an amount of US\$ 235,000 in temporarily restricted funds for support to Subud Houses and Centres, thanks to some considerable donations in previous years. However, no substantial projects have received funding in the recent years, and this might lead to a tendency to just spend money on whatever project might come in. But the Trustees felt that one of their most important tasks was actually to stick to their due diligence procedures and make sure that if they decide to provide support chances for a good result are optimum, even if a procedure thereby might ask for more patience.

There are a number of issues playing at present:

1. Chennai (formerly Madras). Discussions have been going on for quite a while, but until the meeting no real agreement could be reached on the scope and size of the project. At the Bangalore meeting a good number of Chennai members were present and this gave the opportunity to have discussions with the people who actually will have to carry out the project. Some ambitions were shelved, the organization was greatly simplified and made much more direct, and this created a new élan which hopefully will result in a good proposal in the next few months.
2. Africa. There is a general feeling among the Trustees that support for Subud houses in Africa is badly needed. The down side is that the local situation often lacks transparency and cultural differences tend to create confusion. The Area 2 International Helpers are planning a visit to this continent before the end of the year, and it is hoped that with their help and insights we can make the necessary progress with plans. There are initiatives in Kinshasa and Matadi in DR Congo, in Congo Brazzaville and possibly Angola.
3. Latin America. On the table is a proposal from Amanecer to expand and improve the sports facilities of the Centre (swimming pool and sports hall) to attract more tourism and so to create additional income. Also from Colombia is a proposal for extension of the Subud House in Cali, where one of the most active and growing groups of the country has its base. In Ecuador the house in Quevedo will be sold as all the members of that group have moved to other destinations. To buy

another property in Tumbaco, wheremost members are living nowadays, will need an addition to the sales proceeds of the Quevedo house. For all three projects the Trustees need more information before they can take a decision.

4. Vietnam. After years of inconclusive discussions members in and outside Vietnam have now reached an agreement on a central house in Ho Chi Minh City. There are still legal complications, but there is a justified hope that all the efforts of the past years will pay off fairly soon.

5. The Big House in Cilandak, managed for MSF by the Yayasan Muhammad Subuh, and still housing the Cita Buana School for another year, will have to change its electrical system (as will much of the rest of the Wisma Subud).

The Yayasan may apply to MSF for support of this operation, but at the time it is still unclear what amounts we are talking of and whether MSF support will really be needed.

6. MSF is now one of the patrons (founders) of the Yayasan Subud, the body responsible for the management of the Cilandak compound. Discussions are going on about the future of the compound, and depending on the chosen direction MSF may be asked for support, if only for the certification of certain parts of the land of which the status at present is unclear.

The Trustees agreed with the Council members that MSF would continue funding the WSA long term projects (translating Bapak's talks, Archives, Tape Preservation Unit, History of Subud) on more or less the same basis as in previous years. Also support for the International Almoners will be continued.

The Trustees put US\$ 20,000 into a new Youth Support Fund, intended to help foster various initiatives of young people (but not to replace funding from WSA). There were exchanges with SDIA and the Wings Forum, which were aimed at closer cooperation but did not yet lead to concrete support as SDIA seems to be in some kind of transitional stage at the moment and proposals of the Forum were not yet sufficiently developed.

There were extensive discussions about the Clean Water project for Kingantoko in the D.R. Congo; a final decision on MSF support for that will only be taken after an SDIA team of experts has evaluated the project and the preliminary decision of the European Union - which would be funding 75% of the project - is known.

Together with the Care Support Team MSF is - again investigating the possibilities for a scholarship fund, but a lot of work still has to be done on that.

This, of course is just a nutshell, but full minutes of the meeting are on the website as are the audited financial report over 2005, as approved at the meeting.

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