



### THE SUSILA DHARMA GATHERING

## Harmony and results



*Spontaneous dancing between visitors and project beneficiaries in Bandung summed up the spirit of the 2013 Susila Dharma Conference. Social work is not only a duty, it is a joy.*

*Harris Smart writes...* The Susila Dharma International (SDIA) Conference and AGM was held from August 18-25 at Club Bali in Cipanas, Indonesia. Club Bali is a time share hotel and resort owned by Ruslan Morris who made the facility available at almost no cost to the Conference participants.

Participants paid only US\$15 per day for food, accommodation and the use of conference and recreational facilities. It was an example of what Bapak said was supposed to happen. People set up successful enterprises which can then support the work of the Subud organisation.

Cipanas is located in the mountains about 3-7 hours drive (depending on the traffic!) from Jakarta. Club Bali is located on a hill high above a large complex of holiday homes most of whose owners have let their architectural imaginations run riot in a Disneyland extravaganza where >

imitation Canadian log cabins rub shoulders with Javanese pendopo fantasies and various other visionary forays.

Club Bali itself provided an excellent venue. We had the place practically to ourselves; it was quiet, away from the heat, traffic and turmoil of Jakarta. The accommodation, food, facilities for meetings and opportunities for relaxation (swimming pool!) were all of a very good standard.

More than 70 people attended the meeting. They included the board and staff of SDIA, Susila Dharma National organisations, project representatives, International helpers and observers. The Indonesian SD National and projects such as YUM, YTS and BCU School were particularly well-represented by large numbers of their staff.

Most people arrived on Sunday August 18 and that day was taken up with checking in, an opening ceremony and a review of the very full agenda. Right from the start it was clear that SDIA had arranged an extremely well-organised meeting including a wide variety of activities with many presentations from projects and SD Nationals, workshops and visits to local projects.

Themes for the conference were announced as Capacity Building and Learning from Each other. The meeting was extremely happy and harmonious including many joyous moments (ecstatic dancing!).

At the same time the meeting was directed to achieving specific and tangible outcomes, particularly in the area of forming new partnerships, some of which will surely bear fruit in increased fund-raising and new and expanded activities in the months and years to come.

Large Subud organisational gatherings are sometimes criticised.. Wouldn't it be better to spend all the money it cost to bring all these people together by using it in projects? My feeling and personal experience was that this meeting was investment rather than just expenditure and it will pay for itself many times over in measurable ways by the concrete development of the SDIA network, its organisation and its projects.

Above all the gathering showed me that Susila Dharma is an open, welcoming, exuberant and loving family within the larger family of Subud. Far from being dutiful drudgery, Susila Dharma is a joyous, life-enhancing opportunity for personal development. It is an amplifying expression of the latihan, an invitation to express Subud in the world offering participants immeasurable benefits in becoming happier and more productive people.

As we know, the philosopher Descartes spent a great deal of time and energy to come up with a fundamental and irrefutable axiom of human existence. He arrived at the cogito ergo sum, "I think, therefore I am".

The famous peace and environmental activist, Satish Kumar, founder of Resurgence magazine, who has been quietly setting a Global Agenda for change for over 50 years, revised the cogito to become "You are, therefore I am". This was the spirit I found at the Susila Dharma gathering. >

“  
You are,  
therefore  
I am  
”



*Children at the YUM project in Indonesia, one of the projects visited during the Conference.*



*Club Bali in Cipanas, venue for the Conference. Ruslan Morris, the owner of this time share hotel and resort, gave it to Conference participants at almost no cost.*

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The pursuit of happiness, a fundamental aim of all beings, can never be totally fulfilled by an individual alone. It is not a solitary enterprise, but can only be achieved in communion, partnership and action with others.

*This supplement to Subud Voice is devoted to recording this marvellous gathering...*

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## What is Susila Dharma?

Before talking about what happened at this particular meeting, it seems like a good idea to provide an overview of Susila Dharma as it has evolved up until this time.

Bapak's earliest talks after he arrived in England in 1957 contain many references to the need for Subud members to engage in social and humanitarian works. He mentioned the need to create projects such as schools, hospitals and old people's homes.

And indeed, within a few years there were pioneering social projects, particularly in England. Brookhurst Grange was set up to care for people with serious illnesses such as cancer and attracted people from all around the world as news of Subud spread. Watcombe House addressed the needs of delinquent teen-agers.

In the 1970s Fountain House created Wisma Mulia, a home for elderly people in the west of England. Fountain House went to create other projects including a home for children with severe handicaps and another for adults with handicaps.

An umbrella organisation was first formed in 1968 to coordinate Subud social projects, and then at the Anugraha World Congress in 1983, Susila Dharma was set up with Wilbert Verhayen, a former Franciscan priest who had inaugurated health and other projects in Indonesia, as the first chairperson.

Wilbert's work was continued by Professor Rukman Hundeide, a Norwegian psychologist who initiated ICDP (the International Child Development Program) designed to improve the relationships between children and their carers. This has become one of Subud's most successful social projects and has been implemented in many countries around the world in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

By the end of the century many more projects had been created and Susila Dharma had been set up as a professional organisation with a permanent office in Vancouver. The objectives of the organisation have been increasingly refined and informed by both the Subud experience and the professional literature and practice.

The Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) is now a respected NGO, a participatory democratic organisation with a strong board and professional staff. Its members are 28 national Susila Dharma organisations with associate members of 38 projects. It actually relates to many other grassroots Subud projects which for reasons of size or their stage of development have not yet applied for associate membership.

As well as its affiliation with the World Subud Association, it has consultative status with the United National Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF). It has projects in the fields of education, health, community development and environmental sustainability in many countries on every continent. It has attracted substantial >



*Mithra, an SD educational project in India.*

*For human beings to reach their full potential, basic needs must be fulfilled.*

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funding from both within and without Subud with a turnover of US\$ 920,000 in 2012.

It is informed by the vision that “For human beings to reach their full potential, certain basic needs must be fulfilled. Children need a good education. Communities need access to healthcare and economic opportunities, and environmental issues need to be addressed to ensure sustainable living in the future”.

SDIA builds the capacity of its members to develop and sustain their organisations and projects. It provides training and coordinates technical, financial and human resources. It builds connections with donors and provides communication and information sharing services.

The current Chairperson is Kumari Beck who is an Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education at Simon Fraser University in BC, Canada.

For more information about Susila Dharma go to [www.susiladharm.org](http://www.susiladharm.org)

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## Partnerships!



*More than 70 people attended the SDIA Gathering and AGM in Indonesia. One emphasis at the meeting was on forming partnerships to produce tangible results.*

It was appropriate that the Conference began with a session on partnerships since they are at the root of Susila Dharma's work in development. SDIA is in partnership with the national SD organisations; the international and national bodies are in partnership with projects around the world; all these are in partnership with beneficiaries, donors and sponsors.

Therefore, it was appropriate that the business of the SDI meeting should begin with a session on partnerships. Four members of the SD network talked from their different perspectives about creating successful partnership.

In southern India Gopi (Gopinathan Parakuni) has founded the project Ashoka which works with disadvantaged tribal people and women workers for multinational corporations. He identified four aspects of successful partnerships.

**Meeting expectations.** Partners must understand and meet each other's expectations.

**Self-knowledge.** Do we objectively understand our own strengths and weaknesses?

**Communication.** How willing are we to truly communicate openly?

**Dealing with conflict.** Are we willing to acknowledge misunderstandings and conflicts which inevitably arise and work through them, having the courage to go forward? Can we accept that sometimes things don't work out and a parting of the ways may be good? >

Viktor Boehm is the chair of SD Germany which has an annual turnover of 300,000 Euros and supports projects in Latin America, Asia and Africa as well as Germany. He stressed the need for communication and precise reporting.

Kartie Vitamerry is Information and Communications Officer with YTS which runs a number of community development projects in Kalimantan including 23 villages on the remote Upper Kahayan River and another 7 villages in the Bukit Batu area near Rungan Sari. Factors she identified for successful partnerships were:



*Kartie Vitamerry, Information and Communications officer with YTS, spoke about partnerships from the perspective of a project.*

**Trust.** The need for an approach based on trust between equal partners.

**Communication.** The need for communication in both quantity and quality to communicate visions and objectives and resolve misunderstandings.

**Understanding.** A clear mutual understanding of each other's roles, perspectives and objectives.

Kohar Parra is on the board of SDIA and is also involved in an organisation in the USA which brings together a number of religious organisations, Christian, Islamic and Jewish. He described how this organisation "built up out of many organisations" works with underprivileged groups in the community such as immigrants to address social needs such as health care. He emphasised the need for partners to know and understand each other and build real and complementary relationships.

The session provided converging understandings from the perspectives of SD board members, national organisations and project leaders. It defined fundamentals of successful partnership in trust, communication, equality and the give-and-take of real relationships.

“ Trust, communication, equality and the give-and-take of real relationships. ”

## Rights-based Advocacy

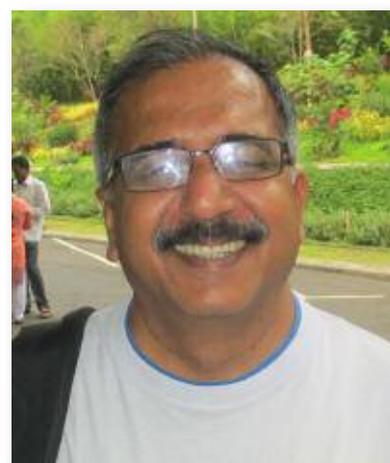
The partnerships session was followed by a presentation and workshop by Gopi around the theme of advocacy, assisting others to obtain their rights.

Sometimes we think of Susila Dharma as being about "charity" in the traditional sense where the more prosperous give to those in need, but in this session Gopi talked about advocacy as a sustainable path to social action and human development, empowering communities to access better health, knowledge and livelihoods.

He analysed how three driving forces in society – the state, the market and the civil society - can co-operate (rather than contend) to make human life safe, meaningful and creative. There is also a responsibility to make the natural environment sustainable for future generations.

The presentation was followed by a workshop. We divided up into small groups each of which considered a case study involving the need for advocacy.

The group in which I participated examined a scenario where >



*Gopinathan Parakuni (Gopi) founded the Ashoka project in India which works with tribal people and women workers for multinational companies.*

a multinational corporation (the market) obtains rights from local government (the state) to access water resources to the disadvantage of the local community (civil society).

In what ways can the community protest and assert its rights? We talked about potential actions such as boycotts and media campaigns to bring about a just distribution of rights.

I was very excited and inspired by this session and it confirmed for me that Susila Dharma is really broad in its approach and absolutely attuned to contemporary understanding and practice. As Chair of SD Australia, I have invited Gopi to come to our next Subud Australia Congress where I am sure his presence will broaden our understanding and inspire action.

“ How can people be helped to obtain their rights? ”

## Training and Education

The third day of the Conference began with a presentation by Dino Mikha who is the Training Officer with Yayasan Usaha Mulia. How to build capacity for both staff and beneficiaries in projects? Dino described his work in developing a human Resource Development Program to deliver skills and knowledge to a wide range of “stakeholders” in the YTS projects including villagers and local government as well as SD staff.

The next session was about the Indian project, Anisha, presented by Valli Krishnamurti who runs the project with her husband Rajan and her team. Anisha began as an urban project in Bangalore but is now working entirely in a rural area.

Now it is an organic agriculture project working with farmers in Matahalli. It is funded by SD Germany, BMZ and others in the SD network. The project is working towards a return to organic agriculture in the region to ensure sustainable livelihoods and to protect the environment.

Jayadi Paembonan then presented PowerPoint about this work at Anisha. Jayadi, originally from Indonesia, now lives in Australia where he has been studying Permaculture.

Permaculture, originally developed in Australia, is a design system based on ecological >



*Valli Krishnaswamy runs the Anisha project in India.*



*Jayadi Paembonan, originally from Indonesia and now living in Australia, has been a volunteer at Anisha, teaching permaculture.*



*They would like him to come back to consolidate and extend the permaculture program.*

principles."Consciously designed landscapes which mimic the patterns and relationships found in nature, while yielding an abundance of food, fibre and energy for provision of local needs. People, their buildings and the ways in which they organise themselves are central to permaculture. Thus the permaculture vision of permanent or sustainable agriculture has evolved to one of permanent or sustainable culture."

Jayadi first went on a short visit to Anisha as part of a Human Forces Camp. He returned from several months during which time he was able to apply permaculture principles to many aspects of Anisha's operations such as water conservation and growing kitchen gardens. Anisha hopes that Jayadi will be able to return to Anisha to consolidate and continue this work.

## BCU School

There was also a presentation from the well-known Bina Cita Utama (BCU) School in Central Kalimantan. In just a few years this National Plus School has grown from a home study program for a handful of expat kids, to a respected local school which now has 130 students at the premises in Rungan Sari. The presentation was by Sati Soesetyo who is now the General Manager at the school.

I was fortunate enough to be a volunteer teacher at the school.

What a great experience it was! One cannot speak too highly of this school and the people who created and maintain it. It was a most uplifting and life-enhancing experience for me personally.



*BCU School in Central Kalimantan has grown from a home school for expats to a National-Plus School with 130 pupils.*

“ Developing people's capacities... ”

## In the Congo

The afternoon session brought a survey of Susila Dharma projects all around the world. The presentation was begun by SDIA Chair, Kumari Beck, who talked about SD's work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC).

SD has been working in the Congo for more than 20 years and has encountered many challenges as a result of conditions in the country. The UN currently rates it as the lowest country in the world in terms of positive life indicators.

Kumari describes how SD's approach has moved from a >



*Susila Dharma community health clinic in the Congo.*

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“missionary” attitude which can lead beneficiaries to become dependent, to an attitude of empowerment. SD’s work in the Congo has been able to expand in recent years due to a partnership with the Buchan Foundation in Canada.

An article by Virginia Thomas, SDIA Director, happened to be noticed by the Buchan Foundation who then approached SDIA offering substantial financial assistance to develop projects in the Congo. This has led to the creation of several health clinics which has greatly lifted the standard of health care available to the local community.

Now eleven new Community Health Centres are planned to be built over the next 3 years at a cost of US\$3,700,248 with support from the Buchan Foundation and other bodies

Presentations of more than 25 projects followed about activities in Europe and North and South America. More details about most of these can be found on the SDIA web site where projects are helpfully listed according to geographical area as well as type (Health, Education and so on.) [www.susiladharma.org](http://www.susiladharma.org)

The presentation by Evan Padillo, the SD Chair of the USA and SDIA Board Member, was interesting in that he introduced us to a number of small projects which have not yet applied for affiliate membership of SDIA. It was a reminder of all the grass roots activities that Subud members engage in that are not “officially” included in the network because of their size or stage of development, but are a reflection of Subud members’ commitment to social activity.

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## A Visit to YUM



*Interns at the YUM project. They are teen-agers who come to stay for several months and learn skills such as organic agriculture.*



*A girl at the YUM project. Children come for an after-school program which includes music, art and computer skills.*

After lunch on Tuesday, we went on a field trip to visit the Yayasan Usaha Mulia (YUM) project at Cipanas.

YUM has been working in Indonesia since 1975 to improve the quality of life for Indonesia’s poor. Its mission is to work with communities providing holistic and sustainable support in the >



*Valli from India got down with some of the local boys. Later they entertained us on their bamboo instruments.*



*Organic produce grown here is sold at a good price in Jakarta, contributing to the sustainability of the project.*



*Verra and Desy run the after-school program in arts and crafts.*

YUM, gave an excellent presentation about fundraising. I believe this will be made available on the SDIA him website, [www.susiladharama.org](http://www.susiladharama.org) For more information about YUM go to [www.yumindonesia.org](http://www.yumindonesia.org)

areas of community development, education and health. It now works in Kalimantan as well as Java.

Since 2008 it has been included in the list of Indonesian NGOs by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and in 2011 was granted a one-year membership to the Clinton global initiative (CGI).

Many people will recall the Cipanas project which dates back to the 1970s and originally included the orphanage, the Children's Village, an iconic Subud project which if you didn't know of any other project, you probably knew about the Children's Village.

The Children's Village is gone now because both international and Indonesian policies believe it is no longer appropriate to house children in institutions. Many of the children in the Children's Village were not literally orphans but came from extremely poor families who could not afford to keep them. These children have now been returned to their families and YUM now supports their education and living expenses within their families.

The range of activities at the Cipanas Centre has been expanded. It now includes a Community Development Centre that aims to provide assistance and support to the wider

Cipanas community, helping them to apply the skills and knowledge needed to develop themselves as individuals and supportive family members. Its programs include a Vocational Training Centre, a Community Library, a Sponsorship Program and an Organic Farm and Health Promotional Program.

We were given a tour of the site which enabled us to see it in all its aspects. The tour concluded with dance and music performances by young children, and then Olvia Reksodipoetro, chairperson of

“ One of Subud's longest-running projects dating back to the 70s ”

# Back to the Source

On the morning of the fourth day of the Conference we went to visit Bapak's resting place at Suka Mulia. It seemed very right that we should have this opportunity to pay our respects to Bapak without whom none of us would have been here. Without Bapak, no Susila Dharma, no conference.

At Suka Mulia we were honouring the source of it all. Bapak first received the latihan and also created the framework of the Subud organisation. Bapak gave us the road map, a blueprint for all of life which he left it to us to fill in. And part of the blueprint is social work.

Bapak showed the way by the many references in his talks to the need for social projects and by his own example in the support of projects.

At some point during the visit I heard the words, "The way is open, the path is clear."

“ *The way is open,  
the path is clear...* ”



*Bapak's resting place at Suka Mulia.*



# Project in Bandung



From Suka Mulia we drove to Bandung to visit the Saudara Sejiwa Foundation. This took rather longer than expected (about 6 hours!) because of extraordinarily heavy traffic on the very narrow road to Bandung.

We arrived about four in the afternoon to find that people from the project had been waiting for us since eleven in the morning. They rushed to welcome us, we rushed to greet them. There was a spontaneous coming together which erupted into celebratory dancing with music provided by street musicians associated with the project.

This project was new to me. (SDIA now includes such a range of projects, including new >

*Mother and child at Yayasan Saudara Sejiwa,  
the project we visited in Bandung.  
Amongst other things this project aims to  
eliminate discrimination and  
violence towards women.*



*A group of street musicians associated with the project provided the music.*



*Romina Vianden-Prudent talks with women at the project. (Romina has been Deputy Chair of SDIA and during the Gathering was appointed to the Board.)*



ones, that it is hard to keep up.) Its particular focus is programs designed to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and children. It also runs an emergency team to respond to natural disasters.

For more information go to the SDIA site or [www.saudarasejiwaindonesia.org](http://www.saudarasejiwaindonesia.org)

Alas, we could only stay for a couple of hours because we were going to face horrendous traffic again on the way back. So, many hugs and kisses, the occasional tear and fond farewells. Cross-cultural boundaries had been crossed in joyous celebration.

Relationship had been forged which may have been of brief duration but of intense vibration.

As we left, we found the street outside the project full of people. It seemed the whole neighbourhood had turned out and wanted to be included. So they all had to be hand shook, kissed and hugged too.

Back to Cipanas! Brief stop on the way for dinner at the Pizza hut. (Boy that was an experience, Indonesian pizza.)

The journey home was long but morale was

maintained. I have been on such journeys before where everyone got hot and cross and grumpy in the bus, but no, spirits were high as we sang along to Beatles songs. Particularly lovely harmonies by the ladies on "Hey Jude". Judy Gibbs from New Zealand was on the bus so it became "Hey Judy".

The songs were mixed with taking bets on when we would get home.  
(11 pm, tired but happy.)

“ *Fighting violence and discrimination against women and children.* ”

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# The AGM

On Thursday the 22nd, we held the Annual General Meeting. It went very smoothly thanks to the excellent pre-meeting preparation. I think 19 voting members (that is, chairs of SD National organisations) were present. Possibly a record at an AGM

Main points on the agenda were...

Amending the By-laws. The by-laws were drawn up a long time ago and are now out of touch in many respects with contemporary reality and the way the organisation has developed. The meeting agreed to the amendments that had been presented. They will now go to a lawyer for checking and translation into legalese, before being returned to the members for final approval.

Financial Report: The Annual Report including the Financial Report for the 2012 year was approved. The financial report is available in the Annual Report included on the web site:

[www.susiladharma.org](http://www.susiladharma.org)

Election to the Board. Evan Padillo (SD Chair USA) and Romina Vianden-Prudent, Deputy Chair SDIA) were elected to the Board of SDIA.

Rosanna Hille reported on the new Susila Dharma web site which will soon be launched. ●

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## The YES Quest



*The YES Quest helps young people find their direction in life.*

In the following days there were many more presentations, meetings and discussions. Too much to all be described in detail here, but just to mention two presentations...

Peter Jenkins showed a new, very impressive 45 minute film about the YES Quest. The Quest has been running for about ten years now. It takes young people on an inner and outer journey which helps them define their directions in life.

Another excellent presentation came from the Centre for Culture and Development (CCD) in India. This project began in 1990 with the vision of promoting sustainable livelihoods for poor and vulnerable people in both rural and urban areas of the southern states of India. It has a wide range of activities including organic agriculture and the empowerment of women. ●

# Why has Susila Dharma Been Successful?

Kumari Beck (SDIA Chair) and Rosanna Hille (SDIA Operations Director) were naturally extremely busy during the meeting, but I managed to find a quiet moment with them towards the end where I asked them "Why do you think Susila Dharma has been so successful?"

Rosanna: From the time Subud first appeared in the West, Bapak often spoke about the need for Subud members to engage in social work, to express the results of what they receive in the latihan through projects such as schools, hospitals and old people's homes.

So the idea of Susila Dharma has always been fundamental to Subud. Something has been created which finds its source in Bapak's explanations, and the individual experience and guidance of members,

Kumari: it is also the case that many of the people who are drawn to a spiritual movement like Subud are also people with the wish to make the world a better place and one of the ways this is expressed is by helping other people through social projects.

Rosanna: What we endeavour to do is give shape to this natural impulse. This took on specific organization form at the 1983 Congress when Susila Dharma was set up. It was registered in the USA with its current structure in 1994.

We have created a bottom-up participatory organization. It is not directed from above but builds on a very broad base, channelling the energy of Subud members. We support Subud members to carry out what they perceive to be the needs. We support the people who come to us and we help them build their capacity. Our work proceeds around the needs on the ground.

Kumari: SDIA is a network that is directed by its members, that is, Subud members who are themselves part of national local SD teams, and so the Board and Office team serves the members.

Rosanna: Yes, Susila Dharma was set up as a service organization. We serve the members through a process of consultation as opposed to telling them what to do. The structures we have set up are all driven by this concept. We trust that Subud members can make their own decisions and define their own directions. Through the latihan, we are all equal in this respect. We are all guided.

Kumari: At the same time, of course, we recognize that professional skills are needed to run a professional organization and development itself is a professional field. So we have a board made up of people with professional skills, interests and experience and we have an office staffed by professionals and we try to strengthen people's ability to acquire the skills, be they indigenous local ways of being and knowing, or knowledge and skills learned from others.

Rosanna This guarantees continuity. The board and the executive office maintain a consistent vision and way of working over time. We have established a foundation upon which our work can grow. People know what to expect from us and are able to find ways to contribute which can be accommodated in the framework that has evolved over the years.

Kumari: The members of the organization, the board and the executive office form a democratic framework which protect our fundamental objectives. It is a process of trust and confidence to ensure a shared and consistent vision within which growth is possible. There is also a constant process of monitoring and evaluating our work.

Rosanna: We encourage the idea of starting small with something >



*Rosanna and Kumari*

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*A shared and consistent vision*

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real that can grow organically. Money and size are not the first priorities. What is important is that people identify real needs that are within our capacity to fulfil. Of course, we make mistakes sometimes. This is a constant learning process.

Kumari: Interestingly, things Bapak talked about long ago are now reflected in the professional development literature. For instance, Bapak spoke often of the need to give wisely so that it really achieves good results. And that money can sometimes be like poison. Our aim is to create equal partnerships that empower people, to be in charge of their own decisions and how they want to grow rather than make them dependent.

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## Susila Dharma and Subud

A topic which arose several times during the Conference was the relationship between Susila Dharma and Subud members in need. Sometimes Subud members ask, "What is Susila Dharma doing for us?"

The simple answer is that Susila Dharma's mission is outreach, part of Subud's action in the world. A separate part of the Subud organisation, the CARE Support Team, has been set up to look after the internal needs of Subud members facing situations of need, emergency and crisis. Arnaud Delune, who is both the chair of Susila Dharma France and co-ordinator of the CARE Support team, was present at the Conference.)

One issue that is clear is that the existence and purpose of the CARE Support team is not yet widely understood. It has grown out of what used to be called Almoners, with the aim of providing a more globally organized way of delivering this service to Subud members, but much remains to be done in terms of organisation and information.

In various discussions it became clear that many different situations prevail in many different parts of the world. In some cases it seems that something like the Al-



*Arnaud Delune, both chair of SD France and Co-ordinator of the CARE Support team. In the background, Hannah Baerveldt who is on the Board of YUM.*

“ *What is Susila Dharma doing for us?* ”

moners continues. Some countries have substantial amounts of funds available, while others have none.

The suggestion was made that perhaps Susila Dharma could help the CARE Support team to develop and extend its global network, and make people more aware of it, so that it can better deliver its service to Subud members. ●

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## Last Discussions

On our final day in Cipanas, we met in small groups - people had taken to meeting by the pool - to discuss a range of issues such as SD at World Congress.

I attended two of these including "bringing the news back home", how to convey the facts and the feelings of the Conference. One point that came up is that people often criticise large Subud gatherings because they think the money would be better spent on something else. "You all had a good time," is the complaint. "But what will you do? What are the outcomes?" >



*Meeting by the pool had become de rigueur.*

This Conference had already produced many outcomes in terms of specific actions arising out of new and renewed partnerships. Someone suggested a list of them should be drawn up and SDIA monitor and evaluate their progress.

## Volunteering

I also attended the Volunteers discussion group. Some good and some bad experiences with volunteers were reported by participants. It made it clear that there must be the right fit between volunteers and projects and that expectations on both sides have to be clear.

As an example of what was continually happening at this Conference, I can mention that as a result of this discussion group SD Australia is exploring a partnership with the Clean Water project in Jakarta to bring volunteers to the project for short-term stays. Of course, much has to be worked out, but that is our intention. We have the help and support of Solen Lees, the SDIA Volunteers Co-ordinator.

“*The best Subud meeting I ever went to*”

## The Closing Circle

We all got together again in the afternoon for a “closing circle” in which each person spoke of what the conference had meant to them. I was able to say sincerely, “This is the best Subud meeting I ever went to.”

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# To Wisma Subud



*The latihan hall at Wisma Subud.*



*Memories of this place which has played such an important place in the lives of so many Subud members, such as the 1971 World Congress when 2000 people were accommodated in the compound in bamboo longhouses..*

On Saturday we left Cipanas early and got to Wisma Subud in Jakarta by nine o'clock. For some this was their first visit to Wisma Subud and they had many questions. Others were "old hands" and had many memories.

The compound has changed of course. The latihan hall is still there and regularly used by the South Jakarta group and for Subud meetings but the houses in the compound are now almost all owned by people who are not in Subud. Bapak's "big house" is still there, but has of course been developed into Adi Puri, a Subud information and display centre.

As with the visit to Suka Mulia, it was good to touch base with this place which has played such an important part in the lives of many Subud members.

On Saturday night we went to Pamulang. Ibu Rahayu was there and kindly greeted all of us one by one. Then, latihan in the beautiful space at Pamulang...

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## The Final Day

*Unfortunately, I had to leave Jakarta early on Sunday and so I missed most of the final day of the SD Meeting. Evan Padilla, chair of SD USA and now also a member of the board of SDIA, takes up the story...*

Our day began at 8:30 in the morning. We all assembled at Adi Puri, Bapak's former residence converted into the modern, beautifully appointed home of the Subud archives.

Kumari Beck, the chair of SDIA, gave us a short presentation of our world-wide SD activities. Kumari is developing a power point presentation showing the activity of Susila Dharma around the world, which can be used by any SD national organization. >



*Ibu Rahayu and Raymond Lee at Adi Puri.  
(Photo by Kohar Parra)*

At about 11:00 AM, Ibu Rahayu, Ibu Yati and many other members of Bapak's family joined our meeting where Kumari gave a presentation about Susila Dharma's work. Afterwards, Ibu Rahayu, spent a few moments commenting on Susila Dharma, expressing her pleasure with our activities and talking about the correct way of giving – giving when moved from our inner feelings.

She also warned us of the dangers of giving something which actually causes damage. Ibu Rahayu took a keen interest in all of the SD pictures and displays in the room. This was followed by a beautiful lunch provided by Subud Indonesia.

*Rosanna Hille adds...*

Ibu stayed for two-and-a-half hours. She listened to Kumari's presentation and Raymond's translation, toured all the pictures and asked good questions about each (project leaders or Kumari explained the images).

She had lunch with us and chatted to people. She thanked us for our SD work and said this was the correct way to show others what Subud was all about, because you can't take them in to show them the latihan.

The talk was recorded and will be available when the process of translation / checking etc is finished.

“ Giving  
in the  
right  
way ”

# The Clean Water Project

*Evan continues...*

In the afternoon, SD Indonesia organized a trip to one of their Planet Water installations. This project provides low-cost water filtration systems for under-served areas.

SD Indonesia has partnered with Starbucks Corporation to make these filtration systems available. Purnama, the chair of SD Indonesia, tells us that SD Indonesia scouts out and qualifies the locations, the community provides the input water, the concrete slab, the large plastic water tank and the PVC connecting pipe.

Starbucks provides the metal scaffolding to hold the tank, the filtration system and the stainless steel basins and fixtures. These systems are fairly easy to set up and maintain. The total cost for each system is about \$3,000 USD, not including the tower and the filtration system provided by Starbucks.

The location is in one of the poorest areas of Jakarta, surrounding an immense trash dump. Most of the locals earn their living gleaning saleable materials such as plastics and rags from this dump.

The water filtration system is located at the local elementary school. It provides about 2,000 liters of clean water per day for the school and the community. SD Indonesia is looking to expand this project to install twenty more systems in 2014.

As soon as we returned to Wisma Subud we were whisked off to a closing dinner at Irwan Samudin's house. Irwan is the chair of Subud Indonesia. We had a wonderful dinner, a latihan and were treated to many traditional Indonesian songs.



*Schoolchildren get clean drinking water.*

“ Supplying clean water to one of the poorest parts of Jakarta ”

## Results

I have stressed the fact that this meeting was not only wonderfully harmonious but it produced results, outcomes, specific concrete actions.

These were the consequence of new partnerships formed at the Conference, and existing ones renewed or extended. They will lead to a significant increase in fundraising within the network.

A complete list of actions planned is not yet available so I can only mention the things that we in Subud Australia plan to do. It is not that our list is stupendous, compared to many others it is miniscule, we are just making a move to catch up with what others have been doing for years.

But for us, it represents a step forward in lifting our fundraising targets and getting more deeply involved in partnering relationships with projects...

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# Bringing it all back home

Hi Kumari and everyone at SDIA

Thank you for having provided such a wonderful and significant meeting.

What was most impressive of course was not only that the meeting was so inspirational and harmonious but that the information exchanged and the forming of new relationships can actually lead to outcomes and results.

In this regard, I thought you might be interested to know of the most immediately important partnerships that SD Australia formed with projects and what specific outcomes are envisaged. They are as follows:

1. With YTS. SD Australia plans to raise \$3,500 to support YTS's program with the 7 vil-lages in Bukit Batu. Specifically, we intend to enable them to purchase 7 machines to make fish feed for their fish farming project. This need was identified in discussion with Sumali Agrawal.
2. With Ashoka. We plan to bring Gopi to the Subud Australia Congress in January to present the project and also the advocacy workshop he did at the meeting. I think this visit will be a galvanising inspiration at the congress. It will enable people to become familiar with the knowledge that SD is not only about "charity" in the traditional sense, but also things like advocacy. Furthermore it will enable Gopi to connect with people in Australia outside Subud who are involved in the area of indigenous rights. We expect the cost may be around \$3000.
3. With Anisha. The specific need identified with Villa is to support Jayadi to return to Anisha for 3 months to consolidate and further develop his permaculture work with the project. The anticipated cost around \$3000.
4. With YSS in Bandung. We will with SD USA send \$500 (our share \$250) to support the continuation of their sewing machine project.
5. With the clean water project. To explore the possibility of sending volunteers for short term stays at the project. We will correspond to precisely define the nature and param-eters of this with an idea to present it at the Oz congress. We will also of course work with Solen on this.
6. For the Centre for Cultural Development in India we will investigate to see if there are any funding opportunities in AusAid to assist CCD.

The partners involved have said they will send me information so that we can precisely define the proposals with regard to objectives, timing, costing etc. If they proceed as discussed, it will >

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involve a big boost in fundraising in Australia.

One of the revelations for me at the meeting was how small our fundraising effort has been in Australia in comparison to other comparable countries such as Canada, USA, Britain and Germany. The inspiration and involvement in the above initiatives should help us to start "lifting our game" in the fundraising aspect.

The meeting also affirmed for me the need to strengthen ourselves organisationally in Australia by the appointment of a strong board.

These were I think the main outcomes for SD Australia.

All the best, Harris



*Partnerships are all. Harris Smart with Gopi.*

*Unless otherwise stated articles in this Special Susila Dharma Supplement to Subud Voice are by Harris Smart who is the editor of Subud Voice and the Susila Dharma Co-ordinator for Australia. He is responsible for any errors of commission or omission.*

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