

National Orientation Subud International Cultural Association (SICA)

The Importance of Culture In Today's World: "Culture is the matrix of every humane society, the power-source of the imagination, empathy, creativity, and resilience needed to activate our innate capacity for moral grandeur and social healing. . . . Today, culture is the laboratory in which we nurture compassion and discover how to improvise a livable future."¹

Why SICA? For the development of Human Values

As our latihan progresses within the soul of each one of us, it gives rise to something new: the awakening of human culture.² The development of this culture will be very broad because it embraces *every kind of talent* that exists within our membership."³

"This is why Bapak made the decision to set up a Subud wing called the Subud International Cultural Association, or SICA. **Bapak hoped that through SICA, Subud members who had a talent in a particular field would create something truly new or different, something that would touch other people — meaning people who are not in Subud, people outside Subud.**

"So by creating something *for other people*, you may be able to demonstrate something that without their being aware of it, may exert *a positive influence* on people who are not in Subud. So we hope that Subud will spread through SICA — *through activities that other people can see.*

"Of course, we need to train for this too (in latihan), as not every member can understand yet what SICA is for. *Well, according to Bapak, SICA is for activities that grow out of the development of the soul.*"⁴

". . . Clearly, culture is concerned with human beings, so that they can know the real direction for human society, for their nations and countries, through the receiving from the peace and calm of their inner feeling. So, culture is very large and very wide, and culture arises from the latihan kejiwaan of Subud.⁵ . . . Bapak can feel that in fact, [SICA] is the way Subud will spread. Subud can provide a content for it."⁶

SICA's mission is to advance and celebrate activities that emerge from the development of our inner gifts and talents; that enliven and enrich the human spirit; and contribute to the development of human values.

¹ Arlene Goldbard, *The Culture of Possibility*, 2013

² *Kebudayaan*, the Indonesian word for culture comes from *budhi* (as in *Susila Budhi Dharma*) and *daya*, or action: the action the divine power within us sparks the awakening of our inner talents and gifts, and the awakening of human culture.

³ Ibu Rahayu, Spokane, 6 August 1997

⁴ Ibu Rahayu, Singapore, 10 March 2002

⁵ Bapak, Anugraha, 15 August 1983 on the founding of SICA

⁶ Bapak, Wisma Subud, Bapak responding to SICA report at SBIF meeting, July 1984

Starting A National SICA Activity⁷

Subud members in a country who are interested in becoming active with SICA nationally have the following options:

- Appoint a SICA National Contact person who will receive information from SICA about worldwide SICA activities, which he or she can distribute nationally.
- Elect a representative and form a sub-committee of the national Subud committee to initiate SICA awareness and activities in their own country, and support activities abroad.
- Establish a legal non-profit national SICA organization.

Your decisions should be based on practical considerations and depend on the activities that Subud members want to do. For example, there may be tax benefits to becoming a legally registered NGO or nonprofit. Being legally registered may also give members the freedom to sponsor activities that their National Subud committee may not be able to do. On the other hand, there may not be enough Subud members in the country to properly manage two legal organizations. It would be best for you to find out the implications of forming a new legal organization in your country before you incorporate a separate entity to make sure that this will be beneficial for SICA and Subud in your country.

Note: Legal non-profit national SICA organizations are the voting members of SICA. Elected Representatives of SICA subcommittees of the national Subud committee are Associate Members of SICA. SICA contact persons, Reps, and National SICA organizations are welcome at SICA AGMs.

Role of the Kejiwaan

Being Subud members we attempt to be guided by the latihan in our personal lives. This is also the case when we work for Subud in the world. Testing and involving the helpers can increase our understanding of “how to do the right thing.” This has been a useful way to understand and feel the inner purpose of SICA and the responsibility that goes with it, developing the correct attitude about presenting “activities that other people can see,” understanding and respecting cultures vastly different from our own and generally applying the gift of the latihan — incorporating our inner understanding in our outer work. SICA nationals also report of the benefit of having helpers attend their meetings regularly. In our work we try to embody the values of love, respect and kindness and to treasure the gifts of courage, imagination, creativity, empathy, diligence and resilience

SICA and Subud

SICA organizational activities are conducted under the auspices of Subud, both nationally and internationally. SICA organizations should be established in full cooperation with the Subud members in the country. From experience we have learned that:

- The board or committee of SICA is accountable to Subud at the national level. It is sometimes assumed that SICA nationals are only accountable to SICA International.
- The chair of SICA is chosen according to the laws of your country and traditions of Subud, usually before the Subud membership at a national congress or at the annual

⁷ SICA refers to the international organization; a national SICA organization is called SICA Australia, SICA Italy, etc.

members' meeting of the national SICA organization.

- The activities of the SICA committee need to reflect what Subud members in that country want their organization to do if you hope to gain their support. Harmony and support from Subud member will increase the chances of developing successful SICA national activities. At the same time, there is often a steep learning curve about SICA as many people feel SICA is only for the arts. Culture includes everything human beings can create — everything that is not part of the natural world.
- A staggered turnover of SICA directors is recommended to create continuity, (for example one member of the committee retiring each year, or offering themselves for re-election).
- Electing experienced people to the committee will drive your activities and helps to maintain continuity.
- If you have a legal SICA organization, the links between Subud and SICA are stronger if the chairperson or an official representative of each organization sits on the board of the other.
- Each SICA national group is unique, so there is no one formula for operating a National SICA organization. Most SICA Nationals find it useful to share with each other what we have learned as an international network.

Suggested Activities of a SICA National

SICA national activities can take many forms. Here are some examples from established SICA nationals:

- Work with the national committee and helpers to raise awareness within the Subud membership of why developing one's gifts or talents and expressing one's culture is an important aspect of being Subud members. (Some have done this via Creativity Workshops, retreats, and/or explorations on the theme of "What is My Culture?")
- Provide programs and services that further the interests of Subud artists, creators — individuals and groups. Such activities can include policy development, advocacy, providing professional services, sponsoring learning opportunities and workshops, producing and/or presenting of collective projects for the public.
- A key activity for SICA that may be unique to SICA is that it does events — for Subud members, for the public, and for both: Workshops, Presentations, Exhibitions, Performances; Concerts; Festivals; Symposia; Retreats; Conferences. There are funding advantages for a legal national SICA when it comes to presenting such events for the public — both for SICA and its participants. National SICAs working as subcommittees to their national organization have to coordinate their activities to fit within the limits of their national Subud organization. There is no problem organizing such events for a Subud only audience, but that negates the larger reason Bapak had for establishing SICA.
- Serve as a legal and / or practical channel to ensure that donations given by Subud members' reach a specific cultural activity or project. Find out which activity Subud members want to support and then learn enough about the project to ensure that donations are appropriate and will be properly used.

- Actively work to advance and celebrate the creative practice and/or cultural innovations of individual Subud members in your country or abroad. This can be through human, spiritual, moral, organizational and/or financial support. Some SICA nationals only support activities located in their own countries. Others have identified and supported cultural initiatives at home or abroad.
- Link up with arts and cultural organizations in your country to learn more about how to conduct successful projects, how to raise funds for arts and cultural projects and how to create public awareness about the value of cultural development and cultural citizenship in today's world.
- Establish a professional relationship with governments, funding organizations and other non-profit organizations to better assist arts/cultural initiatives. Learn best practices from others. This kind of activity requires a high level of professionalism and staffing because the amounts of money can be quite large.

Relationship of SICA Nationals to Projects and Initiatives.

Following the example of Susila Dharma and its Susila Dharma network that is coordinated and served by SDIA, the relationship of SICA to SICA nationals is not hierarchical in structure or operation but an affiliation of autonomous organizations that support each other to achieve the cultural aims of Subud.

It's a partnership to build shared leadership and shared values for the work we do. In fact, SICA and its national partners need each other to carry out collective projects and to identify and provide the programs and services the members need. Such projects, like the Poems for Peace initiative, may be international in scope, but national in practice.

Linking with SICA

Criteria For Voting Membership in SICA

1. A SICA national committee or non-profit organization engaged in the implementation of cultural activities that serve the public benefit, that is authorized and monitored by the national Subud committee of the country, may become a voting member of SICA.
2. A Board of Directors or group consisting of at least 3 people manage the national SICA
3. The activities of a SICA national shall be related to cultural development and/or creative objectives, described in a written mission statement or statement of goals.
4. SICA nationals commit to participating in the International SICA network and reporting annually to SICA about their activities.
5. A SICA national shall pay its dues annually (US\$50) or apply to the SICA Board to have them waived.
6. Members shall abide by the by-laws of SICA (available in English, Spanish and French).
7. Members shall not proselytize for any political, religious or spiritual purpose.

Responsibilities of Membership

The voting members of SICA have the responsibility to:

- Work in cooperation with the SICA network to implement the broad goals of SICA within the context of Subud in a way that reflects well on Subud. This includes the participation in email discussions on subjects related to their activities, and supporting other members of the SICA Network.
- Participate in the network and the annual general meeting of SICA, by sending a delegate, delegation or a proxy to meetings or complete a proxy form to vote on the election of Directors and resolutions of SICA.
- Be familiar with and SICA activities to Subud members in their country, and assist Subud members to become involved with SICA activities.
- Know the cultural initiatives and activities in their country and inform the SICA network via the network office of their national SICA activities annually and act as a referral for individuals and organizations located in their country that seek to become associate members.
- Pay annual membership dues or ask the SICA Board to have them waived if this is a barrier to participation. Contact sica@subud-sica.org for information how to submit the dues payment.

Benefits of Membership in SICA

- To belong to an international network of Subud members implementing the cultural activities of the World Subud Association and working in the spirit of *Susila Budhi Dharma*.
- To receive information about SICA activities worldwide on a regular basis.
- To access information, learn best practices — and learn from the experience of other SICA nationals and initiatives — in order to become more effective and/or collaborate with others in the network.
- To access the services of SICA such as mentoring, training, education, consultation, technical support, promotion, fiscal sponsorship, grants and referrals and opportunities to participate in international cultural collaborations.
- To be represented on information platforms, such as the SICA website, Facebook page, the annual report and other publications.
- To have your SICA activities represented as part of an international cultural association in the world and to the World Subud Association.

National SICA Contacts do not have a vote in SICA, since they do not meet the membership criteria but receive information about all the SICA activities around the world.

<http://www.subud-sica.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/SICAorg>

<http://www.poems-for-peace.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/PoemsForPeaceOneDay>