



Subud International Cultural Association

# Report From The SICA Meetings In Vancouver, B.C. June 2012

SICA gratefully acknowledges the Muhammad Subuh Foundation for the grant which made this meeting possible and the Organizing Team of The Subud Americas Gathering for their hospitality and care.

# Taking SICA to the Next Level

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## Overview

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**National SICA chairs and SICA<sup>1</sup> met at the America's Gathering in Vancouver in June and envisioned a more stable and fruitful future for Subud's international cultural association, imagining for Subud members everything from Festivals of Art & Spirituality to artist residencies in France to Kejiwaan & Culture gatherings where receiving one's personal culture would lead to the development of rich experiences for Subud members everywhere.**

As the SICA Board and national SICA Chairs from many countries expressed a need for a sustainable, shared knowledge base, united beyond their local communities and organized with continuity and communication in mind, we discussed practical ways to achieve our goals.



Harvey Peters, Zone 5 Representative/ WSC Director, and Principal of Minerva Consulting, UK, facilitated the meeting.

We began by sharing the outcomes we hoped the meeting would produce and where we would like to see SICA by 2014, and then we identified action steps to get there. We did this in terms of both cultural programming/services and the organizational structure to enable us to provide those programs and services.

### Key Themes:

- Partnerships and collaborations
- Sharing best practices
- Becoming one.
- We all agreed that we can be much more effective if we work together.

### Action Items:

- ◇ The following pages each include action items, and we request that on October 1, 2012, progress along these lines is reported back to SICA.
- ◇ Email any questions or documents to [farrah@subud-sica.org](mailto:farrah@subud-sica.org)
- ◇ Plans for a conference call soon after the October 1, 2012 will be communicated at the earliest opportunity.

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1. Throughout this document, SICA refers to the international organization or the whole of all SICA endeavors worldwide. "National," "Zonal," or other modifiers are used to describe national SICA representatives, endeavors, etc.

# Organizational Structure

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**In terms of taking SICA to the next level of organizational, programmatic, and financial maturity, we discussed the idea that it is very important for national and/or zonal SICA groups to set up legal non-profit structures, or other appropriate legal structures, for such activity, separate from each country's Subud non-profit structure<sup>2</sup>.**

Although of course national SICA groups should have intimate relationships in feeling and practice with their national Subud groups, organizing as separate and legal non-profits is useful – perhaps necessary – for the following reasons:

1. SICA is eligible for funding that can only be distributed to national member cultural organizations that are not under the umbrella of spiritual organizations, and therefore would only be able to distribute meaningful amounts of such funds to national SICA groups in countries that had established their groups as legally separate from their national or Zonal Subud organizations.
2. National SICA groups themselves could apply for government and/or foundation grant funding for cultural programs that are not under the umbrella of spiritual organizations.
3. Some countries don't have national Subud organizations, and even for those who do, it is not particularly fair for the national Subud chair to be responsible for SICA's growth. It should be SICA's responsibility that SICA build capacity in the short and long term.
4. Ibu Rahayu has reminded us that both SDIA and SICA can sometimes operate in countries and areas that Subud cannot, for political and cultural reasons local to those countries. In such instances, SICA and SDIA organizations may also be the doorway to the latihan.
5. SICA may also be a way for isolated Subud members to connect with each other in countries where there are no national Subud organizations.
6. SICA may also be a doorway through which estranged members return to the latihan.

The criteria for how each national SICA organization should be set up is that it must be able to deposit funds into its own bank account and must be able to receive charitable donations. National SICA chairs should research how arts/cultural service organizations are formed in their respective countries.

Some members from Zone 3 and Zone 4 wanted to explore the idea of creating a EuroSICA. This might also provide access to programs, services, and funding from the European Cultural Commission. There are calls for innovative approaches to deal with cultural content and respect for cultural diversity from the ECC now: [http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/culture/index_en.htm)

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2. This was also a mandate of the Spokane Congress that has yet to be fully implemented.

### Some useful links:

- Setting up NGO or NPO in Switzerland: <http://mandint.org/en/guide-ngos>
- From Board Source<sup>3</sup> in USA: [http://www.boardsource.org/dl.asp?document\\_id=17](http://www.boardsource.org/dl.asp?document_id=17)

### Also attached:

- Value Statement and Aims for international, zonal, national SICA organizations.

### Some useful Subud contacts who attended the meeting and can serve as resources:

- Harvey Peters, Zone 5: Zambia: [harveypeters@btinternet.com](mailto:harveypeters@btinternet.com)
- Robiyan Easty, Zone 4: Marousi, Greece: [Zone4rep@gmail.com](mailto:Zone4rep@gmail.com)
- Bachtiar Lorot, Spain: MSF Chair and former SICA Chair: [blorot@valnet.es](mailto:blorot@valnet.es)

### Action Items:

- ◇ Each national SICA chair or group should investigate his or her individual country and /or zonal requirements and report back to SICA on how to establish an identifiable organization.
- ◇ Please compile & communicate data by October 1, 2012

## Strategies for Achieving Continuity

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In terms of achieving continuity within our SICA organizations, we discussed a few strategies, including:

1. Creating an international office that is a physical and potentially virtual place, where documents can be located.
2. Instituting overlapping terms for chairs and suggesting that previous chairs test to become parts of the SICA board
3. Referring to the organizing documents of each country's non-profit structure: the guidelines in the legal organization of each group can be very instructive about procedure
4. Making conference calls between board members on a regular basis a duty of the organization. Part of the protocol for these calls is that each person would share where they are with respect to fostering connection
5. Having interns learn the details of the jobs that are being done and the ways in which Subud operates, to provide continuity between generations.

Bapak spoke of culture as being "very wide" and "including everything."<sup>4</sup> He spoke of cooking being as much a part of culture as writing, music, painting, or theatre. Each is a practice that, for

3. Board Source is a respected source of nonprofit information in the USA

4. Bapak repeatedly explained the meaning of *budhi*, the root of *kebudayan*, the Indonesian word for culture: *budhi=life force; daya=action*. "Budhi is an extraordinary power which in its working includes all culture, including social work. So Budhi in its flowering gives rise to all culture and in its understanding, includes everything." (Cilandak, July 1984, to SBIF and Wings).

Bapak, comes about as a result of the threefold unity of: 1) its existence; 2) its nature; and 3) its working (function). These three produce the outcome, or the result.<sup>5</sup> In other words, not only does a meal or a painting exist, but also it has an intended function of some kind, as well as an actual consequence. That unity can make observers or participants, as Bapak put it, “really aware of their lives.”

### Action Item:

- ◇ Build continuity and reinforce our connectedness with shared access to virtual office and shared documents.
- ◇ Build institutional memory and best practices with overlapping terms of office.
- ◇ Regular latihan and conference calls among chairs – national and international.
- ◇ Please report back to SICA on the steps being taken towards these goals by October 1, 2012.

## Strategies for advancing and celebrating the cultural expression of all Subud members

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### A. Databases

SICA is an organization that hopes to represent all aspects of Subud culture, and we are at this time reaching out to each nation, asking that SICA chairs/coordinators help us to know the wealth of talent exhibited by their nation’s members. Please tell us about active and inactive members in your area, and what they do with their lives.

1. In the interest of connecting Subud members globally, zonally, and locally, we are beginning to conceive of a Culture Map, which would be a new online tool developed in collaboration with Subud Youth Association International. Please let us know:
  - a. The URL of your SICA Website, if it exists.
  - b. The URL of your SICA Online Newsletter, if it exists
  - c. Your name, location, and contact information
2. A talent registry of members in your area. For each person on the list, please include:
  - a. Name (Professional name if different from Subud or Given Name)
  - b. Website, Email address, and contact information
  - c. Location and languages
  - d. Skill/Profession and CV (If more than one, list all relevant ones)
  - e. Ability/Willingness to mentor or accept interns

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5. *Zat, Zat, Sifat, Asmo, Af'al* are the Javanese terms Bapak used. *Zat is Zat Allah*, Essence of God, that is inside everything and everyone God created; *Sifat* is the nature of the creation – material, vegetable, animal, human; *Asmo* is the working of the essence in accordance with one’s nature; and *Af'al* is the result of the other three working together

**Action Item:**

- ◇ Build online interactive Culture Map of Subud cultural activity and talent, possibly working with SYAI's online, interactive Subud Universe map.
- ◇ Please compile and send data by October 1, 2012

**B. World Congress**

We are also planning for the World Congress in Puebla in 2014. There will be a place for all of the talents of Subud members at this Congress. In order to help us find the right way to showcase each of these pieces of culture, please do your best to send us:

1. A list of members in your area who feel that they have some skill or experience that they would like to share at Congress. For each person on the list, please include:
  - a. Name
  - b. Email address
  - c. Location
  - d. Skill/Profession
2. Any notes you would like to add regarding the cultural contribution that your country and its members can make at Congress.
3. As a part of the cultural work of Subud members at Congress, we are looking for specifically cultural producers who can develop something site-specific in and for Puebla. If you know of anyone in your area whose practice it is to respond specifically to a place – whether through sculpture, performance, writing, cooking, science, or other cultural product or process – please make a special note of it in your correspondence with us.

**Action Item:**

- ◇ Identify cultural producers who are keen to participate in the cultural programs of Subud World Congress 2014.
- ◇ Identify people who would like to investigate some aspect of Puebla, whether through artistic, scientific, or otherwise cultural activity, and who may wish to install the results of their investigation in Puebla during Congress.
- ◇ Please send data by October 1, 2012.

**C. SICA Prize**

We would like to institute what we will call a SICA Prize on national level and international level, aimed at 19-26 year old people who show an extraordinary talent in some field. The prize is meant to motivate and enable them to continue developing that talent.

In each country where there is a SICA group, a “call for entries” can go out from the national SICA

chair, asking for applications by a particular deadline. Judges in each country can be more experienced people of reputation within each national community. Entries should be in all areas of culture, from scientific research to journalism to painting.

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It can be up to each country whether or not the winners of the prize receive money, for which the country would have to fundraise. Even if the national SICA prize does not include financial reward, the rewards can be seen to be as follows:

- Having youth work seen and evaluated by people who are leaders in their fields is an honor;
- Winning national recognition for one's work is also an honor;

Lastly, one of the physical exhibition spaces we would like to reserve at the World Congress would be exclusively for display of each nation's top three SICA prize entries. SICA, at the World Congress in Puebla, will then select the top three finalists of all the national prizewinners and award a significant cash prize to those winners.

The value of this action for Subud and for SICA is to:

- Create links between generations and between local, national, zonal, and international entities;
- Create space for professional and personal aspirations within the Subud context, including specific professional activities young people can include on their CVs.

**A suggested template for your country or zone's "Call for Entries" is attached. *Please edit this as you see fit. We have left the details of how works are submitted up to you, depending upon the way in which you would like to receive the work.***

Please stay in touch with the International office as you develop your National or Zonal SICA prize, letting us know who are your country's judges and what are your thoughts as to how the process might better develop.

As we collate all of the materials that begin to come in from each country, we will stay in touch about the development of each of these projects. SICA is excited to facilitate the cultural development of individuals and groups all over the world and looks forward to seeing these projects unfold.

### **Action Item:**

- ◇ Develop national or zonal criteria for SICA Prize.
- ◇ Select judges for nation or zone for 2013.
- ◇ Report progress back to SICA by October 2012
- ◇ Distribute calls for entry after that date.

## D. “What is My Culture?” The kejiwaan side of SICA

The culture Bapak charged SICA to support and encourage is a culture that expresses one’s real inner self. It is embodied in Bapak’s prayer that invites each of us “to explore and find that art or culture of our true self.” (The phrase repeated on the homepage of the SICA site.)

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While SICA, the organization, cannot wave a magic wand over individuals so that their latihan becomes more alive, we can work with the helpers to encourage gatherings that really allow for a deeper latihan experience of one’s own real culture. Not a testing session, but latihan sessions. Some expressed the feeling that many kejiwaan gatherings have somehow turned into “tasting” sessions more than deep receiving from the latihan, and that testing to solve problems has increasingly occupied more time and space than just doing the latihan.

In the afternoon of our last day, we began our session with a latihan in which each of us silently asked to receive a latihan that would show us our own inner culture. It was a most satisfying experience for everyone. We felt we have been shy to approach our International Helper Dewan about such matters, and that we are remiss in not following up on this. So the last thing we agreed to was to approach our sisters and brothers serving on the International Helper Dewan to see what we might do together to encourage such gatherings.

### Action Item:

- ◇ Launch a global “What is my Culture?” initiative that begins with the latihan.
- ◇ Report back to SICA on plans in this regard by October 1, 2012

### Thank You Thank You To:

MSF!! This meeting was made possible by a grant from the Muhammad Subuh Foundation. SICA and all attendees are most grateful to have had this very special opportunity to meet together. We pray that the outcomes of our meeting may prove to be well worth MSF’s investment in the growth and development of SICA.

Harvey Peters, for your inspired facilitation of our meetings. And all our wonderful attendees.

Farrah Karapetian and Mary Wold, for your note-taking that enabled this report to be so complete, and thanks again to Farrah for helping to put this final report together.

Americas Gathering Organizing Team for making sure we had really good meeting space.

Thank you, Dewan of International Helpers for beginning to explore this last item with us already.

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## **Call for Entry: SICA PRIZE 2013**

The Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) was founded in 1983 by a group of artists, educators, and cultural activists attending an international gathering of Subud members in the UK. They represented creative disciplines across all sectors, and they came from many nations. Their initial intention was:

- To establish a communication network for Subud members working in creative fields to share experiences and best practices;
- To provide opportunities for collaborative projects and mentorship;
- To build greater public awareness and support for the role of arts and culture in the development of Subud and the world.

Bapak welcomed this new initiative, but advised SICA to embrace a very broad definition of culture as culture is not just about the arts. "The arts can show the way," he said, "but culture includes all aspects of human endeavor."

### **Aims and objectives**

For the year 2013, we have initiated the first triennial national [zonal] SICA prize to support, motivate, and enable the development of talent within Subud. Entries for this prize can be in all areas of culture, from scientific research to journalism to painting and new media arts. SICA perceives itself as an intersection between diverse cultural products and as an intermediary between cultural producers of all ages and cultures. SICA intends to build a bridge between creators' present and their future.

### **Eligibility**

Eligible to apply for the 2013 SICA Prize are international creators of ages between 19 and 26.

The preconditions are devotion to the development of a particular talent and the ability to represent that talent and work to the SICA board and chairs of each country.

### **Benefits and requirements**

A national honor and a chance to have one's work seen by leaders in cultural fields, the SICA prize will also be accompanied by a prize of \_\_[financial or otherwise award to be determined by country of prize origin]\_\_. An exhibition of national prizewinners will be exhibited \_\_\_\_\_.

The top three entries from each country will be exhibited at the World Congress in Puebla in 2014, including scientific and literary achievements. Thus, the exposure that comes of this award is potentially international.

SICA, at the World Congress in Puebla, will also select the top three finalists of all of the national prizewinners and award a significant cash prize to those winners.

### **Selection procedure**

The SICA prize of \_country\_ will be judged by leaders in their fields, to be announced, who will consider not only the quality of the work samples submitted, but the quality of the investigation exhibited by the written application as well. New members of the jury are nominated on a rotational basis at a two-year-interval.

### **Key Dates:**

- Jury selection: October 1, 2012
- Call for entries communicated: November 1, 2012
- Submissions due: February 1, 2013
- Notifications of National Prize-winners: July 1, 2013
- Physical entries for top three Prize-winners from each Nation accepted by SICA between: January – February 2014
- International jury announced: January 2014
- International exhibition and award: August 2014

## **Call for Entry: SICA PRIZE 2013**

### Details and information

- All scholarships are announced publicly.
- Double applications to SICA in more than one country or zone are not acceptable.
- The decision of the award will be made by a panel of experts in consideration of the applicants' capability of further developing their cultural work (see selection procedure).
- There is no legal claim to obtaining a scholarship.
- The applicants will not receive any reasons in writing for the decision made on the awarding of the scholarships, but will be informed of the result.
- Applicants may apply again for the award.
- The awarding of a prize from SICA excludes further applications in the following application cycle.

### Application documents

For all cultural disciplines, please submit the following documentation:

- Application Form
- CV (in pdf, doc, or docx format) including, for example, the following data re: your history of activity in the cultural field of your election:
  - Education
  - Honors
  - Accomplishments
  - Skills
- Statement of reasons why you have chosen to exhibit this cultural investigation, how this investigation has developed so far in your life, and an illustration of your objectives for the development of your talent (maximum one page)
- Documentation of the cultural investigation:
  - Visual artists: 10 images of your work (JPEGs, 15 inches on the longest side, 72 dpi)
  - Performative artists: 10 samples of your work (May be JPEG, 15 inches on the longest side, 72 dpi; MP3 or WAV; or video files (AVI, MOV, MPEG or WMV).
  - Literary artists: A maximum of ten pages of writing.
  - Scientific or mathematical investigators: An abstract of one to three investigations
  - Other cultural investigators: As appropriate, limited to ten samples
- Explanations of the submitted works, limited to one page (in pdf, doc, or docx format).
- Recommendation (optional)

Please remember to save all files with file extension in the name (i.e. entry.jpg, entry.pdf).

Please also save all files as follows: LastName\_Statement.doc or LastName\_WorkSample01.jpg

The application materials should not exceed a total of 8 MB. SICA is not responsible for the return of submitted application material and assumes no liability for any application.

Send your application to the following email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Use the following subject line: Name, Country, SICA 2013 Prize entry

We will acknowledge receipt by e-mail.

Physical entries (i.e. not digital files) will not be accepted until and unless requested.

**Call for Entry: SICA PRIZE 2013**

**Application Form:**

**Deadline: February 1, 2013**

Applications must be submitted completely.

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Age** \_\_\_\_\_

**Physical Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone Number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other Contact Info:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Discipline** \_\_\_\_\_

**How did you hear about the call for applications?** \_\_\_\_\_

Checklist of submission materials:

Application form (this document)

CV (in pdf, doc, or docx format)

Statement of reasons why you have chosen to exhibit this cultural investigation, how this investigation has developed so far in your life, and an illustration of your objectives for the development of your talent (maximum one page)

Documentation of the cultural investigation. Please list below what you have submitted (i.e. x# of jpegs, documents, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Explanations of the submitted works, limited to one page (pdf, doc, or docx format).

Recommendation (optional)

**Signature, confirming that all submitted is true and of your creation:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Date