

Can Our Major Subud Centres become Campuses in



A New Kind of Communiversity?

It all started in 2001, with the first Yes Quest in Kalimantan. Some 18 young Subud members and three facilitators explored the questions, “What is my path through this world, and how can I follow it?”

Isn't that what we all want to know, and what we all want to do?

Further Quests in Kalimantan, the Australian Desert, French Pyrenees, Austrian Alps, the Sierra Nevadas in California, at Christchurch, Puebla and a few weeks ago in the Black Forest in Germany have seen many other young, and older, Subud members explore these same questions, and in almost all cases discover answers.

And it's not just the Yes Quest. In the last few years, Subud members have experienced other powerful processes of self-development and self-discovery. Camps organised by “Human Force” (initiated by Alexandra Alkitis and now run by Solen Lees and Rosanne Favre) and “Culture Compass”, developed by Sebastian Flynn and now used in Subud and also in government-funded programs for refugees, and the Creative Quest recently trialled in Greece by Rusydah Zeisel and myself.

In 2016 a watershed event was organised by SYAI at Rungan Sari. It was called 'Basara', The program for the 150 Subud youth who attended was designed by the Yes Quest team and not only incorporated all the above processes, but the active participation of the four Wings and the International Helpers.

There were many positive outcomes for the young participants, including the development of some twelve projects (enterprise, social welfare, health and culture). Ten of these projects were awarded funding from US\$10,000 provided by SESI.

Then WSA, who were very active supporters of Basara, asked the Quest team and the Wings to work together to offer a similar process at the Freiburg Congress. This resulted in a co-ordinated program of Project Development. SESI provided a fund of \$100,000 to be distributed to the most deserving projects. Some of these resulted from a Project Quest, prior to Congress, others from a series of workshops organised by the Yes Quest team, however, the majority came from submissions received before Congress in relation to a request issued by Osanna on behalf of SESI. Fifty projects were presented, and 19 received funding.

One of the projects which received funding, was my own project: a Subud Communiversity. The concept is very ambitious, but also very simple. It puts together two things – the development processes described above, and, our under-utilised real estate around the world; Subud centres at Amanacer in Colombia, Rungan Sari in Kalimantan, Bucelas, Portugal, Atalanta in the US and Orgiva in Spain.

Bring these processes and places together and we could have the basis of a new kind of university, a

Comuniversity, where people of different races, religions, cultures and economic levels could live in community and study those things which will be most needed in the future. Not what is taught at most tertiary education institutions today, but ...Creativity, Flexibility, Peace Studies, Sustainability, Entrepreneurship.....and the work of the Subud Wings, how to lead a Healthy Life, A Wealthy Life, A Generous Live and an Inspired Life (SIHA, SESI, SDIA & SICA).

The Next Step.....

Basara was amazing....how could we improve on that? Well that was only for Subud youth. Maybe it's time to peek out from under our shell and gently open the door to the rest of the world. Maybe a Basara-type event where young Subud members invite a non-Subud friend. This would open the way to partnering with organisations outside of Subud, and importantly, opening the door to new funding sources.

And how do we start to involve all those other places....Orgiva, Rungan Sari etc? Well that process has already begun. Several partners have already joined this project: Oliver Haitzman (our World Congress Coordinator) from Orgiva, Spain - Gaye Thavisin (the new SESI Co-Chair and operator of the very successful WOW Borneo Cruise company) will be the link partner for Rungan Sari, Honora and Dahlan Foah for Atalanta in the US, Rusydah Zeisel (new SICA chair), Sebastian Flynn (originator of Culture Compass) and Stephen and Sonia Armytage, who are developing the Gymea Eco Camp Retreat in Australia.

Three things need to happen fairly soon: 1. A three or four day planning meeting with all the partners (it was for this meeting that SESI funding was awarded at World Congress), 2. a Training Program for the facilitators we will need in the next few years, and 3. the next Basara-type event with a proportion of non-Subud participants.

The venue currently being investigated for the Basara-type event, is the Eco Retreat, Gymea, in Northern NSW, Australia. The developer, Stephen Armytage, also received a grant from the \$100,000 fund to feed volunteers who will help develop infrastructure during a number of 'natural building' camps.

Future Potential....

The vision is that over the next few years, this activity will 'ripple out', with the help of our partners, to the other venues, and that interest and participation from other educational and social welfare organisations will be encouraged.

What we have so far, is pretty much a concept. To what extent the potential evolves into reality will depend on the extent to which the project attracts others to participate.

In the not-too-distant future, will a young person be able to sit down with a counsellor and develop a plan of travel and study: maybe a module in entrepreneurship at Amanacer, Peace Studies at Atalanta, Sustainability at Gymea, Creativity at Rungan Sari?

Would the experience of living in close community with other young people from totally different worlds change attitudes? Would the final night of celebration and performance live on in their memories? Could this project change lives?

Perhaps, part of your path through the world, is to be involved? To be a partner, to be trained as a facilitator, to be a teacher, counsellor, fundraiser or administrator.

You can express your interest on the new website www.co-oplink.net . This exciting new portal for sharing projects is the work of Mursalin New, who also received funding from the \$100,000 fund, and/or send me an email at peterjenkins4@gmail.com