

The Subud Vision Project – a personal view
By Sahlan Diver, Managing Editor of Subud Vision

Subud has existed outside of Indonesia now for 50 years. At the start of 2007, I was hoping to find a way whereby our celebratory feelings could be balanced by some serious analysis of where we are and where we are going. Unfortunately the only sources of criticism in Subud are the listservers and some independent web sites, and these tend to obscure intelligent debate within large volumes of opinionated verbiage and off-hand comment. The missing ingredient was provided by David Week's proposal for a discussion forum where articles would be edited for quality by a panel of editors. We set up a web site, found a team of editors and invited contributions. The initial result is the fifty articles published on the Subud Vision web site and in the Subud Vision book.

An interesting fact is that, until publication day, none of the Subud Vision authors were told who the other authors were, nor what they were writing about. Despite this, certain common themes emerge from the writings, and therefore it seems reasonable to speculate that these are causes of concern for which we need to find answers:

- Is our Subud culture built on ways of thinking that may have been appropriate 50 years ago but now merit serious reappraisal?
- Is Subud really as religion-neutral and dogma-free as we like to say it is? Are we inclined to interpret the advice in Bapak's talks too literally as a code of what is right and wrong?
- When we say "Subud is not a cult", can we demonstrate by both our behaviour and attitudes that it really isn't at all cult-like?
- Is our presentation of Subud off-putting to potential new members? Should applicant procedures be streamlined to be more in tune with the pace of the modern world?
- How much do we know about our fellow members' aspirations for Subud? What's the point of harmony when we don't know what we actually agree on? Also, how much do we know about why people leave Subud? Can we do anything about the high proportion of members who leave?
- Why do so many disputes in Subud never get a proper resolution? Why are we often reluctant to challenge and fix bad practise?

We look forward to there being some interesting discussion at this Subud Vision discussion event, but there is one question participants do need to be asking themselves, since discussion and brain-storming sessions at Congresses are not new: When good ideas come out of discussion, how can we take them further?

It is one thing for people to stand up at a meeting and remind us that "we are all Subud", "we are all in this together", but we need effective mechanisms in place for collecting ideas and opinions, processing them and acting on them. The Subud Vision editors are currently adding several projects to the Subud Vision web site, whereby members can contribute and discuss ideas which we hope will eventually lead to change in Subud. We welcome your participation, and any suggestions you might have for further projects.

Subud Vision Workshop

IN THE MAIN MARQUEE

Wednesday 22nd AUG. 2pm (prompt start) - 4.15pm

facilitated by Stefan Freedman and Sophia Blake

Workshop Aims

- a) to allow a lively interchange (sometimes in small groups)
- b) to hear participants' views of Subud past and present
- c) to start to co-create a vision for the future.

Programme

2pm

Subud's past, present & projected future trends

2.55

Short break (also for anyone leaving to attend other sessions)

3pm

Is there a hidden side to Subud?

3.20

How can Subud manifest its full potential?

4pm

Subud Vision initiatives + "what next?"

4.15

Close

Please note: There will be a follow-up session on Sat 25th August, 4pm - 5.30pm.
All will be welcome to attend either or both sessions.

Subud Vision web page addresses

Articles:

www.subudvision.org/articles.htm

Editorials:

www.subudvision.org/edindex.htm

Projects:

Design an ideal Subud group

www.subudvision.org/forums/Fmi001.shtml

Focussed discussion forums

www.subudvision.org/forums.htm

Design a Subud survey

www.subudvision.org/forums/Fsd001.shtml

Contribute:

Send general feedback

www.subudvision.org/sitefeed.shtml

Send feedback on an article

www.subudvision.org/feedback.htm

Write an article

www.subudvision.org/faq.htm

Help Wanted

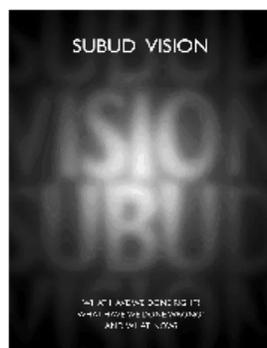
www.subudvision.org/wanted.htm

Contact Us

www.subudvision.org/contact.htm

The Subud Vision Book

352 pages



A limited number of copies are available from Stefan at the special discounted price of £9 (normal price is £10+postage)

SUBUD VISION QUESTIONNAIRE

This is designed as a "small sample survey" which will give a preliminary sounding of "where things are at" with grassroots Subud members. All questions are optional. The questions aim to stimulate your personal reflections on the Subud process.

Subud Vision will publish the overall results online, but personal info such as names or specific groups will not be disclosed. Please write your answers on a separate sheet (simply note down the question number first, then your answer by it).

ABOUT THE LATIHAN

1. What do you value most about the experience of doing latihan
2. Has doing latihan led to noticeable changes in your outer life?
3. Have you ever thought about leaving Subud?
4. What do you see as the main factors for people who leave Subud?

SUBUD ORGANISATION

5. What aspects of the organization do you see as working well, and what poorly?
6. How could the committee structure be improved?
7. How could helper work be improved?

SUBUD'S IMAGE IN THE WORLD

8. Coming across Subud, how are people likely to perceive us from information online?
9. What factors might give rise to an offputting impression of Subud?
10. What could be changed to enable a more positive response?
11. How are people likely to perceive us if they attend applicant meetings?
12. What could improve their experience?
13. What do you find hardest about describing Subud?
14. What percentage (approx) of your friends and work associates know about Subud?
15. Is there any gulf between your ideal vision of Subud and the way we are in practice which makes it hard to tell people of it?

SUBUD'S POTENTIAL

16. What is your most optimistic vision for Subud's role in the world?
17. Is there something that could be changed that may help Subud to fulfil its potential?
18. Any other observations about the current state of Subud?
19. Your name, age, year opened, Subud group / country (These details are also optional, though having this info helps with our stats)

Please send questionnaire answers to
Stefan Freedman, 87 Lacey St, Ipswich, IP4 2PH (UK).