



### All Americas

#### SUSILA DHARMA FRANCE REP IN COLOMBIA

In July last year I had the good fortune of being funded by ISDF to travel to Colombia and participate in the All Americas gathering which took place in Amanecer, Quindio in late July/early August.



My brief was to liaise with the leaders of the projects supported by SDF (El Refugio and Tierraviva), finding out specific information which it is sometimes hard to elicit from a distance, and especially if you have never met your interlocutor. I was also to visit projects where possible, and to help the SDIA team with general logistics, including translating and taking notes.

I spent my time in Amanecer, then, attending, taking part and translating in

workshops and meetings, and getting to know Francisca Bonilla of el Refugio and Rasjid Cesar of Tierraviva (see photo), and ironing out any rough spots in our communications. During the SDIA AGM, I also gave a presentation on the Food and Agriculture Organisation's Food Security Summit I had followed (virtually) in June, and this led to a vigorous and enthusiastic discussion and the proposal to set up an interest group on this subject.

Whilst in Bogotá after the gathering, I spent a day with Francisca and El Refugio, and also visited Fundación Educativa Amor in Soacha, following an invitation by its director Sebastián de los Rios.

I am immensely grateful to all who donated. Field trips such as these are important for really understanding the ever-changing context in which projects work, for networking and helping others to network and for getting to know and forming real bonds with project leaders – so important for avoiding the misunderstandings which can be so common. On a personal level too, it was a useful and productive trip, as I strengthened my links with Susila Dharma International, leading to me being taken on as part of SDIA's office staff, where I hope I am able to support the network members in a lasting way and take some of the pressure off the "older" staff members.

As anyone who has visited Amanecer knows, it is a place with a strong vibration where special things can and do happen. My experience there will stay with me for ever. It seems such a long time ago, but in a way I've only just landed!

*Solen Lees Gratiet*

*(For a complete report on the All Americas gathering, visit the SDIA website; to read Solen's reports, contact her at [solen@susiladharma.org](mailto:solen@susiladharma.org))*

### YUM children's village

The site of the Children's Village was originally established in 1976 as a Rehabilitation Centre for tuberculosis patients and their families. Children orphaned as a result of their parents' health afflictions, had nowhere else to go and were invited to remain at the clinic and be cared for.

When the operations of this tuberculosis centre stopped, it was changed into a fulltime orphanage to provide for the needs of these 'abandoned' children. Located about 100kms from Jakarta, in the hills of Cipanas, the Village has been home to hundreds of children over the past 30 years. Today, the aim of the Children's Village project is to raise, nurture and educate orphans or financially destitute children so that they become self-reliant, self-disciplined young adults. YUM aims to provide the children with the opportunity to obtain an education and skills that will ensure they can provide for themselves by the time they leave the orphanage. Residents at the Village are financially supported to attend school, are provided with all their basic needs and supplies (food, shelter, clothing, schoolbooks and supplies, medical care) and are given counselling and moral support in a loving, family-style environment.



YUM's goal is to make the Children's Village financially self-sustaining through effective use of available resources such as the land, facilities and products created onsite. In 2006, the Village's good work was recognized when

it was awarded the 'Best Orphanage in West Java'.

Olvia Reksodipoetro, the Chair of YUM says: "Unlike most of our other projects which are mostly supported by one major donor, the Children's Village is entirely dependent on your combined contributions for its survival. We sincerely hope that you will continue to support this excellent project in 2009."

To find out more about YUM, visit their website: <http://www.yumindonesia.org/> and for a copy of the Children's Village annual report, ask Solen: [solen@susiladharma.org](mailto:solen@susiladharma.org)

### SUSILA DHARMA FRANCE FLYER MAKES ITS DÉBUT

Last year SDF designed and printed its own flyer to be used for publicity purposes. If you would like some to distribute, please contact Solen or Raphael: [solen@susiladharma.org](mailto:solen@susiladharma.org) or [randhbate@gmail.com](mailto:randhbate@gmail.com)

## Profile

Henrietta NORMAND

After some years of practising the latihan, I became a helper in a geographical area in which I did not have many opportunities for Subud work (Charente Maritime), except at the Benaix group which I visited quite often. I found I was doing nothing in Subud, and that there were surely things to do. That is when Pierre asked me if I wanted to participate in the layout of Bapak's talks, a job which Pierre is still responsible for. I had time and accepted, which allowed me to get to know the talks in a new way.



Then, after testing, I took on the role of national helper, greatly appreciating the trips which are a way of meeting and sharing with far-away members and helping them feel less isolated, and of learning from the contact with others. Living in an area where there were no other Subud members, I knew what it was to have to do 500km in order to practise latihan with other people.

At the end of my term of national helper, I wondered what I could do to be useful within Subud; I felt that I should do something - but what? That is when someone suggested that I join the board of Susila Dharma as secretary.

I have always had many activities beside my profession. Many things interest me in the creative world, and I love painting (as an amateur, of course). I also like reading adventure novels and autobiographies.

Since living in the Aude, I participate in the functioning of the "Restos du Coeur". I also go and help from time to time at a large group in the Minervois which supports people in Madagascar (by sending clothes and medicine etc.) and I have noticed the effectiveness of this organisation, which is nonetheless located in such a small village.

Susila Dharma has been expanding for some time, with outreach to the youth, as well as new ventures like Susila Dharma B&B. I enjoy making myself useful and participating in the work of Susila Dharma France with an enthusiastic team, at the same time as carrying on my role as helper.

## Special Feature

### MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND THE WORK OF SUSILA DHARMA FRANCE

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are eight goals to be achieved by 2015 that respond to the world's main development challenges. The MDGs are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations-and signed by 147 heads of state and governments during the **United Nations Millennium Summit** in September 2000.

SDF supports locally-initiated projects that work towards achieving the MDGs. The list below is surely not exhaustive, but the achievement of some of these goals is supported by SDF and the projects we aid as follows:

#### Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger

**India** – education, organic agriculture; micro credit, vocational training for women (Anisha Foundation, Mithra Foundation)

#### Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education

**D.R. Congo** – assisting in the development and operation of schools (Albadi School and Orphanage, Complexe Scolaire Inkisi, Groupe Scolaire Lemba Imbu)

**India** - provision of preschools in slums supporting poorest children's education in primary schools, (Anisha Foundation Mithra Foundation); campaigning to release children from labour and return to school (Mithra)

**Indonesia** – preparing children for school and primary schools (Bina Cita Utama, YUM Education Programmes)

#### Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

**India** – women's legal aid and microcredit programs (Mithra Foundation)

**Argentina** – Human Rights education for incarcerated women (Tierraviva)

#### Goal 4: Reduce child mortality; Goal 5: Improve maternal health; Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

**D.R. Congo** – medical training school and providing basic health services

#### Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

**India** – sustainable farming methods (Anisha Foundation).

Other SDIA member projects work for the protection of internationally recognized human rights, especially the rights of the child.

**Mithra** fights against child exploitation and for minority rights. All the **school projects** fight for the right to free elementary education

**Mithra**, in particular, also works in the domain of rights-based education as enshrined in Article 26 (2) of the Universal



Declaration of Human Rights: "Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for

human rights and fundamental freedoms"

**Tierraviva** fights for the rights of mothers and children in prison, and for individuals' rights "freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits" (Article 27 (1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights)

Your comments/suggestions are all very welcome! We also welcome: articles, ideas for articles, letters, photos....

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## Close up

### VISIT TO THE RD CONGO

From June 21-July 5, I travelled with Heloise Jackson and Jorge Guerrin, ISC Chair Garrett Thomson and Zone 5/6 Rep. Lateef Dada Bashua to Subud groups and SD projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Life is hard in DRC, illness and death are very present, goods are expensive, and people need to be very entrepreneurial to make ends meet. DRC ranks 167th of 177 countries on the UNDP Human Development Index. A combination of armed conflict and government corruption means that many poor people do not have access to health and education services or clean water and sanitation. A large proportion of the children do not attend school because there are insufficient spaces available. What was once one of Sub-Saharan Africa's better education systems now caters to barely half the primary school-aged population and the literacy rate is estimated to be only 62 percent.



Thankfully, Subud members in DRC are working hard to improve the quality of life for themselves and their communities. Susila Dharma schools are growing and increasing the number of students they can take in. Lemba Imbu now has 450 primary school students and is trying to find the means to build a much-needed secondary school. Albadi School and Orphanage, with the help of the SD network and many generous donors, was able to build new classrooms and raise the number of students from around 70 in 2006 to 200 in 2008. Inkisi School, with 84 students, was able to fully pay its teachers last year thanks to support received from the SD network.

In addition to our the need for on-going support to our SD schools, we need to focus more on the quality and accessibility to health care through our network of eight health centers and dispensaries. In DRC medical services are of low quality and fees prevent most poor people from accessing services: according to the World Health Organisation (2007) one out of every five children does not live to five years old. SD projects like Yenge Clinic in Kinshasa are working with community leaders and mothers to help increase awareness about preventable disease, like malaria, which is a massive killer, and improve the quality of care provided by local health workers.

SDIA is working in partnership with Bambale Foundation of the Netherlands to raise the funds to build a new rural clinic for the SD Kimpemba Medical School, which trains nurses to provide primary health care in rural areas where there are no doctors willing to practice. This year, we are launching a project to assess the quality of care in our 8 SD health projects and provide training and support to ensure that the poorest can access better quality health services.



*Charlotte with children, singing*

A key objective of our visit for SDIA-SD RDC was to organise a Project Management Training workshop to help SD project and Subud leaders in DRC to build skills of project planning and management which are so much needed across the country. According to Charlotte Ndonga, SD DRC Chair: «Training is the key to what we need here - before money, before support, most of all if we are going to succeed we need training of

our project leaders to make effective use of resources at their disposal». Thanks to support received from the Blond Trust, 42 Subud members and project leaders received training in results-based project planning and financial management, and we are monitoring to see how they are able to apply their new skills to the benefit of their communities.

*Virginia Thomas*



*Working group on Community Development*

### UPDATE ON ALBADI SCHOOL "THE WATER IS KEEPING WELL"

As Albert DILUA MBANZILA has been sick with flu, his wife Rose sent us an update on the Albadi School and Orphanage in Inkisi, which received SD funding in 2007 and 2008 to build classrooms, toilets, running water and electricity:

'The work at the Orphanage and School is on track. The water cistern is being tested and we are noticing with joy that the water is keeping well. The electrical installation is now completed and we are expecting the connection notice from the electric company soon. Our sincere thanks for the \$620 donation sent to the Albadi School. We were able to pay the hospital fees for two orphans suffering from measles and one suffering from acute chickenpox, the maintenance of the car and the start of driving-school for five children.'

## Fundraising

### SD B&B

Join the Register of the Susila Dharma Bed & Breakfast Fund and donate to Susila Dharma!

You probably have, many times, had brothers & sisters staying over at yours. How about, next time they come, asking them to make a donation to Susila Dharma for the "B & B" fund?

Subud France and Spain thought up this idea a couple of years ago (thanks Raphael Bate, Heather Cooter & others). They called it Susila Dharma Bed & Breakfast and *voilà*, the Fund is growing!

We are now updating the Register. It will be held centrally by a Registrar who will try to connect host and travellers. Would you like to join? You can either:

- Put your name down as a host to offer accommodation
- Put your name down as a traveller who would like to visit (worldwide!)

Why not be host and guest as and when it suits you and your family?

*Monica & Hedley's Story ...*

We are old-age newlyweds. Got married on 080808! We are living in the Dordogne, having moved from the UK to France only a few months ago. So happy are we that we have been given another chance for loving and living, that we dream



of offering a "Subud in the Dordogne" experience to all our brothers & sisters worldwide.

If you have children, please,

please come and help us to put up a swing in the tree in front of our wee house. And you can tell them from Ouma (Grandma) Monica, "If you're real good, you might sleep in the caravan all on your own..."

Have we put our home down on the Susila Dharma B&B Register as hosts and as visitors? You bet! The Register asked us: "What is your special interest?" We very loudly responded: "Children, children & more children, please!" (and young people too).

Come and visit. Come and strengthen our practice. Let us together spread the Latihan throughout the Dordogne. And, of course, at the same time, we will together contribute to Susila Dharma B&B Fund.

Do join the Register, and hope to see you soon!

*Monica Bennett*

For more information, please visit the Get Involved! 'blog on the Susila Dharma International website (<http://blog.susiladharm.org/fundraising/sd-bb/>), or contact Monica Bennett at [BedAndBreakfast@susiladharm.org](mailto:BedAndBreakfast@susiladharm.org), or at Caillou de Cogulot, 24500 Eymet, France.

## The state of the treasury 2008

In 2008 SDF received 24517€. We spent 24350€ of this (i.e. nearly all), leaving just 167€ towards our brought-forward balance. This added to the remaining amount from previous years means we have a 'profit' of 2665.78€. The money held in the SICAV account has increased to 20569.82€, and we have a total balance in the bank and cash box of 5075.96€.

**Projects:** We received 15109€ towards specified projects, and sent 21794€ in total, the difference coming from our 'general' fund of non-reserved donations of 5828€

We sent 1000€ to DR Congo in January to help with emergency funding for teachers in SD schools, and a further 1900€ was sent in the autumn for Albadi and Inkisi schools and for 2 clinics, giving 2900€ in all. Lemba Imbu school received 2000€ for the year, which was used for building maintenance; salaries and materials, and Richard Milles sent a packet of onion seeds for the school vegetable garden.

We received 18 renewed sponsorships for Indonesian school children, but there were a number of children who did not have their sponsorship renewed, despite YUM keeping the cost of a sponsorship at 100€ per annum for France due to the rate of exchange on the euro. We have also sent a further 3400€ in total to YUM for a variety of projects including support for the school Sekola Cita Buana where Ibu Ismana works, and 1100€ to support the libraries SD France started.

We had an inspiring report from Mithra, and sent 1600€ for the education of child workers (who cannot afford to attend school).

Tierraviva has received 1500€, and we have promised to continue contributing 1000€ a year for the next 2 years to give stability to the newly-legalised project.

We received 1300€ towards Solen's trip to Colombia for the Panamerican Meeting, and paid 1700€ towards it.

2800€ were sent to Vietnam in late December, with 1200€ sent early in the year. We have had excellent reports from SD Vietnam, as they help the needy in many diverse and imaginative ways.

We are holding 750€ for Emergency Aid, until a board member can take the money to Algeria for those with homes destroyed in the floods in Ghardaia.

SDF is currently receiving 3 Standing Orders, and would welcome anyone who might prefer to pay in this manner. We are also in the process of receiving a large legacy after the death of a former member, Odette Nonez, which the committee has suggested we might use among other things for helping Subud Youth to set up small aid projects in France and abroad.

*Heather Cooter*

### Mission statement

Susila Dharma International Association (SDIA) is a network whose members - projects and National associations - work towards promoting a harmonious and sustainable human development.

SDF, as the national Susila Dharma organisation of France, assists member activities worldwide which are locally-initiated, community-based and autonomous, and which help people reach their full potential - individually, socially, economically and spiritually.

(Susila Dharma France is a non-profit association registered in France and a member of SDIA which has consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and UNICEF)