

*It is said in history
That hermits and heroes of the past
Developed an original or pure culture or art;
It is important for all of us to explore
And find that art or culture
Of our true Self.*

*Therefore you should not hesitate
To express here your feeling for art
Which you have received
By the grace of Almighty God.*

— Y.M. Bapak Mhd. Subuh Sumohadiwidjoyo, Cilandak, 22 June 1969

watercolor by Midelti

SICA

where
creativity
and
spirituality
meet

An Invitation from the Subud International Cultural Association (SICA) To Celebrate Our 32nd Birthday, August 15, 2015

Bapak established SICA on August 15, 1983 at the 7th Subud World Congress at Anugraha in the UK. We invite every Subud member and group in the world to join us in celebrating that day with a birthday party, cultural event, or other activity of your own making that you also share with others. Let this year mark the beginning of an annual SICA event.

We also ask you to consider deeply what SICA is really about. On that day in 1983, Bapak said:

“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 the real culture arises from the latihan kejiwaan of Subud.”

So first take time to explore the kejiwaan side of SICA — that “real culture” and how to bring it into the world.

Next prepare your event. Serve food prepared as if it were for Bapak or Ibu! Feature some Art, Music, or the Presentation of a Doctor, Lawyer, Entrepreneur, Designer, Scientist, Educator, or Artist in your group whose work is clearly an expression of their latihan out in the world. Share laughter, stories, experiences, and good times. Please also share pictures of your event on our SICA Facebook Page — or send them to us to post for you.

Lastly, we ask you to make a group birthday gift to SICA! You can pass the hat, sell tickets, auction something, sell a work of art, or simply ask each person to feel what would be good for them to give to SICA at this time. Your gift will create a SICA SEED FUND to help us seed and nurture YOUR projects and initiatives and the further development of SICA in the world. The reason we do SICA, according to Bapak, is to build a human future. Surely that is something the world desperately needs.

CULTURE, BUDHI, TALENT, AND YOU

Kebudayaan, the Indonesian word for culture, is made up of two words, *budhi* and *daya*. *Budhi* is that extraordinary power of God within all human beings, and *daya* means action or putting into practice via an outward demonstration.

So culture, or *kebudayaan*, It is an *action* of the inner self. It is a movement of the inner nature or soul of a human being. In the olden days, when people used to sing or perform, what they did had the nature of a latihan. It had the effect of awakening the *jiwa* or soul of those who listened to it. And what came out, what they did, was entirely received, something that they were moved to do from their *jiwa*, from within.

We invite you to take the time to explore and feel about this from your latihan. When you start your latihan, can you feel the *budhi*, the “life within your life?” Can you feel how this animates your latihan? When you follow that movement, can you feel your own inner nature? Your own self? Can you feel God’s Will for You in this life? Can you feel the nature of your own gifts or talents? Can you feel how God guides you to express your gifts or talents in your daily life?

Take time to explore this with yourself in your latihan, and with the helpers in your group. Be patient with yourself. It may take time for you to recognize what is really you, what is really your gift, your selfhood. The seeds are there. They take love and time to grow! There are no shortcuts. But what God has given you is always there waiting for you.

CLICK HERE here for more on culture and the development of talent on the SICA site. Also look at *Susila Budhi Dharma*, particularly the last chapter. CLICK HERE for Ibu Rahayu’s guidance about SICA and developing one’s talent.

We have created a **SICA Seed Fund** option on our online Donation page to help the ongoing growth and development of SICA worldwide. We graciously invite each and every one of you to be part of this and to make a donation. If we all give, this will make for many seeds and subsequent growth!

Your gift will also greatly assist SICA in helping others — supporting creative endeavours through grants and project support — as well as helping us to establish a viable global network of SICA member countries and projects. We are currently working closely with a consortium of Latin American countries to strengthen SICA across the whole region. The success of the SICA Seed Fund will enable us to elevate the creativity of Latin America and then focus on another Area in need as well as our brothers and sisters around the world who are recognising and nurturing their natural unique talents.

We realise that August 15 is already close this year and too soon for a high-end event, but we do hope you’ll celebrate our birthday in a way that is meaningful for you. And please invite donations to our SICA Seed Fund on our birthday.

We hope in future years August 15 will mark a day of inspiring SICA endeavours all over the world.

Yours in Subud and SICA
With love from the SICA Board,

Sebastian Flynn, Chair
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July 24, 2015

SICA Board of Directors Sebastian Flynn, Chair; Juan Felix Prieto, Vice Chair; Sandy Harrington, Treasurer; Erica Sapir, Rusydah Ziesel, Latifah Taormina, Directors. Ex-Officio: Elias Dumit, WSA Chair; Ismanah Schulze-Vorberg, WSA Executive Chair. Isti Jenkins, Rosario Moir, Sanderson Topham, IH Liaisons.

