

Hello All NICers

Trusting that this email finds all of you well and in good spirits. From what I hear, for those of you north of the equator flowers are a bloomin' and summer is on its way. I don't hear much from you south of the equator but I'm aguessin' that you are in your fall season and preparing for your winter.

But no matter where we are, we are all gearing up for another CISV season of hosting & travelling and looking toward the year 2002.

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1. ADDRESS UPDATES

→ *not to be published online*

2. REQUESTS FOR ICs IN 2002

By now you should have sent in all your requests to IO for ICs starting in the year 2002. In the last IIC Info News I made a BIG BIG mistake. In the body of the email I stated that " you may only request a country, not a specific chapter". I don't know where my head was that day, but that is incorrect - as stated in the attached Interchange Matchbox Procedures and in the forms, requests are by region only. The procedure of asking for regions was been in existence for about 5 years. My mistake, but I am surprised that some of the more experienced NICs or IIC members did not draw this to my attention.

I apologize to all those countries that sent in requests for specific countries. For those countries that have requested a specific country, you should be aware of the following. IO may match you with another country from the region of the country you requested. That is, if you requested Brasil, you may be matched with another country from South America - say, Chile. Similarly, if you requested Canada, you may be matched with USA from the North America Region.

3. IO NEEDS TRAVEL INFORMATION

In the last issue, I had asked that all countries send in their travel plans to IO. Some have asked if there is a form. Well there is for villages but not for the other programmes. IO is suggesting that the form be used and that interchange be substituted for village. The form - "Form D / JCTI - 1998 " can be found in the Appendix of the Village Guide.

4. UPDATE ON ICs STARTING 2001

For the year 2001, we have organised 86 new Interchanges vs 92 in 2000. The new ICs are split 51% long Term and 49% Short Term. A further breakdown based on age groups is as follows:

- 29 % are in the age Group 'A' - 12 & 13 year olds
- 43 % are in the age Group 'B' - 13 & 14 year olds, and
- 28 % are in the age Group 'C' - 14 & 15 year olds.

Cancellation rates for the age Groups "A, B, & C" are 11 %, 54 % and 35 % respectively.

The IIC & IO arranged 117 ICs at the IBM; 7 after the IBM but before February 28; and 8 ICs after February 28. For these the overall average cancellation rate was 35 %.

On a more positive note, of the seven Category 'D' promotional countries, 5 are starting new ICs this year vs. 3 in 2000.

5. UPDATE ON IC WORKSHOP

The WS in Mexico City as part of the ARC Meeting was well attended by approximately 16 delegates. This presenter wishes to thank Mexico & ARC for their generous hospitality.

On the same weekend as the WS above, a hands across the border WS was conducted by the IC Committee of Lebanon. By all accounts it was also well attended and we thank Amina for all her hard work.

However, not all our attempts at providing educational Interchange Workshops were successful. Sad to say, that due to lack of applicants, the WS being offered to all European Promotional & Category 'B' was cancelled. We thank Finn Petersen of Denmark for the many hours he put in trying to organise this WS.

6. COMMENTARY ON HOSTING

Many of your LICs are now preparing their hosting agenda. As they are, it is your obligation as NIC to remind the LICs that Interchange is a family centred CISV Programme and not intended as a tourist sight seeing excursion. Please impart this to your LICs. The LICs should be reminded that a balance must be struck between family activities and group outings.

Most activities of an IC are already pre-determined i.e. Arrival, Home Orientation Day, Welcome Party, National Night, Family Week, Mini Camp, Mini Camp Recovery Day, Farewell Party, Departure etc.

For a 2 year / 4 week hosting IC - approx. 16 of 28 days are taken up by must activities, based on group activities every 2 days leaves 4 or 5 activities to be planned

For a 1 year / 2 1/2 week hosting IC - approx. 11 of 17 days are taken up by must activities, based on group activities every 2 days leaves 2 or 3 activities to be planned

REMIND THE LICs to submit their hosting plan to the partner chapter for review, at least one month prior to their departure. In fact, for any questionable activities, the partner chapter should be involved in the early planning. Also, remember to tell your LICs that it is permissible for the partner chapter to ask for amendments in the hosting agenda on activities that they are uncomfortable with.

Attached is my commentary on the Hosting Phase of the Interchange Programme that I wrote some time ago. Please feel free to use it and pass it on to your LICs if similar literature does not exist in your country. It is formatted to 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.

7. IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

After May 1 - Cancellation of ICs subject to full IO penalty

May 1 - Notification of travel plans sent to hosting chapter

June 1 or 30 days before arrival - send visiting chapter hosting plan

Till next time. Wishing you good humour and an enjoyable spring / fall Keep in touch TTFN

Yours in CISV
Heinz Boehnke - IIC Chair