



IIC Info News

News Letter of the CISV International Interchange Committee
for National & Local Interchange Coordinators

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Mamiko Watanabe, CISV
Japan

Lise Elboth, CISV Denmark

Jacopo Piccioli, CISV Italy

Picture of IC Committee

Go To

www.cisv.ca/iic

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PLEASE SHARE THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER
WITH YOUR LIC's and Other Friends of Interchange
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Dear NICs & Interchange Family

Trusting that you all had a safe and joyous holiday season.

As NICs it is now that you enter one of the most challenging parts of the IC Programme. As local chapters begin to finalise the details of their Interchange; difficulties may arise that will require your guidance and resourcefulness to solve. I have faith in each of you that you will do your utmost to ensure that all ICs will take place this summer. Probably 90% of all planned ICs are well underway to providing a memorable CISV experience for many young people. But the next month may test your creative abilities to find ways to ensure that these Interchanges happen. Help and support your LICs in finding ways the 'save' an Interchange.

Many Interchanges are cancelled due to lack of delegates. Please stress to your LICs that delegations of 6 do work and can provide for a very close Interchange experience. If it is too difficult for the LIC to reduce the size of a delegation to match that of the partner country, an option used very often is to ask if the partner country has parents that are willing to host an additional guest. Encourage your LICs to be flexible when it comes to delegation sizes.

Wishing you success in your individual endeavours in establishing successful and enjoyable Interchanges - just remember for whom we are doing this – our youth will appreciate all your efforts.

NEW GUIDE for all
Times &
INTERCHANGE GUIDE

Go To
<http://resources.cisv.org.guides>

FAMILY IC GUIDE FOR PARENTS

Go To
www.cisv.ca/iic

INTERCHANGE SPECIFIC FORMS

Go to
www.cisv.ca/iic

INTERNATIONAL FORMS

Go to
<http://resources.cisv.org.guides>

“Official”
Page

IIC Web

www.cisv.ca/iic

“ CULTUREGRAM’ FROM EGYPT “

CISV and Interchange is about opening up the world to our young youth and exposing them to new experienced and cultures different than what they are use to at home. In CISV we celebrate and learn from the differences that each country has to offer.

When our youth travel to another country with another culture, we need to prepare them for the different things they will experience. I know that before leaving on the first leg of the Interchange; Leaders research and share their findings of that country with the delegation. It also helps considerably if a country can provide their partner country with a fact sheet about their country and their area. This fact sheet or ‘cultregram’ could also include suggestions on does and don’ts that a visiting delegation should be aware of. **Every country should consider providing their partner with a ‘culturegram’.**

What follows is an example of a ‘culturegram’ from Egypt that has been given to their partner country: I know that many other countries provide their partner with similar information. If you have such a document prepared, please send it to me so that it can be shared with all and that we might all learn from it.

“Cairo, the Jewel of the Orient, the City of the Thousand Minarets, and the Melting Pot of Ancient and Modern Egyptian Civilizations”

Egypt is wondrous country with a history of many thousands of years -- even the ancient Greeks and Romans were awed by Egypt. Cairo, the capital, is a striking mixture of old and new: Businesspeople in suits sit at sidewalk coffee shops with country people in traditional robes, and minarets and domes share the skyline with high-rise office buildings and hotel towers. Traditional music competes with jazz, karaoke, and rock. The clamorous present is ever present, growing in the heart of the glamorous past.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Capital City: Cairo

Population: 67,273,906

Language Description: Arabic. The majority of the population also speak a variety of languages, the most common of which are: English, French and German.

Telephone Codes: 20, country code; 2, Cairo city code

Religion: Islam and Christianity

Time Zone: 2 hours ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (+2 GMT).

DATES TO REMEMBER
IC's STARTING
JUNE / JULY 2004

FEB. 28 - Administration Fee payable to IO for cancellations after this date

FEB. 28 - Application Forms for traveling delegations received by hosting chapter for matching

FEB. 28 - Only cancelled countries on the Open List at this time will be allowed to rematch

MAR. 31 - Matching of Delegates to be completed

MAR. 31 - No more Interchange matches after this date

APR. 15 - First group meeting of parents, delegates, leaders & LIC

Climate: There are basically two seasons in Egypt: a relatively cold season that lasts November-March and a hot season April-October. In July/August, the weather could be very hot, reaching as high as 40degrees celcius.

Official Holiday: Friday, and the most common weekend holiday is Friday and Saturday.

For many years Egypt was a kingdom, and in 1952 it became a republic.

The Arts

Literature, music, and art are as important today as they were in ancient Egypt. Egypt has produced many great writers, of whom Naguib Mahfouz is one of the most famous. Mahfouz, was awarded the Nobel Prize for literature in 1988 - the first Arab writer to be so honoured.

Tourism

Cairo is full of wonders, and has got some of the richest sights in the whole world -- The pyramids and Sphinx at Giza; the Citadel; the exotic Khan el-Khalili bazaar; the Egyptian museum downtown; the Ibn Tulun Mosque; and the Mosque of Sultan Hassan to mention just a few.

Shopping

Cairo is also a great place to shop for traditional items because of its spectacular medieval marketplace, the Khan al-Khalili, where you can find all sorts of interesting souvenirs (papyrus, silver, beads, pyramid treasure boxes, cartouches, and other collectibles that capture the beauty and history of Egypt). There is also a wide variety of shopping for modern items in the many shopping malls that have recently sprung up all over Cairo.

Transportation

The main method transportation in Cairo is cars, whether private cars or Taxis. As tourists, expect to be charged more from the taxi drivers than Egyptians so do haggle with them and try to lower the price as much as you think is appropriate. Cairo also has Metro (underground) and they can take you to most major areas in Cairo safely and inexpensively. Avoid buses inside Cairo.

People

Egyptians are very friendly, sociable, kind, warm and helpful. If you ask someone for help, 10 will appear to assist you voluntarily. Like the country, the people are a mix of traditional and modern. Cairo Teens are mostly modern, and up-to-date to the latest Western technologies and culture, especially music. Almost all of Egyptian teens speak English, and many master a second language, be it French or German.

DATES TO REMEMBER
IC's STARTING
DEC, 2004 / JAN. 2005

AUG. 15 -

Administration Fee payable to IO for cancellations after this date

OCT. 15 - Application Forms for traveling delegations received by hosting chapter for matching

AUG. 15 - Only cancelled countries on the Open List at this time will be allowed to rematch

OCT. 31 - Matching of Delegates to be completed

OCT. 31 - No more Interchange matches after this date

NOV. 15 - First group meeting of parents, delegates, leaders & LIC

Egypt in general is a very safe country. Cairo is alive day and night. Streets are packed with people and cars almost 24 hours a day. You can easily and safely go shopping to the supermarket or stay out touring the city until very late at night.

The majority of Egyptians are conservative by nature, and still preserve their inherited norms and habits, and although Cairo is a modern cosmopolitan, it is largely a male-dominated society. For example:

- Family ties are very strong. Youth stay with their parents as long as it takes; they do not leave the family home except to study abroad, work abroad or get married.
- Moslem Egyptians mostly do not drink alcohol.
- Many Egyptian young women have curfews and are usually expected to be home at an earlier time than their male counterparts.
- Religion plays a major role in many Egyptian's lives, consequently many Egyptian females wear veils covering their hair; moslems generally pray 5 times a day, and attend Friday prayers at the Mosque (muslems) or go to Church on Sunday (Christians); most Egyptian moslems fast (no food or drink from sunrise to sunset) during the holy month of Ramadan.
- Many Egyptian women today do work, but usually in offices, so the 'public' workplace is still largely considered male dominated, so expect to see more males than females working whenever you go anywhere.
- Public displays of affection between men and women or boys and girls are unacceptable. Both for tourists and Egyptians, it is frowned upon for example for a couple to be kissing or even flirting in the street.

Clothing

Cairo is quite hot in June, July & August. Casual simple cotton pants and shirts or t-shirts, as well as hats are advisable. There are many public clubs and swimming pools and many households have their private swimming pools. So your swim suits are a must.

Men and women are expected to dress modestly. For women and girls miniskirts, shorts and sleeveless shirts are not suitable for walking down

Some CISV Facts

Since 1951, a total of 4,497 International CISV activities have been held with 170,000 participants from 100 countries.

Today, 65 nations participate in CISV activities, and there are over 150 chapters around the world.

Each summer, over 7,000 people, most of them children and youth (aged 11 – 18) participate in CISV's international programs.

There are close to 40,000 CISV members worldwide.

CISV's international volunteer staff devotes a total of **over 250,000 hours** each year to running CISV's programs.

the streets of Cairo. Expect to be hounded and annoyed if you do this. Many women are veiled and have their hair covered. Those who are not veiled are required to cover their hair before entering mosques. Tourists, especially women and girls, are advised not to wear shorts or sleeveless shirts while walking in the streets.

Food

The Egyptian kitchen is known for its delicious oriental dishes and salads, and Egyptians love to eat aplenty. There is a wide variety of Egyptian cuisine, such as Kofta (ground meatballs), Kebab (grilled meat), Mulukhia (green soup), Tahina (tahini) Salad, Hamam Mahshi (stuffed pigeon), Baba Ghannoug (tahini and eggplant), Mixed Green Salad, Stuffed Grape Leaves, Foul and Falafel (cooked and fried beans), and Kusheri (rice and lentils mix). There is also French cuisine, Italian, Chinese as well as international fast food chains. Use of **bottled water** is highly recommended. Also, because of the difference in cooking methods and ingredients, occasionally these meals might not be agreeable to some people, but that differs from person to person.

Things to consider

Tourism is a huge industry in Egypt and for many people it is their livelihood. Therefore you will find that people consider this very well when dealing with tourists, and while they may find many things unacceptable to Egyptians, they understand that it is a norm for the tourists. They will of course appreciate it when a tourist respects their traditions and norms.

During your stay in Egypt, whenever you do something which we have mentioned isn't advisable, expect to get stares and occational comments. Specially for women or girls wearing reveiling clothes. Despite being uncomfortable, those stares and comments will never get to the point of being anything other than that, they will never be dangerous.

Expect to see lots of tourist police in touristic areas. This is a precaution taken by the government to ensure that tourists are not hassled or taken advantage of. If you ever feel that you are being cheated, ask help from those police.

Also expect to see lots of beggars both at touristic sights and some in regular streets of Cairo. They could be annoying but never dangerous, avoid them as much as possible and if you feel the need to, you could ask for help from the tourism police.

Well, that's about it! We hope your stay in Egypt will be a great experience and one to remember for a long time!

THREE IMPORTANT THINGS TO DO FOR A SUCCESSFUL INTERCHANGE

1. Communicate

2. Communicate

3. Communicate

FEBRUARY 28TH COMETH

For Interchanges that start in June / July of 2004, the last day to cancel the IC without any penalties is February 28. For Interchanges that start December 2004 / January 2005 the last date to cancel the IC without any penalties is August 15, If as NICs you need to cancel an IC at any time, please keep the following procedures in mind.

(I) Notify the partner LIC. If at all possible try to be more personel and talk directly to the LIC by telephone. Just think, how would you like to receive the news. And remember; give plausible reasons why you cannot proceed with the IC.

(ii) Notify your partner NIC of the cancellation and give reasons.

(iii) As NIC, you would probably know by now but ask other chapters in your country if they can pick up the IC.

(iv) If no other chapter in your country wants the IC, notify both IO and myself of the cancellations AND giving reasons for the cancellation at the following email addressees:

CISVIO@dial.pipex.com and BBL4pines@golden.net
or at the following fax numbers

+ 44 191 261 4710 and + 519 696 34

After February 28 / August 15 cancelled ICs are subject to financial penalties imposed in accordance with Info File C-11 (Internet link to Info File can be found at www.cisv.ca/iic). The only exceptions are cancellations due to “force majeure” in which case the penalty is about 25 Br. Pds. It is my understanding that “force majeure” includes such things as acts of war, strikes etc.

The penalty is assessed to the National Association causing the cancellation. The penalties listed in C-11 can only be a portion of the total penalty. The other half can be costs incurred by the other chapter in the preparation of a hosting Programme or in the case of a traveling delegation, the flight costs of purchased tickets.

THE HUMAN MIND & 'SPELL CHECK'

The phenomenal power of the human mind

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According to a research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place.

The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

Amazing, huh?

Amazing @#%&* indeed..... so much for computer Spell Check. This is wonderful news to Engineers such as myself. As English is the official language of CISV but not necessarily the first language of each country; I though this might be of interest to many of you. So, in the end, as always, it's the message that REALLY counts.

ADDRESS UPDATES

SLOVAKIA – Change in Email Address

Jan Polony
cisv@polony.sk

CZECH REPUBLIC – Alternate NIC

Karel Herbst
kherbst@seznam.cz

CANADA – New Alternate NIC

Wendy Dines
wendydines@sympatico.ca

HAPPY BIRTHDAY www.cisv.ca/iic

It was last year on January 10, 2003 that the International Interchange Committee launched its official web site. The web site was a long time coming and was immediately well received. Within the last year we have had almost 3,000 hits from 40 countries including United Arab Emirates, Singapore, South Africa and Dominican Republic. The highest month for hits was last October with 227 unique visits.

To date we have had very few Interchange cancellations and I would like to think that in some small part the availability of IC information on the web had something to do with the low rate.

ODDS & ENDS

INTERCHANGE ID NUMBER

- when corresponding with the IIC & IO please use the identification number (ex. I-2004-199). It saves me a lot of time trying to guess which IC it is and also which year. It also avoids confusion on short forms such as AUS or AUT, SLO or SVK, IND or INA, ISR or ISL - get the picture – tanx

FRIDAY FEBRUARY 13TH

- It is considered bad luck to fall out of the 13th story window on this date.

DPAF = DELEGATE / PARTICIPANT ATTENDANCE FORM

- this form must be filled out and sent to IO 3 days after your Interchange starts. Unless this form is sent in, you will not receive credit for a smaller delegation size.
- If the following NICs from Italy, Sweden, Thailand, Australia, Brasil, Phillipines, USA, France and Slovakia could send in their DPAFs for I – 2003 – 006, 034, 037, 043, 088, 105, 108, and 122 ; IO and Tracey would really appreciate it.

HAPPY 5TH ANNIVERSARY

- Even though we have only been on the web for 1 year, this IIC Info NewsLetter will celebrate its 5th Year of publication this September. This is the 44th edition of the NewsLetter.

IN CONCLUSION

Last month a few Interchanges involving Indonesia, Norway and Sweden ended and by all reports were successful. Our youth will have many memories of these ICs to carry into their adulthood.

In April there will be an Interchange between Thailand and Philippines. We wish them well in providing our youth with an unforgettable experience.

If any NICs or LICs have some pictures or newspaper / newsletter articles of Interchanges; we would be glad to receive them and share them with all on the web site or in this NewsLetter.

Keep in touch

TTFN

Yours in CISV

Heinz Boehnke - IIC Chair

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