

January 2003

CIAM Education and Information Committee Report for year 2002

Very little has been accomplished within the committee during 2002, as a result of there being, seemingly, little interest in, active, participation among delegates to the CIAM. While educational programs, in many member countries continue to grow, and prosper, it seems that there is little desire, or apparant need, for those programs to interact with the rest of the world.

While the vast majority of the CIAM delegates view Youth, and Education as an important part of their aeromodeling program at home, few of them are able to use their valuable time, during the Plenary meetings, to take part in the Education, and Information Technical meeting, and participation has dwindled to only two or three countries. Part of the problem is that the committee lacks definition of it's goals, within the overall picture of the CIAM. It's tasks are broadly defined in the title of the Committee, yet, there is little more guidance available, and little dependance on the committee for input to ongoing tasks. Education, is a very broad area, encompassing a wide spectrum of subject, and age. Should it be dedicated to educational programs for youth, such as school programs, or should it be more comprehensive, and include such areas as instructional programs for adults learning to fly R/C, as an example? Information is another broad area, and, even among those active in the committee, there is little consensus as to what that part of the committee is charged with doing, Is the term "information" in the title of the committee, intended to be restrictive in nature, concentrating on the dissemination of "educational" information, or is it intended to be much broader in nature, to include all forms of information dissemination? Does the latter include "Public Relations" efforts, Website, rulebook distribution, etc, etc.

Part of the problem is that we (CIAM) have failed to use this committee in the creation of many parts of our ongoing programs. The CIAM Flyer is a wonderful publication, aimed, from the beginning, at educating young people in the wonderful world of model aviation, yet, it was created, developed, modified, and continues to grow, with no thought to using the Education and Information Committee as a resource for it. It, surely encompasses both parts of the committees purpose. We have, more recently, added a "media consultant" to our organizational structure, yet, that position has no connection to the "information" part of the committee.

The end result is that we have a committee which is, pretty much, non-functional, and is in need of significant change, or possible elimination. A couple of thoughts have surfaced, to make the committee a valuable asset to the CIAM. One possibility would be to split the committee in two, with one committee dedicated to "Youth and Education", and to encompass the CIAM Flyer as a part of it's responsibility, working with the editor to ensure that he has timely, and adequate information for that publication, and the other committee concentrating on "Public Relations, and Information", which would include assistance for the "media consultant", and the general website. Further, it is plain that this committee, is not of the same function as our "technical" committees, and the structure, as well as how this committee is staffed, needs to be handled in a different manner. As it's current Chairman, I would suggest that this, or these, committees have members appointed by the President, with a finite number of members on each Committee, and that the President appoint the chairperson, subject to ratification by the plenary.

I hope this committee can become a valuable asset to the CIAM, and become an effective part of the future of the CIAM, but, I fear we will not realize this, without some basic changes in the very structure of the committee.

Dave Brown
CIAM Education and Information Committee Chairman