



CDI-IMUSE 2022: Social Action Across Boundaries Technological Development, Arts and Culture, Policy

Description:

The CDI-IMUSE 2022 Winter Conference is a week-long virtual forum hosted by the MIT China Development Initiative (CDI) taking place from January 16th - 22nd, 2022. Under the theme of “Social Action Across Boundaries”, we invite **30-40 delegates** from universities in the US and China to tackle challenges related to social activism, with an emphasis on grassroots movements, civic engagement, and the role of students.

Delegates will work in teams to identify a challenge, foster creative thinking, and propose a solution in the form of a short project pertaining to one of three tracks — **Technological Development, Arts and Culture, and Public Policy**. Through research and educational collaboration, delegates will focus on the roles of the respective tracks in advancing social action and create solutions to tackle issues important to both the US and China. With the assistance of our community partner, the US-China Better Relations Coalition (<https://www.betterrelations.org/>), these solutions will be presented to the affected communities for possible implementation. During the forum, students will hear from leaders in the respective tracks (technology, arts and culture, policy) and participate in discussions through several public webinar sessions pertaining to US-China relations and community mobilization, featuring guest lectures and moderated panels from academics, student representatives, and industry professionals.

Background:

IMUSE (“Initiating Mutual Understanding through Student Exchange”) is a bi-annual, student-run cultural exchange forum organized by students from MIT, Harvard, Wellesley, and Bowdoin in collaboration with partners from Peking and Tsinghua University in China. Usually taking place in Beijing and Cambridge, IMUSE provides a platform for top Chinese and US college students to challenge each other’s perspectives through field studies, service projects, debates, discussion panels, and more.

This year, IMUSE will take place virtually in the format of a hackathon. Now that a turbulent year is behind us, we wanted to reflect on all that has happened, is happening, and will happen. Our hackathon will be an open-ended opportunity for delegates to explore and deliver impactful solutions that could benefit the community. This year, our overarching theme will be “Social Action Across Boundaries.” We will be revisiting the development of social activism in both the U.S. and China over the past year.

Application Timeline:

We will be accepting applications for delegates until **November 28th, 2021**, with rolling decisions thereafter. US-based delegates can **apply via this link**: <https://forms.gle/euTy1CvKwE9uZudK9> Applicants should expect a decision within 1-2 weeks of the application deadline. We may reach out to schedule a short interview.

Chinese delegates should reach out to us at mit-cdi@mit.edu to be placed in touch with the IMUSE organizing team in China.

Logistical Information:

The entire conference will take place over Zoom from January 16th - 22nd, 2022. In order to accommodate the time zone differences between our US and Chinese delegates, our main programming will occur between the hours of **8:30-10:30 AM and PM, Eastern Time**. Delegates are free to schedule separate time slots to meet with their groups and socialize.

The exact schedule of the conference has yet to be finalized, but will consist of mandatory daily morning and evening sessions divided between guest lectures/webinars, discussions, group work, and some optional social events. Delegates will be provided with all of the associated Zoom information at the start of the conference.

The accompanying webinar will be open to the public with the schedule and Zoom information released 1-2 weeks before the start of the conference.

Contact:

For more information about IMUSE and how to participate, please contact us at mit-cdi@mit.edu. For information about our past conferences and events, please visit cdi.mit.edu.

Join our mailing list [here](#) for future updates and more information!

Partner Organizations

