



Invention Convention China

Press Release June 21, 2022

"We should focus on those who are left out and live up to our responsibilities!"

"I hope you can do the same as me and take action, right now!"

"No matter what difficulties I meet, I hope I can carry on, I want to be a persistent person!"

These are recent statements from child inventors from China who participated in this year's Invention Convention Worldwide (ICW), one of the largest K-12 invention educational activities in the world. Every year, over 140,000 K-12 students from around the globe take part in this extraordinary program hosted by the Invention Convention Worldwide Affiliate initiated by The Henry Ford Museum.

Students from different countries and cultures come together to share knowledge, inspire potential, and understand each other through people-to-people exchange and international friendship. Students learn best practices in innovation from experts around the world and compete for youth innovation awards and scholarships.

From May 21-22, 2022, more than 5,000 Chinese students from over 600 schools in 14 provinces participated in ICW China.



"Invention Convention China is an international science and innovation education activity that combines public welfare and innovation," says William Wang, convenor of the event, and board member of the Helen Foster Snow Foundation, who brought ICW to China in 2019. "We try to establish a connection between Chinese children and the world, let them learn and communicate with outstanding little inventors around the world."

China became a national affiliate member in 2020. As a strategic partner, the Helen Foster Snow Foundation has been supporting ICW China since the very beginning. ICW China is an opportunity to promote non-governmental educational exchanges and share

hope among our future generations. Speakers at the opening ceremony included Minister Counselor Yang Xinyu of the Chinese Embassy in the U.S., Adam Foster, Chairman of the Helen Foster Snow Foundation, and representatives from sponsors and organizers.

The theme for 2022 is HOPE. Adults and children shared their vision for the future of technological development and social responsibility and explored how to empower future talent through education. “It’s wonderful to see that despite current political tensions, we have a unique opportunity to focus on something we can all agree on: promoting hope for future generations,” Adam Foster said following the event.

Because of the impact of the COVID 19 epidemic, Invention Convention China was originally planned in-person in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, China, but was switched to online. Even though the conditions were limited, the organizers created fun ways to produce a meaningful experience for the children. The Hero Project is one of the featured activities in 2022 which did just that. Children discussed their heroes, how their inventions have helped the world, what they have learned from their heroes, and what kind of person they want to be.

The organizers delivered the videos to people from all walks of life, allowing adults to respond to children one-on-one, as equals, to convince them they are not alone in making the world a better place, even though innovation is fraught with obstacles. Even under the shadow of US China tensions, it is delightful to see that American inventors are heroes in the eyes of most children participating in the event. Thomas Edison, the Wright Brothers, and Elon Musk are among the most popular names in the Hero Project.



(Winner of Best of Shows 2022 of Invention Convention China - Xie Chaoyang)

In addition to promoting students' technological innovation skills, ICW China also brings awareness of social responsibility, gung ho spirit (work hard, together), and cooperation among people from different countries. During the judging process, students present their inventing journey and showcase their problem-solving skills, courage, and empathy.

The Helen Foster Snow Foundation (HFSF) believes ICW China is the perfect event to promote non-governmental educational exchanges and to inspire hope among future generations.

HFSF is a non-profit organization established in 2018 headquartered in Lehi, Utah in the United States. Helen Foster Snow was an American journalist in the 1930's who devoted her life to promoting understanding of the real China. As Helen once said “I call my life 'bridging'. All my writing and thinking provides a 'bridge to the future', as I call it. It is a body of writing that bridges over, not between extremes of any kind, to find the valid thesis for building the best future.”

Founded by members of the Foster family in the United States, HFSF seeks to continue Helen's legacy of bridge building through people-to-people exchange in three key areas:

1. Education & Culture - Work with academic institutions to promote student exchange and foreign language learning.
2. Business & Trade - Provide access for business leaders to make key connections with potential partners to enhance trade and remove barriers.
3. Subnational Relations - Create opportunities for government leaders at the state, provincial, and local level to engage in meaningful dialogue and enhanced relationships.



The sponsors of Invention Convention China are China Friendship Foundation for Peace and Development, China GUANGHUA Foundation, and China Association of Inventions.

The Henry Ford Museum coordinates the Invention Convention Worldwide (ICW) initiative with the collective effort and expertise of ICW's Affiliates from multiple countries including China. The Henry Ford Museum owns, manages and/or develops ICW programs to further advance ICW's impact for students, young inventors, and entrepreneurs.

The ICW Coalition brings together the efforts of many varied professional and educational organizations in order to empower, support and unite invention, innovation, and entrepreneurship programs across the globe. China became a national affiliate member in 2020.

For more information, including pictures and videos, please visit:

<https://helenfostersnow.org/invention-convention>

<http://www.chinanews.com.cn/gn/2022/05-21/9760210.shtml>