

# 中国工程文化

## IREE 2010 - Engineering Cultures China

**Activity: Engineers in Dialog**

**Estimated Time: 1-2 hours working in groups, 1 hour performance/debrief**

**Task Configuration: Groups of 4-5**

What happens when a diverse group of engineers come together to work collaboratively on a project? This activity gives you an opportunity to demonstrate your expanding cross-national and cross-cultural knowledge of engineers and engineering. In addition, we hope this exercise will once again get you thinking about how you can work more effectively with others who define and solve problems differently.

For this activity you will develop a dialog or script for a small group of American and Chinese engineers working collaboratively on a project or problem. As you develop your narrative, remember the dominant images that challenge the engineers in your conversation, and focus on the features of the project, problem, and/or process you think each engineer would find most important. You should emphasize each engineer's unique perspective, but try to conclude your conversation with some sort of agreement or plan.

For some, this exercise allows you to mix your understanding of engineering culture with your technical savvy. For others, it may allow you to think creatively about the non-technical dimensions of collaborative engineering work. Here are some ideas for projects and problems to build your conversation around. These are simply suggestions. If you prefer, you may use your own project or problem, including your IREE research topic.

- Design a next-generation vehicle or transportation system (railway, car, motorcycle, bicycle, etc.) that draws on the best of engineering from each of the involved nations.
- Design a next-generation computing device that will show the world how collaborative international engineering can produce superior high-technology products.

- Come up with a plan of action to deal with a problem or issue of global proportion, such as global warming, population control, nuclear proliferation, energy production, etc.

We encourage you to be creative, but remember that you need to show how the engineers in your dialog are challenged by various dominant images, different understandings of workplace roles and behaviors, contrasting social and cultural norms, etc. *Finally, note that you will be asked to perform your dialog, with prizes awarded for the best skits!*

## TIPS

- You may wish to “set the scene” for your dialog with an introductory description.
- To help clarify issues of identity, you may wish to implicitly or explicitly describe each of your characters in terms of their age, sex, ethnicity, job titles, social status, etc.