



Appropriate technology that is motivated by compassion holds immediate potential for improving human lives and alleviating suffering, and it is in harmony with the traditional teachings of Buddhism. Monks have long served as leaders and community organizers in the Tibetan diaspora in India and Nepal; the program will enable them to add an additional dimension to their societal contribution.

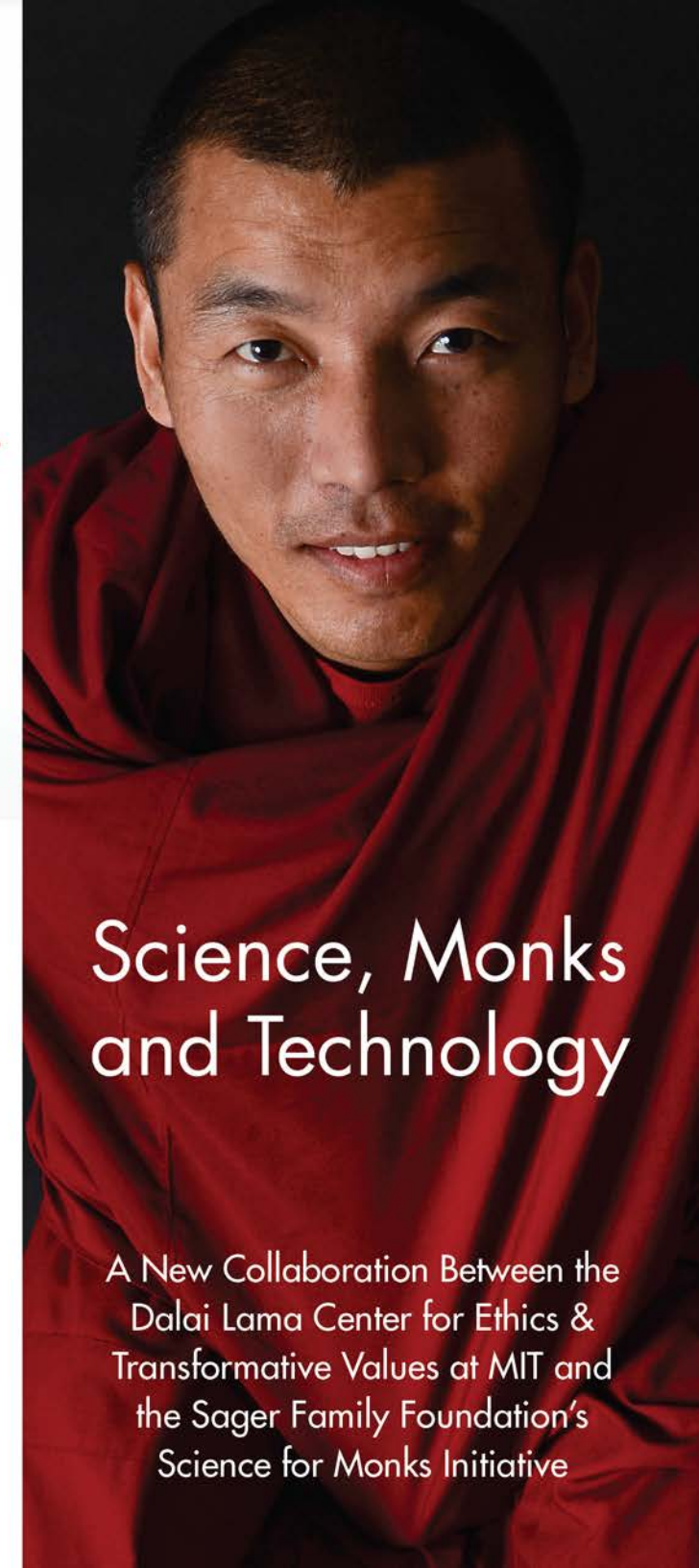
The goal is a transformation at the intersection of science, community, and compassionate intention. The Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT is dedicated to promoting ethical and humane dimensions in all aspects of human interactions, including science and technology.



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Science, Monks and Technology

A New Collaboration Between the
 Dalai Lama Center for Ethics &
 Transformative Values at MIT and
 the Sager Family Foundation's
 Science for Monks Initiative



Buddhist monks dedicate their lives to altruistic aspiration. Imagine those same monks empowered with the technology and leadership skills to turn aspirations into practical reality, improving conditions and alleviating human suffering in impoverished communities of India and Nepal.

Science, Monks and Technology is a new collaboration between the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values at MIT and the Sager Family Foundation's Science for Monks initiative, a partnership with the Library of Tibetan Works and Archives and His Holiness the Dalai Lama since 2000. Science for Monks represents the first time in the 1,500-year history of Tibetan Buddhism that Western science is being taught as part of the monastic curriculum.



Our Science, Monks and Technology program will build on the existing science education program to create a platform for monks and nuns to collaborate with engineering and business students at MIT in designing and implementing down-to-earth technologies for helping communities in need. Monks might work, for example, to bring solar power or clean drinking water to an entire community, or to improve health and hygiene. At the same time, we will explore how notions of humanity and humane service can drive technology projects and bring insight to faculty and students at MIT.



The monks and nuns who participate in Science for Monks will also have an opportunity to participate in the Science, Monks and Technology program. Initially, a group of senior monks who have completed the basic science training will be chosen for a three-year pilot program. Faculty from the Dalai Lama Center at MIT will travel to India to teach the curriculum, and selected monks will also come to MIT for a residency.

