



# Global Technology: Changes and Implications: Summary of a Forum

*Steve Olson, National Academy of Engineering*

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Engineers know what they mean by the word *technology*. They mean the things engineers conceive, design, build, and deploy. But what does the word *global* in the phrase *global technology* mean? Does it mean finding a way to feed, clothe, house, and otherwise serve the 9 billion people who will soon live on the planet? Does it mean competing with companies around the world to build and sell products and services? On a more immediate and practical level, can the rise of global technology be expected to create or destroy U.S. jobs?

The National Academy of Engineering held a three-hour forum exploring these and related questions. The forum brought together seven prominent members of the engineering community:

- Esko Aho, Executive Vice President of Corporate Relations and Responsibility, Nokia; former Prime Minister of Finland
- Bernard Amadei, Founder, Engineers Without Borders, Professor, University of Colorado
- John Seely Brown, Visiting Professor, University of Southern California; Former Chief Scientist of Xerox Corporation
- Ruth A. David, President and CEO of Analytic Services, Inc.
- Eric C. Haseltine, Consultant, former Associate Director for Science and Technology in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, and former head of research and development at Disney Imagineering
- Nicholas Negroponte, Founder, One Laptop Per Child Association Inc., Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the MIT Media Lab
- Raymond S. Stata, Co-founder and Chairman of the Board, Analog Devices Inc.

In the first half of the forum, each panelist explored a specific dimension of the global spread of technology. The topics varied widely--from reducing poverty to the impact of young people on technology to the need for systems thinking in engineering. But all seven presenters foresaw a world in which engineering will be fundamentally different from what it has been. In the second half of the forum, the panelists discussed a variety of issues raised by moderator Charles Vest and by forum attendees.

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