

Abstract

Forecasting the Technology Revolution:

Historic Breakthroughs, 2015 Economic Boom, and Global Crisis of Maturity

The TechCast Project (www.TechCast.org) is a virtual think tank that pools the knowledge of 100 experts worldwide to forecast breakthroughs in all fields. It is among the world's best technology forecasting systems. The U.S. National Academies issued a report rating it as possibly the best system available, and a Google search for "technology forecasts" ranks it No. 2 or 3 out of 45 million hits.

Forecasts highlights are presented, showing the latest data on 70 breakthroughs, and offering conference participants an opportunity to better understand the technology revolution and its social impacts. Topics covered include energy & environment, information technology & e-commerce, manufacturing & robotics, medicine & biogenetics, transportation, and space.

Longitudinal summaries use "macro-forecasting" to show that green technologies and global e-commerce are likely to drive a new economic boom starting about 2015. This approach also suggests that the global megacrisis of climate change, energy shortages, economic failures, armed conflict and other threats to civilization is producing a "global crisis of maturity." The world will be tested severely as globalization doubles world GDP by about 2020, magnifying all these threats to crisis levels.

The likely resolution of this megacrisis is that information technology (IT) and artificial intelligence (AI) are spreading knowledge and automating routine human thought, thereby moving attention beyond knowledge to consciousness itself. The accelerating power of IT and AI is a game changer because it drives social evolution into a world of boundless knowledge and intelligence at the very time that the crisis of maturity demands higher consciousness to survive

Active audience participation is encouraged to discuss these strategic issues. Further information is available in the speaker's book, *Technology's Promise: Expert Knowledge on the Transformation of Business and Society* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)