

"Manufacturing Technology in a Changing World" - Wednesday, March 24

Technology improves productivity. Manufacturing equipment will continue on the technology treadmill, becoming smaller, cheaper, higher performance at a better price, more widely available for adaptive requirements from local sources.

For several decades now, the assumption has been that the U.S. and other industrialized nations will keep leading in knowledge intensive industries, while underdeveloped and developing countries focus on lower skills and lower labor costs. That's changed. Many countries around the world now compete, and price/performance leadership will shift.