

Richard K. Lester

Richard K. Lester is Japan Steel Industry Professor and Head of the [Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering](#) (NSE) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he is also the founding director and faculty co-chair of the MIT [Industrial Performance Center](#) (IPC). His research focuses on innovation management and policy, with an emphasis on the energy and manufacturing sectors.

As head of NSE, Professor Lester works with his faculty colleagues to advance the Department's role at the forefront of research and education in energy and non-energy applications of nuclear science and technology. As director of IPC, Dr. Lester has led major studies of national and regional competitiveness and innovation performance commissioned by governments and industrial groups around the world.

Professor Lester's latest book is *Unlocking Energy Innovation: How America Can Build a Low-Cost, Low-Carbon Energy System* (MIT Press, 2012). Other recent books include *Innovation - The Missing Dimension*, with Michael J. Piore (Harvard, 2005) and *Making Technology Work: Applications in Energy and the Environment* (Cambridge, 2004), with John M. Deutch. He is a co-author of the widely-cited recent MIT reports on *The Future of Nuclear Power* and *The Future of Coal*, and has published widely on the management and control of nuclear technology.

Professor Lester obtained his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Imperial College (London) and a doctorate in nuclear engineering from MIT, and he has been a member of the MIT faculty since 1979. He serves on several boards and as an advisor and consultant to corporations, governments, foundations and non-profit groups, and speaks frequently to academic, business and general audiences throughout the world.