



IEEE LI Section Presents

GLOBALIZATION FORUM 2009



**Outsourcing & Offshoring Impact:
Reversing the Flux of Technical Leadership & Engineering Jobs on LI**

The IEEE Long Island Section is holding a Forum to explore the impact of Globalization here on Long Island, scheduled for **Friday, April 24, 2009, 7-9PM at the Little Theater in Roosevelt Hall at Farmingdale State College, SUNY, Farmingdale, NY.** The Forum shall solicit views about: 1) potential effects of offshoring on the U.S. economy, workforce, national security, and consumer privacy; 2) types of policies that have been proposed in response to offshoring; and 3) areas where further research could advance the debate on offshoring.

The following distinguished individuals have been invited to speak on the subject: **Dr. Pearl M. Kamer**, Chief Economist of Long Island Association; **Dr. Ron Hira**, Assistant Professor of Public Policy at the Rochester Institute of Technology, author of the book "Outsourcing America"; **Mr. Russ Harrison**, Senior Legislative Representative for Grassroots Affairs, IEEE-USA; and **Mr. Gary Huth**, Principal Economist / Labor Market Analyst for the NY State Department of Labor. **Mr. Peter Eckstein**, Vice-President of Government Relations, IEEE-USA will host and moderate.

Globalization is used today to define the process of increasing the connectivity and interdependence of the world markets and businesses. It is the economic integration of the entire world through the removal of barriers of free trade and capital mobility, as well as through the diffusion of knowledge and information. Consider our position as an international power, one half century ago. We were the richest country in the world. Since then, we've sold our factories, we've sold our resources and we now buy other countries' products because we cannot afford to manufacture and sell them ourselves. We are now economically "poor". In a recent article, Don Christiansen (donchristiansen@ieee.org), IEEE Fellow, editor and publisher of *IEEE Spectrum* (1971-1993) stated the following:

"U.S. corporations have accepted the outsourcing of information technology infrastructure as appropriate and necessary to remain competitive. Engineers are wondering whether the same attitude will prevail with respect to their own jobs. Some insist it already does. Boeing hired hundreds of engineers and scientists in Russia, in part because the Russian pay scale for aeronautical engineers was one-third that of U.S. engineers. Not long ago, a career counselor writing online at careerplanners.com suggested those hoping to safeguard their careers from offshoring might choose from a list that included bartender, dentist, security guard, plumber, and roofer. Stay away from the following, he advised: automotive engineer, computer systems analyst, hardware engineer, network engineer, reliability engineer, software developer, and reverse-engineering specialist. While politicians and pundits are giving more attention than ever to the topic of globalization, little is devoted to its effects on individual engineers, the engineering profession itself, and the role that engineers play in the technological leadership of the nation. There is also the fundamental issue of national defense, as technology traditionally exclusive to the U.S. is rapidly dispersed to and developed by potentially unfriendly countries. Since the consequences of ill-considered actions will be far-reaching, elected officials and others charged with making difficult decisions need to be sensitive and well-informed. And so must engineers." [Excerpted and reprinted with permission from *IEEE-USA Today's Engineer Online*.

Moreover, in his Feb 24 speech to Congress, US President Obama proclaimed: *"I do not accept a future where the jobs and industries of tomorrow take root beyond our borders - and I know you don't either. It is time for America to lead again."*

The problem associated with the outsourcing and offshoring of jobs and manufacturing is not just a local problem, it affects us all. Will the Forum be successful? How will we know if we succeed in reaching people? We want to find out how you, the people, react to the information presented, what your opinions are, and how much you are willing to stand up and help put an end to these practices that are draining the economic life of Long Island.

Let's create a groundswell among the people of Long Island to continue our legacy as innovators of ideas and causes. Express your opinions; write to your congressional representatives and local newspapers. Please join us at the Forum! Invite your spouse, your neighbors and your coworkers! Bring your questions, concerns, and opinions. Better yet, send them to: pulse@IEEE.LI and have them included in the questions that will be asked of our panel.

Directions to the Little Theater:

Follow Rte 110 to the South Entrance of the Farmingdale College Campus (Melville Rd.) Turn west on Melville Road, continue to the traffic light, and make the first RIGHT turn after the traffic light. Parking Lot #9 is on your immediate right, and has been reserved for parking for the Forum. Roosevelt Hall is a circular building that is adjacent to the parking lot. The entrance to the Little Theater is on the East side of the building.