

Dr. Richard Lester

Japan Steel Industry Professor, Head of the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering and faculty co-chair and founding Director of the Industrial Performance Center, Massachusetts Institute of Technology



Dr. Lester's research focuses on industrial innovation and the private and public management of technology, with an emphasis on the energy and manufacturing sectors. He is currently leading the Energy Innovation Project, a major MIT study of strategies for upgrading the U.S. energy innovation system.

As head of the Department of Nuclear Science and Engineering, Professor Lester works with his faculty colleagues to advance the Department's role at the forefront of research and education on energy and non-energy applications of nuclear science and technology. As director of the Industrial Performance Center (IPC), Dr. Lester has led several major studies of national and regional competitiveness and innovation performance commissioned by governments and industrial groups around the world. Recently, in the Local Innovation Systems Project, he directed an international network of researchers studying the technological transformation of industries in regional economies and the role of universities in that process. He currently serves as faculty advisor to MIT President's Council on Regional Engagement.

Professor Lester obtained his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering from Imperial College (London) and a doctorate in nuclear engineering from MIT. He has been a member of the MIT faculty since 1979.