

## **LIVING with TECHNOLOGY** (The Key to a Better Future)

Steve Krar

A new series of articles titled **Living with Technology** is being launched to make the average person in our society aware of the importance of business and industry and the effect they have on a country's wealth and the standard of living its people enjoy. Without a strong manufacturing base a county's standard of living would be similar to people in Asian or African countries. A strong manufacturing base provides its people with a high standard of living while those countries where there is little or no manufacturing base, have a very low standard of living. Each article will be no longer than 900 words making them easy to read and understand.

### **Living with Technology**

This series was written by Steve Krar, a Welland, Ontario author who has spent a lifetime associated with manufacturing as a student, tradesman, teacher, author and researcher. He is internationally known as a person who is very knowledgeable about manufacturing and has concentrated on Lean principles, waste reduction, and productivity improvement. The purpose of the series is to eliminate the fear of technology and put each article in language that the average person can easily understand. It is also hoped that the articles can be of use to businesses, industry, and organizations to become more efficient in what they do and become as productive as any country in the world.

### **What is Technology?**

Technology is defined as the use of tools and how they are used by humans to make their life better. Tools (technology) have been used by primitive humans since the beginning of time starting with things they found such as stones and animal bones. Technology can refer to material objects of use to humanity such as machines, hardware, utensils or processes.

Technology has affected society and its surroundings in a number of ways. In many societies, technology has helped develop more advanced economies (including today's global economy) and has allowed the rise of a leisure class. We take for granted cars, TVs, airplanes, CDs, cell phones, etc., that would not have been possible except for the technology that made them possible. The word "technology" can also be used to refer to how resources are combined to produce desired products, to solve problems, fulfil needs, or satisfy wants; it includes technical methods, skills, processes, techniques, tools and raw materials.

## Topics

The topics in this series will be grouped under a number of headings so that they will be interesting to everyone. Present groupings are. General Interest articles, Technology Discoveries, Manufacturing Leaders, Lean Tools and Principles, Lean Manufacturing, Manufacturing, Manufacturing Processes, Manufacturing in the Future. As newer technologies are developed and available in the world, they will be introduced.

## Technological Revolution

The technological revolution in communications is making the world smaller and its economy is becoming globalized. This revolution has also spread to business and manufacturing, and the prime factors today are where the highest quality goods can be produced at the lowest price. The rapid technological advances over the past 20 to 30 years have made countries who saw the potential of the new technologies and implemented them early became very wealthy. These countries were able to produce high-quality goods at lower costs and as a result gain a large share of the world market. In turn, the countries that were slow to use the new technologies, saw their industrial base decline and unemployment rise. Today, technological advances are so rapid that manufacturing processes of as little as 5 or 10 years ago are made obsolete by more efficient processes. Any country that wishes to survive and compete in this technological world must use the most up-to-date technology; only the most progressive will survive.

**The world is a user of tools that help them produce a variety of goods and services. In this world of rapidly-changing technology, new tools are constantly being developed, almost monthly. Businesses and Manufacturers that recognize the tools of tomorrow and use them today, assure themselves of a place in tomorrow's prosperity.**