

thoughts about that process.

Technology drives economic growth. During the past 200 years advances in manufacturing technology have not only increased man's productivity but also his ability to enter new, more complex technologies on a practical scale. Material science is one of technology's fundamental supports. Most technologies are materials dependent, often materials limited. Commercial jet aviation, the growing global communication network of satellites and fiber optics and the worldwide automobile industry depended upon metallurgy, ceramics and polymer science for their growth during the past 30—40 years. While metallurgy and ceramics have been known for centuries, polymer science emerged only in the past 60—70 years. Its effects have been profound and are projected to bring even greater changes in the future.

To be effective technology must be relevant, timely and properly applied. To meet these requirements requires the efficient processing of vast amounts of data in order to integrate society's needs and wants with man's scientific and technological capabilities and his material and human resources. Emerging computer technology is the path to efficiency in this field.

As the economies of the world continue to grow, nations will become more interdependent. While there is powerful and determined competition today in the world's economic arena, science, technology and economics are universal languages which drive increasing levels of cooperation and collaboration among nations.

学会通讯

著名化工专家吴祥龙先生逝世

化工部原科学技术委员会委员、北京橡胶工业研究设计院原副总工程师、高级工程师、中国化学会高分子委员会委员、《高分子通报》顾问吴祥龙先生因病于1989年7月31日九点十五分在北京逝世，享年84岁。吴祥龙先生浙江嘉兴人，1929年毕业于燕京大学化学系。曾在武汉大学、北平大学女子文理学院、河北医学院、北平中国大学担任讲师、副教授、教授等职务。解放后曾任天津橡胶研究所、北京橡胶工业研究设计院副总工程师、中国化学会《高分子通讯》编辑委员会委员、北京化工学会常务理事。1952年加入中国民主同盟并任天津市民盟常务委员会委员，当选为天津市第二、三届人大代表。

吴祥龙先生是老一代知名化工专家，长期从事橡胶科研、生产工作，为我国橡胶工业的发展作出了重要贡献。