

Rising Above the Gathering Storm (RAGS) Redux: From RAGS to ???

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In the fall of 2005, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Engineering, and the Institute of Medicine released the report “Rising Above the Gathering Storm: Energizing and Employing America for a Brighter Economic Future.” It called for action because of the increasing realization that in the words of Thomas Friedman, “The world is flat.” This report was motivated by the thought that globalization requires us to rethink our investments in innovation. In brief, advances in travel, transport, and telecommunication make distances of geographic separation increasingly irrelevant. An important consequence of this fact is that US workers must compete with other workers from all around the globe who are numerous, highly motivated, increasingly well educated, and willing to work for a fraction of the compensation traditionally expected in the US. This lecture by one of the co-authors of RAGS will examine the challenges posed by globalization, what this report recommended, and our responses to date.

