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|  |  | the future of work we want  A global dialogue |

06/04/2017

# keynote: robert skidelsky[[1]](#footnote-1)

## Why is this topic important?

Workless future for many entering into the job market, where machines are taking human jobs. Are we mechanical slave? The current state of emerging robots is different from what we had for the past century. Rather, technology possibly creates different jobs and more time for leisure. 40% of jobs existing in USA will be replaced by machines. Less work will be needed to produce the same outputs.

## Economic theory

Economists distinguish effects of work: substitution effect and income effect. Substitution effect means that workers will give up pleasure as their income rises because they tend to work longer to gain more income. Income effect means that as workers become richer, they tend to reduce work because they do not have to work longer to make a live.

There are four ideas.

* Work is not as a cost but benefits. Work became more meaningful beyond a source of production. E.g. personal development, social participation.
* Insociability: People want more products so work more.
* Workers do not choose how much they work but employers.
* Average hours of work are determined by levels of income.

The world of work is already shrinking because of technology and social policy. Young people stay in education longer and elderly people are out of work longer than they used to be.

## Global governance

Technology may be endogenous. Innovation determines technological society. We need global governance if we manage this transitional period towards shorter working era. For instance, if one country adopts robot taxation, what shall we do to the rest of robot tax heaven?

## Ageing population

Pension should be re-examined. How do we pay for more elderly people? Only ways are either to let people work longer or increase contribution.

## Developing and developed countries

Problem of linking developing and developed countries is that technology is universal but standers of living is unequal.

1. This is a note of Ippei Tsuruga for personal use about [the future of work conference](http://www.ilo.org/global/topics/future-of-work/dialogue/lang--en/index.htm) held at ILO. The outcome of this initiative will be launched at the centenary conference in 2019. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)