

Technology Going off Track

When speaking of great achievements of mankind, what comes to your mind? It's believed that sending people to the moon is one of the greatest things that the human race has ever accomplished. But after the fierce competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, we seem to focus less on reaching for faraway worlds. If you tell people in 1970s that NASA is working hard to send an unmanned spacecraft to the moon in 2022¹, they must think you are insane.

Thus, some people raised the question of whether our technology is going on the right track or not. From my point of view, current mode of technology development is less beneficial to human race because it is driven by interest and short-term goals.

Nowadays, interest plays dominant rule in promoting technology development. That means people are thinking of ways to get more economic effect from technology. To make money, major enterprises are committed to please people's sensation. For example, big data can analyze your preferences based on your online act, which helps apps like Tiktok to get you addicted to them. This kind of technology has little to do with the development of human race, but it makes a lot of money. I'm not against seeking for pleasure. But imagine that there is a child, you can let him enjoy his warm and soft cradle forever, while you can also let him grow up, get out of the cradle and explore the kaleidoscope of things in the outside world. Which one would you choose?

Some may argue that making advanced rockets and satellites is not helpful with our everyday life. But space technology can greatly galvanize the improvement of many modern inventions like GPS and telecommunication. With powerful and reliable rockets, we can shoot up satellites for all kinds of use—navigating, weather forecasting, fast and stable communication, etc. Most people still don't realize the link between space technology and everyday life. But it's true that without those ambitious goals of reaching other planets spurring the development of space technology, we couldn't have marched into information era. Smartphones couldn't have been so smart and weather forecasts couldn't have been so accurate.

In short, the main drive to promote technology has changed from exploring the unknown to chasing for interest. Due to the shift in main drive, present situation of technology advancement does less good to mankind. If that situation cannot be rectified, human race will face the possibility of falling into the abyss of sensational pleasure and being a cradled child forever.

¹ It refers to the Artemis Program.