

PRESENTATION ABSTRACT

BRICS URBAN/RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND "SMART TERRITORIES".

All the BRICS countries in the last years face a fast growth of uncontrolled urbanization processes that are determining a rising imbalance between urban and rural areas and internal migration flows. This global trend, not only in the BRICS, must be reduced and mitigated to fight the complex problems represented by the huge urban agglomerations, now still more highlighted by the pandemic and its impacts. The actual paradigm that "smart cities" are the solution for the next future has to be reviewed to avoid a progressive displacement between concentrated urban areas and wide neglected territories.

Actually are ongoing strategic connectivity corridors, that are interesting every BRICS member and surrounding countries, and there infrastructures can become the backbone of a integrated network of mobility, communication, energy, logistics, data flows , considered as" smart corridors" that can upgrade an sustainably develop wide rural areas and territories, keeping or attracting settled population.

A new role is this way foreseen for minor cities, town and rural settlements spread on the territory, revamping local agriculture and natural asset, improving at the same time the necessary permanent human presidium on environment, as climate change is clearly showing. Apart smaller urban realities assure stronger social cohesion, sense of identity, better overall conditions and life quality of inhabitants. Modern technologies applied everywhere can easily support such a reviewed settlement scheme, that somehow remind the ancient models previous to the diverse industrial revolutions, and still more actual for the future if we take in account possible new pandemic and climate change impacts.

BRICS countries can be the drivers of such a new vision and develop programs for urban/rural development of "smart territories" with an holistic approach, that takes in account not only technologies, but also the social and environmental aspects for restore the global equilibrium between mankind and nature.

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