

Good afternoon to all

I start to thanks to Professor Nunes da Silva and the organization for the invitation.

The theme of Sustainable Building Materials in an event like these makes it possible to develop a reflection on the model of development of cities and the result that has led to actual reality.

This analysis shows the path that will led to the identity of the issues that are in the basis to the necessity of change.

Slide 2

In 1902 H.G. Wells anticipated a set of problems that urban concentration would conduct by the future construction of large cities.

High concentration of population; problems of mobility; low green spaces; substandard housing; these led to the need of a transformation of the existing model to build the city.

Several threats on food production; energy consumption; water quality and the destruction of natural soil require that the present generation to be train to deal with these issues.

Slide 3

During his evolution, Man, as an intelligent being has been less carefully and more and more with a short-term vision.

The use that all we have made of the planet until now has led us to a territory in a tainted state.

The dispersion on the territory; the occupation of sensitive areas and the compromise of the natural potential shows a planet that the state of exhaustion forces to a dramatic change.

The use of technology and knowledge as a form of power and with a short-term economic perspective has engulfing our planet.

Slide 4

This is due to the rising consumption of natural resources, particularly non-renewable ones.

From the attempt to control actions and relations of strength and individualism, we find today a worrisome picture of alarm who approaching the extinction.

Man consumes today more that will tomorrow have. It is this unsustainability that we will all have to counter.

We cannot plan and manage our territories without evaluating the consequences of our decisions.

The use of resources in an unsustainable way is unacceptable.

Slide 5

Population growth has led to urban growth models which are not always accompanied by the efficiency level.

Howard in his Garden City model in the beginning of the past-century identified problems of cities growing. Also by Trip with its organization of mobility or by Le Corbusier with the functional zoning, all tried to respond to the needs and expectations of the societies.

But the absence of conditions for the existence of individualized opportunities in an community life framework has led to an urban growth promoted also by inefficient models of governance.

The result of the urban models has led today to the death of parts of some cities and the explosion of areas of urban concentration without the minimum conditions for a safe and quality life.

Slide 6

The effect was the constant exploitation and increasing consumption of nonrenewable resources and materials.

In the same way, this increase led to an increase in energy consumption, which in turn enhance the effects on the global climate.

The implementing Sustainable Development Strategies shows now a priority within the search for alternatives to the crossroads in which man finds himself.

However, the time we have, the competence we own allows us to think that we are capable of acting globally with our local actions.

We need to build and transform our world into something more operative with less but much better technology.

The forecast of increased urban concentration requires also a global response of the corporate governance.

Slide 7

The identification of new Sustainable Building Materials for a more enduring world is a priority.

If we remember that the forecasts indicate that in the year 2030 more than 50% of the population will live in urban areas and that only 40% of these areas have access to all utilities, we can find that URBANIZATION is the new material for Sustainable Development.

Through urbanization it is possible to transform the informal into a formal one, thus ensuring greater equality in the opportunities for access to a good health; nutrition; education; Social and work contacts and will result in the construction of new and more sustainable and governed cities.

Slide 8

We will have a population that is more capable; better informed and more autonomous to develop its options; with regarding the planet and without inequalities that can break down the hope of building the true city for the 21st century.

A city that, due to its resilience, adapts to the effects of climate change and promotes fairer development models and without a imposed poverty.

Slide 9

I conclude with a synthesis of key issues in which the new building materials will have to be the support to the sustainability of the city of the future:

- to accept that the PLANET HAS LIMITS;**

- POVERTY REDUCTION and GENDER EQUALITY as an essential strategy;**

- urban growth only achieved through URBANIZATION.**

Slide 10

Thanks for your attention.

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