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Smart Cities and Rural-Urban Connectivity

At the start of the 20th Century cities faced daunting challenges of public health, increasing urbanization, mobility, and communications in the context of a global power divide, simmering international political tensions, and conflict. Smart Cities of that era met some of these challenges through large-scale physical infrastructure. Thus, the 20th Century was one of investment in urban infrastructure; including water and sanitation, housing, highways/mass transit, and telecommunications. The Smart Cities of today will be those that learn from the past to confront these challenges. They will use ICT (information and communication technology) to foster connected urban and rural development, broad-based resilience to adversity, and reduce the environmental footprint of cities. Smart Cities will be inclusive, providing equal opportunities for growth to all sectors of society and the increasing numbers of migrants who will arrive in search of a better life. Governments and civil society will lead the multilevel global and domestic diplomacy necessary to establish the policies, programs, and standards needed to sustain Smart City growth.

This talk will use the issue of rural-urban connectivity to highlight the international dimensions of Smart Cities for sustainable human development.

Instituto Superior Técnico

Museu Dep. Eng. Civil e Arquitetura - Campus Alameda

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