

TRANSCRIPT OF FORMER UK PRIME MINISTER TONY BLAIR ABOUT SUSTAINABLE EMERGING CITIES

Hello everyone!

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to say a few words to you about the important work in the region. From the work I do around the world, today emerging cities are going to play an absolutely critical roll in how we manage to meet the challenge of having rapid development at the same time as doing it in a way that is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

The challenges is an urgent one, but we still have the time to get it right if we have the right imaginations, the right policy and the right decisions making to do so.

I've engaged in this in many different parts of the world, for example, with the Chinese 1000 villages initiative which is an attempt to ensure that development in China is done in a way compatible with meeting the challenges of climate change.

And I've also know it as a tool that we can replicate some of the work that is being done there but also in other parts of the world to areas like Asia, Africa, Latin-America, and the Caribbean where it's desperately needed.

The key thing however is that it's one thing to have the ambition to do this and it's another thing to put in place the policy, the strategy and the delivery

mechanisms that allow us to do this not just with speed but with genuine effectiveness, and this is now the big challenge that we have in front of us.

From what I've seen in the IDB plans I think they are an excellent step on the right direction. I think they can do an immense amount in Latin-American and the Caribbean regions and they're also part of the growing worldwide movement and that is how we match the tremendous ambition that people have today for economic growth, for highest standards of living, for the prosperity that they need with economic, social and environmental systems that are relied.

Now this is the challenge that we have, I think we can meet that challenge but we have to be aware of the fact that unless we put the right policies on place it's going to be very tough to do, so the work the IDB is doing in this regard is absolutely central. It's fundamental to get it right and I give it my full blessing and support so the very best luck to you and to everyone who is working on this important initiative.

Now, I think there is a real chance of making a difference in the years to come, and the place to start is the exactly where you are starting. With the emerging cities where people are going to live and work and where if we don't get the environmental policies right in this area we won't get it right anywhere.

So many thanks for giving me this opportunity to say a few words to you, very good luck with the deliberations you have and I look forward to hearing more about it.