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ABSTRACT

SYNERGIES IN THE URBAN REHABILITATION OF BRIDGETOWN

1995 – 2016

With the New Urban Agenda being the guiding international framework for urban planning and management for the next two decades and acknowledging the importance of environmental sustainability as being key to its implementation, we are to be reminded that a city is the heartbeat of any nation and that its sustainability lies primarily within its socio-economic viability. Bridgetown, the capital of Barbados, identifies with the developmental challenges of other cities in the Caribbean in their quest to improve their overall performance in order to become more competitive, equitable and environmentally sustainable.

The integration of best practices such as the internationally accepted green city concept, is one such approach which is, inter alia, promoting a more equal balance between green and built spaces, and more sustainable and smart transportation systems; reducing energy consumption; increasing water-sensitiveness and water conservation; and greening urban services (drainage systems, solid waste systems). Despite this approach not having been holistically adopted by the Government of Barbados (GOB) in its urban rehabilitation programme (URP), it is well on its way in demonstrating a high level of commitment to the establishment of a green city.

This paper examines the fundamental lessons learnt over the past twenty-one years from the URP's planning and implementation and their importance to achieving a green city. The areas of focus: (1) Green Energy – urban mobility and accessibility, including reducing automobile dependence; integration of technology applications in sustainable urban development; and cultural heritage (2) Green Spaces – climate resilience through drainage improvements; planning and social issues (3) Green Economy – financing urban greening in cities; and the adaptive use of the town centre management model.

References

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