

Infrastructure delivery for international development

Professor Paul W Jowitt

A functioning society and business - depends on a series of complex infrastructure networks, providing our cities and towns with clean water, transport, energy and the capacity to trade efficiently.

Effective economic recovery and sustainable development will also depend on extending infrastructure to those in the world who have been left behind in the past 50 years and who will be exposed to even greater threats in the next 50 years.

Progress towards the UN Millennium Development Goals is behind schedule - and the global economic crisis has had grim repercussions.

The first six of the eight UN Millennium Development Goals are directly concerned with the human condition – their physical health, their economic and social well-being and their capacity to play a full and useful role in the world.

And this all depends on access to infrastructure. Lack of access to basic infrastructure is at the root of world poverty and the human tragedies associated with it.

The developing world need investment in infrastructure and the local capacity – personal and institutional – to ensure it is delivered effectively. The solutions are dependent solely on technical knowledge, but to issues of procurement, project management and local community engagement.

This keynote speech will address some of these issues.