

## Chapter 16

# Industrial Parks as a Solution to Expanding Urbanization: A Case of Sub-Saharan Africa

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### **ABSTRACT**

*In a bid to foster the continent's industrialization, Sub-Saharan Africa launched industrial clusters or parks for channeling foreign know-how and capital and are bypassing the many obstacles of domestic business environments. Due to the high degree of failure experienced in many parts Africa, the China model of success story can serve as a case study of commitment top leadership, political goodwill, focused legal and regulatory framework, setting up favorable location advantages, tax breaks, duty-free imports of raw materials, export tax exemption, updated and modern technologies. It is also important African industrial development to build local manufacturing capacity, skilled people, including strengthening the concept of public-private partnership, but above all, investing in infrastructure.*

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY**

Africa in general and Sub Saharan Africa (SSA) in particular finds itself between its own whetted appetite towards industrialization on the one hand, and globalization and its attendant features of rapid and expanding urbanization, population sprawl, uncontrolled and increased density of migration on the other. This does not only work against its goals of industrialization, but more specifically against Goal 9 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which calls for promotion of sustainable industrialization. With such hindrances, urban future is becoming a great concern and industrialization seen as offering little or no solution.

Sub Saharan Africa must make Industrial Parks a solution to job creation for its increasing population in order to overcome the complex social, economic and environmental issues confronting it. Drawing lessons from China where despite high population such parks have proved to be successful, Sub Saharan Africa can work to build successful Industrial Parks as well. The aim of the study is therefore to look at

DOI: 10.4018/978-1-5225-2659-9.ch016

possible solutions brought about by Industrial Parks to increasing urbanization and drawing lessons from China's industrial parks success story can be of help to Sub Saharan Africa in its quest for a solution.

## **DEFINITIONS, PROBLEM & AIMS OF THE STUDY**

Industrial park concept has been defined in the literature in 19 different terms. The terms include Scientific Park, Technology Park, Research Park, Ecological Park or different combination of these all which form partnership between business, universities, research institutes as well as the civil society. Other associated terms are Industrial Estates, Industrial Districts, Export Processing Zones, Industrial Clusters, Business Parks, Office Parks, Science and Research Parks, Bio-Technology Parks as well as Eco-Industrial Parks.

All the terms above have variations and shades of meaning but the difference in terms surrounding Industrial Parks is not so much in meaning but in emphasis (Dodescu and Chirilă, 2012, UNCTC/ILO, 1986, Bost, 2010, FIAS, 2008, Cote & Cohen-Rosenthal, 1998). The common definition is taken to be a large tract of land sub-divided and developed for the use of several firms simultaneously with distinguishing characteristics being close proximity of firms and shareable infrastructure. Therefore, rather than taking the whole country, city or town for industrialization, industrial parks serve as prototypes or examples of places for industrialization.

Akinci (2004) points out how different geographical locations prefer to use different terminologies as shown in the table below. However, the term Industrial Parks will be used throughout this paper.

*Table 1. Industrial Parks shades of names used in different countries*

1	Maquiladora	Costa Rica, Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama
2	Free Zones	Costa Rica, Honduras, Ireland, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, Venezuela
3	Special Economic Zones (SEZ) /Cluster concept	China
4	Industrial Free Zones	Cameroon, Colombia, Ghana, Madagascar, Syrian Arab Republic, Jordan
5	Free Trade Zones (FTZ)	Bulgaria, Chile, Egypt
6	Export Free Zones	Jamaica
7	Free trade/industrial zones	Islamic Republic of Iran
8	Export Processing Free Zones	Togo
9	Special Export Processing Free Zones	Philippines
10	Tax Free Factories	Fiji
11	Bonded Zones	Indonesia
12	Free Economic Zones	Russian Federation
13	Industrial Estates	Thailand
14	Points Francs (special Industrial Free Zones)	Cameroon
15	Industrial Free zones for goods and services	Colombia

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