

## International Virtual Event: Global Smart Villages

### Strategies for An Alternative Nation – A Permaculture Perspective on Village Design from An African Context

*Barry Smorenburg, CEO and co-owner of a large fast moving consumer goods company servicing Southern Africa*



Unpredictable weather patterns. Increasing income differentials. Threats of financial meltdowns and economic crisis. Disproportionate young populations. Dangerous levels of unemployment especially in the youth . Housing shortages. Food poverty. Water crisis. Structures not able to handle waste, sewage, energy. As we shift into this automated technology driven world, advanced communities may thrive, however, people in emerging economies in a globalized growth at all cost world will not.

We need to be mindful when trying to address these issues through technology. We risk repeating colonization and furthering exploitation of these communities utilizing technology concentrated in the hands of few, now in the name of sustainability. Can

we farm without intergenerational land based farmers? Why are we trying to financialize biodiversity?

This talk is a step back. It looks at the fundamentals of village design through the lens of the permaculture ethics of Earth Care, People Care and (the original third ethic) to place limits on population growth and consumption.

It argues for a localized community of place, designing villages around shared values, developing regenerative land based enterprise supported by appropriate technology.

### About the speaker

My name is Barry Smorenburg and I am a permaculture designer specialising in developing regenerative land based systems. I enjoy applying my skills towards local community development through land based enterprise.

After 20 years in commerce, mainly within the supply chain industry, I became concerned about the impact my livelihood was having on our planet. In 2011 I left my position as CEO and co-owner of a large fast moving consumer goods company servicing Southern Africa.

I completed permaculture design certifications with Oregon State University and the Permaculture Research Institute of Australia. I have spent the last decade designing and developing land based regenerative properties.

I am grounded in the ethics of earth care, people care and return of surplus, and work within the framework of permaculture principles and holistic farm management.

I hold an honours degree in Accounting Science and am a member of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants.