

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



1 BILLION

PEOPLE
WORLDWIDE
LACK ACCESS
TO AN
ALL-WEATHER
ROAD

17%

OF PEOPLE IN
THE LEAST
DEVELOPED
COUNTRIES
LACK ACCESS
TO A MOBILE
BROADBAND
NETWORK

ONLY

1 IN 5

COUNTRIES
GLOBALLY
HAVE REACHED
GENDER PARITY
IN RESEARCH

BUILD RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE & SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND FOSTER INNOVATION

A compassionate approach to infrastructure, industry, and innovation starts with communities instead of commodities.

NOTICING

Poor infrastructure prevents people from accessing essential services, like healthcare and education, and from bringing their goods to market, which perpetuates poverty. Small industrial enterprises often lack access to financial services and credit that would allow them to compete and grow. Innovation in science and technology is largely located in rich countries, as COVID-19 vaccine development showed, impacting the economic growth and health of poor nations.

INTERPRETING/EMPATHIZING

Without infrastructure to prevent climate disasters, the climate-related death toll and destruction of homes and livelihoods will continue to increase. Without strong transportation routes within and between countries, we will continue to see slow and limited economic growth in emerging economies. Without investments in science and technology that prioritize gender parity in research and that promote the development of innovation infrastructure in LMICs, advancements in science and technology will continue to reinforce global inequities rather than support prosperous equitable societies.

TAKING ACTION

Compassion encourages us to shift our central focus from profit to people to transform the structure of economies so they are inclusive and sustainable. For example, the [Asian Coalition for Community Action](#) has shown that people-led community development projects that are organizing and working together as networks can tackle problems of land, infrastructure, social and economic development, and housing at scale among the urban poor. Collective efforts like this are more likely to succeed in achieving the SDG agenda.

"Imagine if we could empower millions of organisations across Asia & throughout the world to increase their capacity of helping more people."

NICHOLAS OOI
CEO OF BANTU