



Geopolis: Urban Geographical Information for Development Policy - Indiapolis Set of Data Development and First Results

Dr Eric Denis

Head of the Social Sciences
Department
French Institute in
Pondicherry, India

Dr Frédéric Borne

Head of Geomatics and
Applied Informatics
Laboratory
French Institute in
Pondicherry
India

Dr Kamala Marius-Gnanou

Geographer
French Institute in
Pondicherry
India

Abstract:

In 2008, UN agencies declare that 50% of World population lives in urban area. How far this statement which leads major transformations in cooperation, funding and development policies is correct: with which cities, where exactly? Based on very heterogeneous census and administrative gathered in balancing local, national and international political stakes, measurement of urbanization is badly comparable from Nation to Nation and sometimes from State to State, like in India after decentralization. UN agencies themselves as World Bank recognize that their statements of urbanization are uncertain: that in particular projections are always wrong or that they don't know precisely what are the urban setting under 500,000 inhabitant cities. GEOPOLIS is a worldwide geodatabase that aims to propose a harmonized measure of urbanization with a precise localization of each unit with its population presently and historically (1950-2020) [www.e-geopolis.eu]. It's based on the concept of morphological agglomeration – considering as urban all the local demographic units which are falling in agglomerates with less than 200m between constructions and with a total population of at least 10,000 inhabitants. Several development agencies support GEOPOLIS project in order to better and alternatively assert their understating of urban setting and dynamics in different parts of the world; notably French Agency of Development, World Bank and also like Google-Tide Foundation. The first results for India give an alternative vision of urbanization less focusing on mega and metro cities. Small agglomerates emerge rapidly as a major stake for development in

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India far from the sunshine of big cities as motor of growth and other biased hypothesis supported notably by the World Development Report 2010 “Reshaping Economic Geography”.