

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The 2008-09 academic year finds me at another institution of higher education: Clarion University of Pennsylvania where I have begun my tenure as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The home for the JSDA has moved to Clarion University as a result of my new affiliation. I will continue to serve as the editor-in-chief with the same enthusiasm and passion as I have in the past nine years. The editorial board welcomes Ms. Hope Magee, our graduate assistant, who will be working with me for the next couple of years on the JSDA. Our managing editor, Dr. Juan Ma, will continue to assist us from her current institution: Fayetteville State University. We thank Dr. Ma for her many years of service as the managing editor of the JSDA.

The fall 2008 issue of JSDA has not deviated from our usual standard of excellence. We have assembled the articles which we believe are excellent efforts to shed some light on the philosophy of development, environmental, economic, political, sociological, cultural and natural resource issues confronting Africa. The articles in this issue make vividly clear that sustainable development and the sustainability questions in Africa are better handled by governmental and non-governmental agencies working together. The roles of industries, private individual, institutions of higher education, think-tanks, and international organizations in sustainable development and sustainability are reflected in this issue of JSDA.

As you have noticed in our past publications, we have continued to focus on building the capacities of people and providing a discussion beneficial to two groups: scholars and practitioners. We are particularly conscious of the fact that the efforts of building capacities of people will definitely enhance the understanding of the significance of resource conservation and protection. It is also clear that understanding the socio-political and economic aspects of societies will shed some light on the interplay of the different aspects of societies which influence the maintenance of healthy communities. Our emphasis in JSDA has always been the creation of sustainable communities in Africa. Well established communities also need assistance and as such, scholars and practitioners have roles to play in the development of Africa. This issue of JSDA reminds us of the centrality of resource management, socio-economic, and socio-political issues surrounding sustainable development in Africa.

Please continue to send us your comments.

Sincerely,

Valentine Udoh James
Editor-in-Chief