

## Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 11, No.4, 2009)

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Clarion University of Pennsylvania, Clarion, Pennsylvania

My Honorable Colleagues and Friends:

This year has been an exciting year for our work on sustainability and sustainable development. We have established Sustainability Institute at Clarion University and the scope of the responsibility of the Institute covers a lot of the international agenda of the University and of my responsibility to the academy to which I hold very dear to my heart. The Journal of Sustainable



Development in Africa (JSDA) will expand and enhance the scholarship of the newly established Sustainability Institute.

This year, as many of you know, I took on the responsibility of being a “field editor” for the Edwin Mellon Press. My call for proposals for book manuscripts is still open and will remain open for the next three years. Many of you have responded with topics, abstracts and chapter by chapter descriptions of your proposed books. I look forward to working with you to have your books in print. For those of you whose books would be published, we hope to welcome you to the Institute for the launching of your books with a possibility of touring other campuses of the Pennsylvania State Schools of Higher Education (PASSHE).

Now, this issue of the Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa represents the beginning of a new endeavor on the part of the editorial board to increase the number of papers that we bring to the attention of our readership. The submissions of papers have increased very rapidly and our small staff has been working diligently to coordinate the correspondence between our office and reviewers and to keep the authors apprised on the progress we are making towards publishing their works. I thank the authors for their patience and for responding in timely fashion to queries that we send them concerning the need for the revision of their works. It takes a great partnership to get the papers published.

This issue of JSDA has not deviated from presenting the readership with sustainability and sustainable development matters focused on the political, economic, environmental, socio-

cultural and development matters of Africa. At the center of the authors' concerns are issues of improvement of the human condition on the continent. For example, agricultural production in a sustainable manner in the face of exponential population increase must be taken seriously. Holistic solutions are needed. These solutions must be locally based and governments and private sectors must engage citizens on best practices that can be beneficial in food production and environmental protection.

The concerns over the instability of governments are well addressed and the suggested ideas about what needs to be done must be taken seriously. Citizens must bring the ideas to their elected officials who must, in turn, react positively to the queries and suggestions from the public.

The papers provide theoretical and applied ideas about many issues germane to sustainability and many of the authors seem to indicate that progress is being made and awareness of problems of sustainable development is widespread across their areas of study. We hope that these papers are generating discussions in the academic circles and that government officials are paying attention to the recommendations that are provided in our papers. We hope that in leadership circles, discussions are going on with the possibility of the emergence of "real" solutions to Africa's development.

As always, I urge you to provide us with suggestions and comments about our papers and the journal. Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valentine James". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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