

Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (Volume 12, No.2, 2010)

ISSN: 1520-5509

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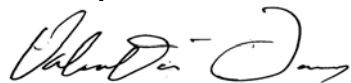
Dear Friends and Colleagues,

The papers in this issue clearly indicate that Africa has the potential to be economically, environmentally, socio-culturally, and politically sound; but these must be sustained over long periods of time. Democratic governments have been emerging in Africa and many are working hard to ensure fairness, equity, and transparencies in government. Efforts are under way to eradicate serious diseases and governments are beginning to be mindful of the terrible impact of corruption on the economies of their countries and the lives of citizens. Haphazard development is causing environmental damages of immeasurable proportions. The ecological decline in the Niger Delta of Nigeria is not only an environmental and economic loss, but there is a loss of biological diversity and cultural diversity associated with the damage due to oil exploration and exploitation.

Nonetheless, it is quite obvious that sustainable development through sustainable capitalism is not an easy task, but does require investment in capacity building and ability to run organizations. Institutions of higher education and think-tanks across Africa have significant roles to play and their presence is quite vivid in the contributions to this issue of JSDA. The scholars have put forward their research findings, their gut feelings, their understanding and perceptions, and they have provided recommendations for making sustainability achievable and, as such, maintaining the integrity of the economic, social-cultural, political, and environmental systems of Africa. I am quite impressed by the caliber of the articles in this issue and I hope you are too. I am also very hopeful that the scholarship in this issue, as well as others of past issues, will spur deliberate development efforts pivoted on sound and well thought out recommendations in these articles. Other scholars will use the findings of the research in this issue as springboards for their work.

I look forward to your comments, suggestions, and above all I thank you for your support.

Sincerely,



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