

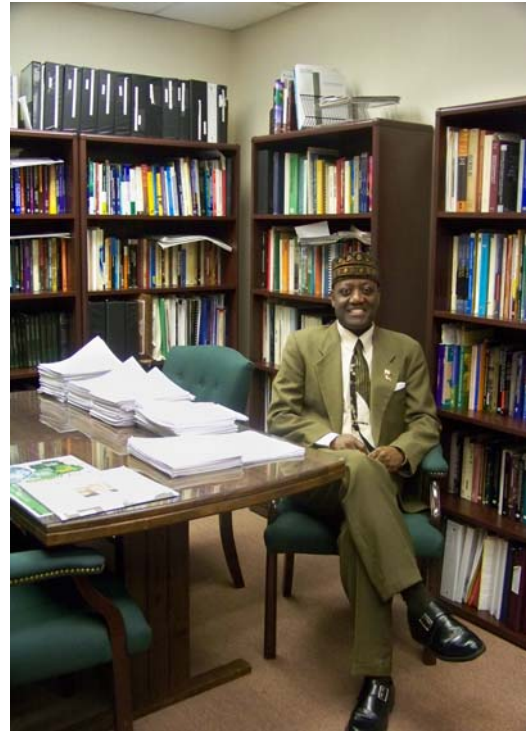
My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The summer descended upon us quite rapidly and we are already getting close to the fall season. I have spent most of the summer attending professional and academic conferences and meetings. At many of these meetings, I discovered that many presenters use the term “sustainability” quite frequently in their speeches. They are particularly interested in how to infuse “sustainability” and “sustainable development” into the academic curriculum of their universities. Some institutions are further ahead than others in that regard, so sharing their success stories was quite welcomed at the conferences. As one who has been wrestling with the subject of “sustainability” and “sustainable development” for a couple of decades, it is very gratifying to listen to the swelling movements on these two concepts. These movements are not just theoretical but they are genuine efforts to operationalize the concepts.

In the Western World, especially in the United States, the construction of new buildings on the campuses of colleges and universities are embracing the idea of a lower carbon footprint. Energy efficient buildings (the so-called green buildings) are in vogue. LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) developed by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) has been instrumental in furthering the understanding of the sustainability of energy in corporate, university and government buildings. Students, faculty, and administrators are committing to the ideas of sustainability on their campuses. Universities are recruiting students who are well informed on the issues pertaining to sustainability. It is estimated that in the United States, about 677 schools which, altogether, amount to 6,000,000 students committed to sustainability and signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. This translates to the fact that institutions that sign the agreements agree to:

- 1.) Conduct at least one campus green-house inventory
- 2.) Create a Comprehensive Climate Plan
- 3.) Implement at least two of seven shorter-term actions for reducing their carbon footprint. (Fliegler, 2010)

The lessons from American institutions of Higher Education have implications for institutions of Higher Education across the world. These lessons are being shared with other institutions through collaborative ventures. Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) are being signed between institutions in the USA and African institutions on collaborative works and I am hopeful that some of the agreements are on sustainability and sustainable development.



The scholars whose papers are published in this issue of JSDA have clearly continued in the vein of sharing their research findings on development, change, responsibility and stewardship. Perhaps, the emerging trends in environmental stewardship, economic development and social changes in Africa will continue to be informed by good practices that emanate from Africa and from the developed regions of the world that practice sound democratic and participatory governance. The patterns of successful growth and development in Africa seem to suggest that there is a strong presence of Western countries in Africa's current development trends.

Projections seem to indicate a continuation of the European and African development paradigms across Africa. To continue to secure the collaboration of developed nations, developing countries such as Nigeria, Guinea, and Sierra Leone on the West coast of Africa must ensure that law and order are maintained, and that civil order is maintained. Ghana seems to have found the right formulas for attracting investors. A Fortune article notes:

As the continent's second-largest producer of gold, Ghana is a jewel in Africa's crown: a fast-growing destination for investors seeking golden returns in a democratic and stable social and political environment. Strategically located in the heart of West Africa, the country of 24 million people made world headlines in July 2009 when it became the first sub-Saharan African nation to be visited by the U.S. President Barack Obama. (p. S2)

A country such as Botswana in the southern part of the continent has also had stable government and disciplined society and these have been incentives for foreign investments. The JSDA will continue to highlight environmental, economic development, and political matters germane to the sustainability of the societies of Africa. I believe that the articles in this issue will bring new thinking to the entire journal readership. Please send your comments and thanks for your support.

Valentine Udoh James, PhD, CES, CAQS  
Editor-in-Chief

References:

- 1.) Fliegler, Caryn. 2010. "The Commitment" University Business: Solutions for Higher Education Management, p. S5
- 2.) Fortune. 2010. "Ghana Setting the Standard." July 23 p. S1-S5