

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am very appreciative of the work the contributors made to the Fall B issue of the JSDA. In my efforts to analyze and articulate Africa's development matters to our readership, I find that the convergence of the disciplines and training of the contributors as reflected in their articles inform and educate all of us. Their works lead the way in a very organized fashion in providing some answers to Africa's quest for sustainability in its economic, social, environmental and political systems. There is no doubt that we must not assume that the development trends are the same for all the countries of Africa. They are certainly not and we can agree that the improvement of development is needed in the majority of the countries of Africa.



As a student of sustainable development, I am often alarmed by the missed opportunities that African leaders have had to assist in the development of their countries. To comprehend why some have failed woefully, one has to examine Africa's history with respect to its position with Europe and North America. A visit to some of the slave ports in West African countries such as Ghana and Senegal would certainly drive home the point. The consequences of slavery and the subsequent colonial rule have impacted Africa in such a devastating way that developments have never been implemented holistically.

Today, African people, like people of other developing areas of the world, are wondering if they will achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). These are the eight established international development targets that the member countries of the United Nations and many international organizations have recognized as their desired goals by 2015. These goals include "reducing extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting diseases such as AIDS, and developing global partnerships for development around the world" (Finance and Development, September 2010, p. 1)

An example of a country that is trying to modernize is Nigeria. Africa's most populous country, Nigeria, has been facing the problem of electricity supply for decades. The President, Goodluck Jonathan, who is seeking re-election, has planned to launch Africa's most ambitious privatization in efforts to win the Presidency. Electrification of Nigeria's urban and rural communities in a sustainable manner will certainly help the development of this West African country (The Economist, p. 1).

This issue of the JSDA presents a set of articles that address a number of theoretical and applied issues of development. It is our hope that they will add to the debates on Africa's future. Please do not hesitate to contact us with your constructive comments and we thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

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References

- Finance and Development. September 2010, p. 1
- [http://www.economist.com/node/17312103/Electricity in Nigeria: Let there be Light](http://www.economist.com/node/17312103/Electricity%20in%20Nigeria:Let%20there%20be%20Light)