

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am very delighted to bring you the “Summer A Issue” of the *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (JSDA). As we academics conclude another successful academic year, we take a deep breath and gather ourselves for the work ahead of us in the fall of 2011. We celebrate the success of our graduates as they embark on their journey to be part of the productive workforce while others move on to graduate and professional schools.



In preparing our summer issues, I have retreated to our second home in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Spending some time at the Western Michigan University libraries and enjoying serious conversations with my family here have always been inspirational for my intellectual growth. On one occasion while reviewing the papers for Summer A issue, I decided to take a break and walk the grounds of this beautiful campus. I came across several postings surrounding the construction of a new campus facility. They were so instructive that when I returned to the library to continue the review of the papers, I made the conscious decision to share some of the postings with our readership. These postings speak to the subject of education and the significance of education and educators. These postings are indeed germane to what each and every contributor to the JSDA is about and what they do and how they do it. Each article brings forth an idea, a perspective and an opinion that searches for the “truth” and reflects on the accomplishments of our societies or what we need to do to make our societies better. These papers published in JSDA express rigorous analysis of circumstances in our communities and ways to sustain our political, social, cultural, economic, and environmental systems. They are all pivoted on education and educational systems. Here are a few of the postings.

- 1) Education is for improving the lives of others and for leaving your community and world better than you found it. – Marian Wright Edelman
- 2) The teacher who is indeed wise does not bid you to enter the house of his wisdom but rather leads you to the threshold of your mind. – Kahlil Gibran
- 3) One cannot expect positive results from an educational or political action program which fails to respect the particular of the world held by the people. – Paulo Freire
- 4) The highest rule of education is tolerance. – Helen Keller
- 5) Education is our only political safety. Outside this ark all things are deluge. – Horace Mann
- 6) One looks back with appreciation to the brilliant teachers, but with gratitude to those who touched our human feelings. – Carl Jung
- 7) Reserve your right to think, for even to think wrongly is better than not to think at all. – Hapatia of Alexandria
- 8) Education is not a preparation for life; education is life itself. – John Dewey
- 9) If you think in terms of a year, plant a seed; If you think in terms of ten years, plant trees; If in terms of 100 years, teach people. – Confucius
- 10) Do not consider it proof just because it is written in books, for a liar who will deceive with his tongue will not hesitate to do the same with his pen. – Maimonides
- 11) We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practice so that we may direct their power towards good ends. – Mary McLeod Bethune
- 12) Education is the point at which we decide whether we love the world enough to assume responsibility for it. – Hannah Arendt

The multidisciplinary approach of the JSDA embodies all of the sentiments expressed in the above twelve quotes from the luminaries of our world. This summer A issue of the JSDA conveys the messages of the quotes. It is truly an honor to bring this Summer A issue to you in a way that embraces the aspiration of our world and Africa in particular.

Thank you for your support and scholarship.

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