

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is, once again, a pleasure to bring you the Summer A issue of the *JSDA*. This issue of the *JSDA* focuses on land reform, environmental pollution and economic matters of the countries of Africa. Sustainable development has always recognized matters of equity amongst groups such as the minorities, women and indigenous people. It behooves governments to ensure that tranquility is maintained and that groups are fully represented in the governance and the distribution of resources. Inequality, in societies, breeds serious problems of unsustainability in the rational development of the resources of nations and regions. It is also true that all development attempts, especially those that have something to do with industrialization and urbanization, lead to the increase in environmental pollution. Efforts must be made to have policies in place to deal with the consequences of growth in land use activities. Protecting the forest systems of the world enables people to have access to medicinal plants that can help to tackle the health problems of the world. The sustainability of plants should be a priority for countries endowed with forests. The concerns over land reforms is to ensure that people have access to fending for themselves and not to be dependent on their government. One of the papers in this issue tackles that sustainability of plantation projects in Zimbabwe. Plantations have been part of the development agenda of many developing countries that were colonized at one time or the other. Other topics covered in this issue concentrate on economic matters such as: fiscal decentralization and the sustainability of the economy of countries, and public-private partnership in housing projects.



Overall, land use activities have played a significant part in the transformation of the environment in Africa. The sustainability of the African communities would require policies that recognize that economic development must be undertaken in a sustainable manner that embraces a balance between economic development and ecological limits.

I thank our readership for its continued support. Please help spread the word about the work of the *JSDA*.

Valentine Udoh James, Ph.D.; CEI; CAQS
Professor of Environmental Management, Planning and Policy
Certified Environmental Inspector
Certified Air Quality Specialist