

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am pleased to inform you that the *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (JSDA)* is now going to be published on a quarterly basis. We have made this move in order to accommodate our contributors who work so hard in providing us with the opportunity to examine their manuscripts for possible inclusion in *JSDA*. This is a great opportunity and certainly an exciting time for the editorial office. Our readership has expanded and we have tried to bring more reviewers on board to assist us with the submitted manuscripts so that the quality of published articles can remain high.

Our readers will now have *JSDA* publication in the Autumn, Winter, Spring and Summer. Our readers would observe that we are publishing our summer issue along side our first fall issue. I am very delighted that our readership has expanded and our potential contributor base has expanded over the nine years that we have been in business.

The summer and fall 2007 issues of *JSDA* go beyond alerting our readers to mere definition of sustainable development but the articles in both issues expand the boundaries of what tackling the development ideas entails. The contributors take on matters of technology, environment and the concerns of social, political and economic systems of Africa. Another aspect of significance worth noting is that the contributors address matters of global, regional, national and local importance. There is a clear recognition of the overwhelming importance of the local research. The emphasis of local research echo the work of Elsbeth Robson in her piece entitled: "Exploring dimensions of Sustainability in Nigeria: A question of Scale" which appeared in the book: *Sustainability: Life Chances and Livelihoods* edited by Michael Radcliff in which the author observes the need to delve below the macro-scale of researching sustainability at a national level and do so at a smaller scale. The geography of scale of study is important. I am not at all surprised that the articles in these issues have focused on a smaller scale in order to portray regional diversity with regard to ecological and cultural diversity. The authors have highlighted, directly or indirectly, the sustainable development indicators which are germane in the discussion of operationalizing sustainable development concept. In the case of environment, these indicators include: climate change, ozone layer depletion, air and water quality, waste water and forest resources and biodiversity. With regard to socio-economic indicators, the articles have highlighted matters pertaining to population, consumption, expenditures, agriculture and technology. There is no doubt that at the heart of sustainable development is the matter of containing the disruption of the systems that sustain humanity. The idea of minimizing the level of entropy – the level of disorder in human society – is an issue that confronts humanity in the quest for economic development.

In the haste to develop societies/communities, irresponsible steps are sometimes undertaken especially in the extraction of raw material and in so doing the costs for reversing environmental damage are often

externalized. Some of the papers are concerned with the empowerment of citizens and in building their capacity to manage their resources in order to ensure the perpetuity of their resources for the sake of intergenerational equity. Hence the roles of communities, governments, non-governmental agencies and the roles of citizens as stakeholders are matters of local responsibility being translated into global responsibility. This translation is central in these two issues of *JSDA*. It must be stressed that it is imperative that one understands who takes the responsible actions, who initiates actions and how to sustain the actions. This is particularly significant in the debates surrounding the vexing issue of corruption in Africa and how corruption makes the efforts of sustainable development very difficult.

There is no question that the reader of these two issues is bound to appreciate matters dealing with: The North-South imbalance, sustaining livelihoods in Africa, the human development paradox in Africa, envisioning the land settlement issues in some African countries, the human demand on nature and in general the overarching issue of managing the “commons” in Africa.

All development efforts have negative consequences and the question of risk management must be addressed at all levels of government. Hence, policies that deal with sustainable development must be integral part of development plans. It might be necessary to reform institutions and to build new ones that can adequately address matters of public policy and the environment. In these articles, Africa’s potentials and opportunities are identified and the pitfalls of unsustainable development are also abundantly included in the discussion. It is anticipated that these articles would be departure points for further works and future discussions on African community development.

Please provide your comments and we urge you to submit your manuscripts for consideration for possible publication in *JSDA*. We sincerely appreciate your support.

Sincerely

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Editor-in-Chief