

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is with great pleasure that we bring you this issue of the Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa (JSDA). I recently attended a workshop on “Defense, National Security and Climate Change: Mitigating Risks and Seizing Opportunities in a Rapidly Changing Global Environment” in Washington, D.C., where I met with a number of United States government officials, non governmental people, people from the private sector and academics. The discussions on the sustainability of energy supply, renewable energy technologies, sustainable chemicals and materials consortium, developing a new procurement paradigm, integrating local and federal efforts related to national security, resilience and sustainability, quantifying sustainability factors, exploring the linkages between climate change and national security and adapting defense strategies to new realities were quite informative and instructive. The discussions made me more curious as to how the JSDA is addressing the energy concern of Africa and the world as a whole.



I began to ponder how much the United States and Europe depend on the oil from Africa. It is a fact that Nigeria is the largest supplier of oil from Africa. Records indicate that in the year 2009, Nigeria supplied 40% of its oil to the United States and as a result Nigeria is the fifth largest foreign supplier of oil to the United States. It is common knowledge that next to the United States, Europe is the second largest receiver of Nigeria’s crude oil. It is estimated that the European Union receives 24% of Nigeria’s oil export. Twenty two percent of the European’s crude oil is supplied by the oil producing countries of Africa. The 27 countries that make up the European Union rely greatly on the crude oil from Africa.

While African countries supply oil to the United States and the European Union countries, it should be pointed out that energy is paramount to Africa’s development. In its effort to assist Africa in meeting its millennium development goals (MDGs) which consist of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equity and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating (HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis), ensuring environmental sustainability, developing a global partnership for development, the European Union recognizes that African nations lack access to sufficient electricity, and only 12.5% of Africa’s hydro-power potential has actually been harnessed. As a result, the European Union is poised to assist African countries in this respect. One should realize that Europe and the United States are currently exploiting 70% and 73% of their hydropower potential. They have the knowledge base to partner with African countries to develop Africa’s energy resource. There is no doubt the Africa-European Union Energy Partnership (AEEP) will continue to provide African countries, as well as European countries, access to reliable, secure, affordable, cost-effective, climate friendly, and sustainable energy services.

Our readership has, by now, discovered the JSDA's comprehensive approach to the dialogue on sustainable development. African countries need a holistic approach to sustainable resource management in order to be successful in their development. In that regard, it stands to reason that strategic partnerships are necessary in order to achieve mutually beneficial goals and objectives. In our selection of the papers in this issue as well as other issues, we are particularly mindful of the implications of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and our papers address matters germane to peace and security, trade, regional integration, infrastructure, health, politics, ethics and morality, economics, human rights and democracy. This issue of JSDA covers many of these aspects. In order to achieve economic growth and development, the citizens of African countries must enjoy good health. The partnership with the European Union countries has led to the improvement of health in the region. For example:

The European Union and its member states have collectively contributed more than 55% of its budget since 2002, with European Union contributions to the Global Fund almost quadrupling from \$403 million in 2003 to more than \$1.5 billion in 2008. The Global Fund accounts for one-quarter of all international financing for combating AIDS, two thirds for tuberculosis and three-quarters for malaria. It concentrates on strengthening health systems through improved infrastructure and training for health service providers (eufocus, March 2011, p.1)

The improvement in healthcare of Africans will certainly enhance sustainable development efforts. The papers in this issue address a myriad of sustainable development matters which our readership will find to be thought providing. Fighting for peace, stability and security is central to the sustainability issues of Africa. The focus of our effort will continue to be a rigorous scholarly analysis of the African circumstances with a strong applied emphasis on what works in operationalizing the theories of development on the African continent. We thank you for your continued support and constructive comments.

References: eufocus, "special advertising section" March 2011, p.1.

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