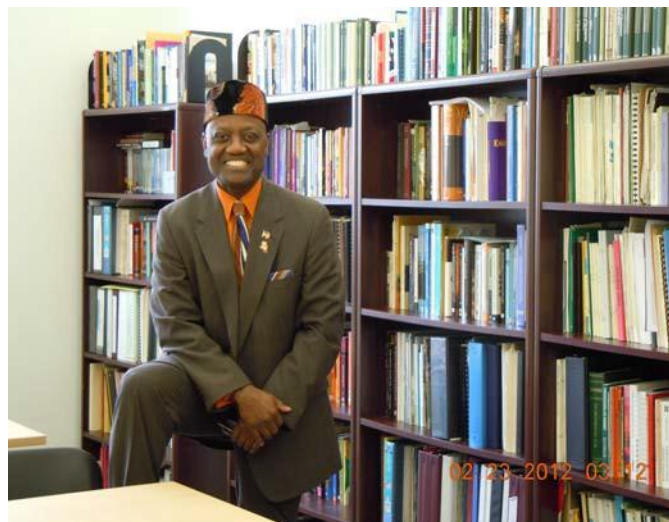


LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I am delighted to bring you the Fall A issue of 2011. In this issue, there are some very interesting papers that wrestle with real world problems of economic, political, socio-cultural and environmental proportions. The authors whose papers appear in this issue of the JSDA have worked hard in getting these papers ready for our readership. In the midst of the grandeur that the continent of Africa provides the world with regard to the diverse culture, lands and wildlife, the luxury hotel accommodations in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Botswana, the history of Robben Island and Soweto, the magnificent Lake Victoria, the national parks of East and Southern Africa and a host of other things that make African countries wonderful tourist destinations, the majority of African countries are among the poorest nations in the world.



James in his Research Office.

It is possible to have sustainable development in Africa if the challenges are adequately addressed. There is no doubt that these challenges are enormous when one considers the famine in the war ravaged Somalia and parts of southern Africa that face the reoccurring problem of famine. This issue of the JSDA addresses matters concerning irrigation, water supply, ground water, development in general, HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation and reduction, good governance, natural resource conservation and protection, climate change, planning of cities, towns and communities, waste water and soil degradation, power distribution and, millennium development goals.

These papers have undoubtedly highlighted matters of great significance to African countries' quests for sustainable economic, environmental, political and socio-cultural systems. The linkages between the environment and population, poverty and government policies are brought to the fore by these papers. As one ponders whether there is a future for the economies of African countries, one cannot help but examine how well the economies have performed since the independence of these countries. There has been very little progress at all levels of government. Many countries of Africa are facing an uphill battle economically, politically, socially and environmentally. Rapid population growth coupled with poor economic conditions have exacerbated the decline of the countries of Africa and, it should be pointed out that unsustainable agriculture, inadequate technology, dismal education standards and policy and leadership failure are nagging problems on the continent.

The lack of institutional or policy framework to integrate environmental issues into national development strategies appears to be a major hurdle for African countries. Corruption of the public and private sectors pose a very dangerous problem for African countries because it hinders sustainable development, it discourages investors and it takes away entrepreneurial spirit of Africans. Every issue of the JSDA has a paper or two that focuses on the subject of corruption. Nigeria is one of the countries plagued by the problem of corruption. *The Economist* in its on-line publication of June, 9, 2011 had an article titled: "Nigeria's Prospects—A Man and a Morass: Can the New Government of Goodluck Jonathan Clean up Corruption and Set the Enterprise free in Africa's most Populous Country?" Nigerian scholars have pondered the same question and have expressed a great deal of frustration as to what the future holds for a country that is endowed with an enormous amount of

natural resources but it is one of the poorest countries in the world. The majority of Nigerians who reside in urban and rural areas live in poverty ridden communities and crimes such as armed robbery and kidnappings are common place.

Other countries in Africa are facing the same plight as Nigeria. Poor economic conditions have given rise to the decadence of the societies and the destruction of the natural resource abound. Nigeria, like other countries of Africa that have suffered severe economic crises now has what scholars refer to as “the lost generations”. These are groups of young people who are drop-outs or are not properly educated who take on the life of crime as a profession. We must applaud the scholars who expose the deplorable situations in Africa’s urban and rural communities. These scholars also provide possible solutions to the problems. These scholars are committed to deep and provocative discussions about what makes development unsustainable. The scholars’ unyielding drive to attain sustainable development is admirable. As always, we thank you for your intellectual and scholarly support.

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