

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

It is with a great deal of excitement that I bring you this Spring A issue of the JSDA. Although the publication of this issue is late, we have been taking our time in publishing the papers in order to ensure that the articles meet the high standards of addressing the sustainable development concerns on the continent of Africa. I have been on a couple of international trips to Africa this year and during one of the trips on a layover at Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris, France, an Air France Magazine caught my attention. In it were a few articles on the potentialities of tourism in Cameroon



(West Africa). The articles in the magazine focused on the centrality of tourism to Africa's development. Economists and development experts would agree that any approach to sustainable development in any country should include a sound plan for tourism development. The Western region of the Cameroon is inundated with natural resources, traditions and human capital that are rapidly developing. The region offers a great opportunity for tourism. The region also offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase the culture and heritage of Cameroon and to infuse the success of tourism into the economic development of the country. Such effort will certainly alleviate poverty in the region and spur the diversification of the economic base. I must confess that the articles in the Air France magazine stressed the significance of tourism potential to the Cameroonian economy.

The works of artists in this region have great possibility of enhancing economic development. In order to encourage the success of tourism in the region and other parts of Africa, there must be security and the maintenance of peace and order across Africa. Many tourists who would love to travel to Africa are not convinced that law and order exist in many places that could be wonderful destinations. These places are generally great ecological sites that are endowed with rich ecological resources. It is not surprising that many industrialized countries are assisting African countries in fighting terrorism and other security threats. The European Union (EU) is assisting and financing the planning and development of security mechanisms in several African countries such as Ghana. Nigeria is one country where terrorism has been growing and it is not

uncommon for extremist groups to threaten to attack government facilities, personnel, hotels, educational facilities (including schools attended by children of prominent as well as foreign nationals) religious institutions, communication centers, media offices, markets and mass transport facilities. These extremists have actually carried out several attacks that have resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of people. Several articles in the JSDA have wrestled with the problems of security threats. The authors have analyzed the concerns at the center of security threats. There is a consensus that the threats discourage efforts of development which are sorely needed by African countries.

Foreign capital will only be available in stable political environments. Investors will only participate in the economic development of countries that are stable. The United States has been engaged in ensuring that peace is maintained in many parts of Africa. It has been expanding its intelligence gathering operations so as to fight terrorism in Africa. The combined efforts of the United States and the European Union in fighting terrorism in Africa would certainly go a long way in providing the much needed security and a wonderful environment for sustainable development. The diverse articles in this issue continue the JSDA approach of ensuring that disciplines in the natural and social sciences play a significant role in addressing matters of sustainable development in Africa.

Thank you for your support and contribution to African scholarship.

With warm regards,

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