

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear friends and Colleagues:

The manageability of Africa's economy, ecosystems and urban and rural environments depend on the ability to decipher and to explain the problems emanating from the societies and to integrate the development policies and strategies in a way that will produce sustainable development. The exploration, analyses, syntheses of the information and data concerning the development of Africa provide the window of opportunity to steer development in the right direction. In this issue of the JSDA, the authors of the articles have provided the readership with scholarly and applied perspectives to Africa's development concerns.



Historically, Africa has always been a place where ideas and theories are tested, and discoveries are made for the betterment of humankind. Many disciplines have benefitted as a result of work and research done in Africa, about Africa and Africans. In many instances, Africans and African resources have been the focus of the research that have helped to advance the knowledge needed for the enhancement of conditions around the world. In this issue of the JSDA, African scholars have focused on case studies which are bound to shed some light on local circumstances which have implications for solving local problems and provide lessons for other places and countries in Africa. This issue contains articles which diagnose the local African human conditions and the authors need to be applauded. Although this issue does not contain a paper on a recent discovery by a South African innovator whose work has "taken water out of showering" it is noteworthy to mention the fact that such work parallels the works of the researchers published in the JSDA. The discovery in South Africa is significant because water is a limited natural resource in Africa. Enos Phosa of Reuters, reporting on June 10, 2012 observes that:

The invention, which won Marishane the 2011 Global Student Entrepreneur of the Year Award has wide applications in Africa and other parts of the developing world where basic hygiene is lacking and hundreds of millions of people do not have regular access to

water. The product differs from the anti-bacterial hand washes by eliminating the heavy alcohol smell. It creates an odorless, biodegradable cleansing film with moisturizers....Marishane also sees it helping conserve water in the poorest parts of the world. DryBath will go a long way in helping communities.

Africans and non-Africans working in Africa will continue to provide Africa and the rest of the world with solutions to nagging problems facing humanity and as such assist development efforts. It will take governmental and non-governmental efforts to help efforts such as Marishane's to thrive and for Africans to contribute to the world's economic, environmental, health, socio-cultural and democratic/political successes. The papers in this issue have highlighted many problems at the center of sustainable development and sustainability in Africa and they point the way to achieving durable solutions.

The JSDA management thanks you for your continued support.

With warm regards,

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