

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is with a great deal of joy that we bring you this issue of the *JSDA*. African countries are facing an up-hill battle with their development agendas. Those of us who watch and examine the development efforts across the continent have witnessed the fluctuations in development attempts and we wonder whether or not a time would come when we would actually say that real sustainable economic growth is taking place in a majority of the countries of Africa. The dependency on the sales of commodities and raw material has not provided a sustainable development across the continent. Many of the leaders of African countries spend a great deal of time travelling to the core regions of the world in search of foreign assistance and investments. The weak economies of the countries do not offer the strength needed for an economic takeoff. In this issue of the *JSDA*, there are many papers that examine different aspects of economic development. They are timely because they are wrestling with matters at the center of the ongoing debates about the economic development of the countries of Africa. Undoubtedly, the globalization of the economies of the world has serious impacts on the different countries of Africa. However, many African countries need to restructure their economies in order to attract foreign investments.



One very important aspect of development that must be carefully taken into consideration is the concern over the building blocks of sustainable development. The natural resources, the human resources and the cultural resources are the building blocks of sustainable development. Some African governments do not properly invest in these building blocks. For example, some countries have allowed their educational systems to collapse and they have not built the capacities of their citizens to play significant roles in the economic development of their societies. The cultural resources have not been properly guarded and projected into the development strategies of the countries.

The papers in this issue address many of the disturbing problems that make economic development difficult. Some countries that are rich in natural resources have squandered their opportunities. Nigeria is a very good example and this issue of the *JSDA* features many papers on Nigeria's economic condition.

I thank our readership for its continued support. Please enjoy the scholarly articles presented in this issue.

Sincerely yours

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