LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Colleagues and Friends:

I am very delighted to bring you this issue of the *JSDA*. It is loaded with nine well researched, written and articulated papers which offer our readership insightful discussions about the state of African societies regarding the sustainability of their environment, economy, society, governments, political systems, educational systems and all other aspects of sustainable development germane to the survival of African countries. For many African countries, their economies depend on international trade. These countries react poorly to the fickle nature of global economic climate which threaten the sustainability of their economies, environment and societies at large. Many African countries are endowed with a lot of natural resources that can support investment in tourism especially eco-tourism but some of these countries also have mineral resources associated with the areas where the renewable natural resources are found.

The assessments of the benefits, costs, and risks associated with all the development options have not always been carried out. Strategic development must be informed by the use of environmental impact assessment, economic impact assessment and social impact assessment. When impact statements are prepared in some cases, they are not always followed. This creates circumstances for haphazard development. The short term gains due to haphazard development create an exponential increase in the entropic effect on societies on a long term basis. There is no doubt that adherence to the aspirations of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) would certainly provide some direction and impetus in addressing sustainable development and sustainability questions of African societies. Merging governmental and private sector interests in providing adequate and proper education to boost the capacity of the citizens or to empower the citizens to be self reliant and self sufficient would go a long way in sustaining African societies. It is imperative for African communities to develop the principles necessary in framing sustainable development goals and to establish the institutions necessary to achieve those goals.

The scholars and practitioners whose papers appear in this issue offer our readership perspectives about matters pertaining to the many facets of sustainable development highlighted in this letter.

Please enjoy the articles in this issue of the *JSDA* and we appreciate your loyalty and support over the years.

Sincerely,

Valentine Udoh James, Ph.D.; CEI; CAQS
Professor of Environmental Management, Planning and Policy
Certified Environmental Inspector
Certified Air Quality Specialist