

Dear Friends:

Three years ago when we first started the Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa, no one ever anticipated the size of the readership and the tremendous impact that this journal would have on both the academic world and the non-academic world. We thank the readers, publishers of books, and the authors who send their manuscripts to us for examination and for possible inclusion in JSDA. Your support has been tremendous and fabulous. We encourage you to continue the good work and please send us feedback as you peruse our current and past issues. Our hope is that we may continue to provide you with the most current debates confronting the sustainability of the economic, socio-political, and environment/ecological systems of Africa.

On the note of always trying and striving to bring you matters of current sustainability debates in Africa, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Spring/Summer Issue of 2001 which covers matters of: (a) Feminization of Poverty; (b) Democratization of democracy; (c) HIV/AIDS; (d) Economic Growth; and (e) Trade in Hazardous Wastes.

I submit to you that these issues are central to the effort of building sustainable communities and they transcend international boundaries. I have always argued that the study of Africa continues to provide the global community a window of opportunity on how to improve the human condition around the world. It is my belief that the five articles in this issue are not only thought-provoking, but they also offer policy makers possible ideas about how to build and sustain communities that would improve the human condition. Please join me in thanking the contributors of articles and book reviews to this issue as we embark on the quest for sustainability in Africa.

Valentine U. James  
Editor-in-Chief