

Dear Friends,

It is indeed a joyous occasion to bring you our most current issue of the *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa* (*JSDA*) from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs of Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is with great humility and honor that I bring you this issue of *JSDA* published from the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy. *JSDA* provides a forum for serious academics to tackle the sustainability question in theoretical and applied perspectives. The majority of the inhabitants of Africa are involved with one form of agriculture or the other. *JSDA* provides an avenue to discuss ethical, temporal, spatial and quantitative dimensions of sustainable agriculture. It endeavors to address conditions necessary for achieving a sustainable agriculture.

Another issue central to the mission of sustainability is environmental degradation. *JSDA* articles will, from time to time, examine the necessity to reduce poverty through a sustained economic growth. The questions of how to achieve economic growth, who should be the key players and what their roles should be, will continue to be explored in *JSDA* articles.

The current educational systems in African countries do not provide the necessary capacity building efforts needed to turn the economy, political and social systems in the positive direction. Articles in *JSDA* are meant to interrogate current thinking and provoke scholarly debates on the different facets of sustainability. This particular issue provides evidence that the continuing debates on sustainability cover a wide range of topics. The perspectives come from various disciplines and confirm the interdisciplinarity of sustainability.

*JSDA* benefits tremendously from being housed at the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy and Urban Affairs where regular classroom discussions, and seminars are held on the subject of sustainability. With the new concentration in International Development in the doctoral program at the School, there is now a symbiotic relationship between the editorship of *JSDA* and the scholarship which prevails in the school. I take this opportunity to welcome you, as always, to an exciting time in sustainability scholarship here at Southern University.

Valentine James

Editor-in-Chief