

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I just returned from Africa after a month of researching and teaching. My knowledge of the continent and the research collaboration with colleagues at several of the universities are quite exciting. Learning from my peers and sharing my ideas about sustainable development with my esteem peers are quite reinvigorating.

Seeing, first hand, the development trends at local, regional, and national levels in Nigeria, in July and August 2014, is encouraging but more work still needs to be done. Nigeria is a crucible for examining the possibilities in Africa. Experiments in economic growth strategies, leadership in democracy, all facets of development, the role of private and public educational institutions in development, the entrepreneurial spirits, the welcoming atmosphere in spite of poor security measures and the problems of Boko Haram (terrorist group).

Transportation and other infrastructural matters are a major concern and of course political and socio-cultural matters are matters still to be dealt with.

The papers in this issue take on these problems “head-on” and provide insights on how they can be dealt with at the local level. There are lessons to learn. We are encouraged by the signs of the progress being made. The urbanization problem appears to be overwhelming and need urgent and massive reactions.

We appreciate your readership and continued support.

Sincerely,

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

