

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Colleagues and Friends:

It is a great pleasure to bring you the Spring B, 2016 issue of the JSDA. There is a wave of economic activities which seem to clearly indicate that Africans are quite aware of what their development problems are and their leaders are doing their best under the dire conditions of entrenched corruption and poverty to rectify the dilemmas that they are confronted with. In order to address matters at the core of sustainable development, African countries must focus on providing resources for adequate investment in three dimensions of their societies: HUMAN COMPONENT, NATURAL/ECOLOGICAL COMPONENT, AND CULTURAL/HERITAGE COMPONENT.

The articles in this issue echo the understanding that the building blocks of sustainable development are human, natural environment and the culture of a society. Unemployment in African urban centers have made these places crime capitals of the world. One of the papers in this issues focuses on this problem and provides solutions for them. Many African countries such as Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad, and the Sudan are confronted with problems of insecurity and arms proliferation. Such challenges of national security pose serious economic challenges as foreign investment dwindle and capital flight become a problem. Africans in the diaspora are becoming the most successful immigrants in all walks of life. This raises the question of why so many Africans who live abroad are not in the countries of their origin and contributing to the development of their homelands. Is there a "brain drain problem in Africa?" One of the papers in this issue tackles that problem.

In order to address the question of unemployment, the private sector must continue to grow and expand its activities. One measure of sustainable economic development is the newly established manufacturing companies--both domestic and foreign owned. The partnership between the public and private sectors is very important in this respect. Government policies must be established to enable companies and corporations to succeed and seed monies must be provided by governments for "start-up" companies. As African countries continue to grow technologically, they have to be mindful of cyber scams. The use of cell phones to conduct business and complete money transactions have some risks associated with them and care must be exercised. I am encouraged by the innovations such as the one in Kenya where rural as well as urban dwellers can transact business on their cell phones without the exchange of cash physically. One of the papers in this issue discusses the matters concerning cyber scams.

The second building block of sustainable development is the natural or ecological component. Three paper in this issue discuss the idea of mapping flood prone areas in order to guide development in the ecological systems. Another natural resource related paper examines technology farming factors and their consequences on the environment. Impact assessment has become an integral part of appropriate technology. Environmental impact assessment is now required for major actions that would significantly impact the quality of the human environment. More and more impact assessments would most likely



continue as the quest for sustainable development grows all across Africa.

One of the problems in Africa is the exponential increase in the population of people in urban and rural places. Informal settlement can be seen in many towns and cities in Africa. The "push and pull" factors are leading to informal settlements in the developing world and the countries of Africa have their share. There are certain environmental and health concerns associated with informal settlement. This matter is addressed in one of the articles in a case study published in this issue.

The cultural aspect of the building blocks of sustainable development is addressed by three papers: "Heritage Education," "African Art and Culture," and "Functional Nigerian Literature." The countries of the world market their culture and heritage in the form of tourism and for many countries they are significant components of their economy.

I hope that these articles will shed some light on the many aspects of sustainable development. I thank our readership for its continued support.

Sincerely,

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