

## WINTER 2016 ISSUE--LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am delighted to bring you the Winter 2016 issue of the Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa. The winter 2016 issue addresses matters at the center of land use and land cover in Africa with a great deal of emphasis on Nigeria. There is no doubt that one of the greatest agents of conversion of natural environment from its original state is land use. Development through agricultural, industrial, commercial, and residential construction has a great impact on the environment. The increase in entropy is caused by haphazard development that occurs in most places across the continent. Studying the possible changes before they occur is crucial to the careful development of the communities, regions, and enclaves across the continent. Environmental problems can be avoided through the use of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and Satellite Imagery.

Another topic of development is the agricultural sector and the livelihood of farmers. There are many ways of educating farmers about how to increase production and one of the ways is by passing information to the farmers through radio programs. This approach enhances the sustainability of agricultural production. One area of discussion in this issue is the subject of microfinance and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

When we arrived at the end of the year 2015, it was time to assess the success or failure of development programs that were meant to alleviate poverty in Africa and across the rest of the developing world. Hence, one of the papers in this issue tackles that concern. Other papers in this issue focused on (1) the conceptions and approaches of development (2) Platforms for environmental management (3) United Nations efforts in sustainable development and the implication for trade unionism (4) agricultural, technical, and vocational education (5) the challenges of national integration (6) agent of change or means to political power in Africa (7) problems of migration (8) independent personal development and (9) impact of budgetary and funding on service delivery in medical education.

There is no doubt that these topics are significant aspects of sustainable development and sustainability in Africa and other parts of the developing world. The Editor-in-Chief and members of the editorial board sincerely hope that the papers in this issue would be starting points and building blocks for the ongoing discussions on how to sustain African societies.

We are grateful to our readership and its continued support.

Best regards,

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

