

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

I am very pleased to bring you the Spring 2017 Issue of the JOURNAL OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA (JSDA). Our readership must be excited about this issue because all the articles have, as their centrality, the emphasis on the concept of sustainable development. The operationalization of the concept expands upon the fact that all economic development must be pivoted on the protection of the ecological systems of the continent. Some of the papers in the issue stress the significance of building the capacity of people in order for them to sustain themselves and their communities in their quest for self-sufficiency or self-containment. The roles of national governments in establishing the foreign policy that would usher in sustainable development is discussed at length in one of the papers and another examines a theoretical framework for the foreign policy that embraces international development on a collaborative basis. Urban neighborhood planning is an idea that is very important in the age of the New Urban Agenda of the United Nations Habitat III Summit. The hope is that future cities of the world are to be planned so that all the people of the world would have shelter. Local efforts are crucial in ensuring that urban neighborhoods are planned properly so that the urban environments are provided the necessary infrastructures to support the housing and commercial land use activities.

A couple of the papers in this issue address the concerns of the United Nations' SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs). The two articles focused upon the evaluation of the successes and achievements of the goals and the process and methods behind the goals. One of the problems confronting many developing countries of Africa is the provision of electricity. Hydroelectric energy should be invested in as explained in one of the articles. Other articles in the issue deal with the following concerns: corruption and sustainable development; the reduction of boundary related tensions; electoral violence in the context of religion and development; and the security of Nigerian children and sustainable development.

We hope that these articles will continue to push the boundaries of the debates of many aspects of sustainable development and the sustainability of programs, economic, social and environmental systems of African societies. We thank you for your continued support and contributions to the JSDA,

Sincerely,

Valentine James, CEI; CAQS  
Certified Environmental Inspector  
Certified Air Quality Specialist  
Professor of Environmental Management, Planning and Policy

