

## LETTER FROM THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The editorial team and I are pleased to bring you this issue of the *JSDA* which we consider an eclectic issue. It covers a broad range of topics as you would expect of any conversation about sustainable development. This issue includes papers on topics such as: local, national and international security; terrorism and threats; conflicts; governance and politics; demography; democratization; the implications of oil production on local communities; non-governmental organizations and community development; accountability problems in Africa; international aid and its contribution to development; the centrality of education to sustainable development, cultural pluralism and its implication to sustainable development; women and development and a writer's interpretation of sustainability "from fiction to reality."

Overall, these papers address serious issues surrounding the planning and sustainable development of communities in order to protect the integrity of socio-cultural and political systems of communities across Africa. The security and stability of African societies must be protected in order for progress, development and economic growth to happen in a sustained manner. Investment (domestic and foreign) can only be attracted to stable societies. The investment in the three building blocks of development: cultural, human, and natural resources are pivotal in Africa's development. The papers in this issue have demonstrated the significance of private and public sectors collaborative roles. Crime must be reduced, conflicts must be stamped out of African societies, and corruption must be eradicated at all levels if African countries are to move from the peripheral region of the world to semi-peripheral and core classifications. The alleviation of poverty can only be achieved through the concerted efforts of an enlightened citizenry and governments that are willing to make serious commitments to improving the lives of their people through empowerment and capacity building.



We thank you for your support and constructive comments.

Sincerely,

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