

EDITORIAL COMMENT

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On behalf of our Editorial Board, I am pleased to present the maiden edition of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy, a publication of the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development (OGEES Institute) at Afe Babalola, University, Nigeria. This interdisciplinary journal features research articles, book reviews and commentaries on matters of current concern in Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development including recent developments in policies, laws and regulations.

More than ever, the quest for sustainable development has become exceedingly pressing in virtually every country across the globe. The most commonly cited definition of sustainable development is the definition provided by the Brundtland Commission: 'development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Despite the fact that the concept has virtually become a buzzword across the world, practical realities show that sustainability remains an illusory concept in many parts of the world, including Nigeria. Perennial issues of natural resource curse, energy insecurity, unsustainable agricultural practices, endemic poverty, oil spillage, gas flaring, corruption, oil driven conflicts and militancy, have all contributed towards making Nigeria a classic example of a resource rich nation with abundant oil and natural gas resources, but with little or nothing to show in terms of development, economic prosperity, social stability and environmental protection.

Even though these problems have for many years remain irresolvable, they do not call for intellectual surrender. The OGEES Institute seeks to be at the vanguard of providing high quality research, training, capacity development, consultancy and publication that would help examine, analyse and ultimately resolve these perennial problems of unsustainable resource management that tend to stagnate Nigeria and Africa's potentials for growth and development. The OGEES Institute was established in 2012 by Nigeria's legal icon and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Aare Afe Babalola CON, SAN, LL.D.-to serve as the modern day equivalent of the *Agora* of classical Athens-a market

place where burning issues of importance are unearthed, discussed, analysed and resolved. This journal is a practical demonstration of our resolve to be at the vanguard of disseminating latest and insightful legal and policy information on global sustainability.

For this maiden edition, we have carefully selected the most insightful contributions from cerebral scholars from the Universities of Cambridge, Glasgow, Hull, Harvard, Oxford, Calgary, Liverpool, British Columbia, Strathclyde; and l'Université d'Abomey Calavi, Republic of Benin; while blending it with perspectives from some of Nigeria's best scholars at Ahmadu Bello University, Osun State University, and of course from Africa's fastest growing private University: Afe Babalola University. This edition therefore presents a rare collection of the state of the art knowledge on topical issues of sustainable development.

The themes presented by this edition cover the entire aspects of sustainable development in its broadest sense. Ranging from **economic** (banking, regional trade harmonization, alternative dispute resolution); **social** (land ownership issues, corruption, international criminal law regimes, human rights, torts) and **environmental** (oil pollution, climate change, Niger Delta militancy). As such, for those who thirst for knowledge about recent thematic issues on sustainable development, this maiden edition would surely wet your thirsty palates. It offers an invaluable compendium of facts, ideas and materials on international sustainable development law and policy. It would therefore be of interest to judges, government officials, teachers, policy leaders and every one interested in staying informed about developments in oil, gas, energy, environment and sustainable development.

May I take this opportunity to thank our contributors and other members of our research and editorial team who made this publication possible. We currently welcome submissions for our second volume for release this year. For submissions and other enquiries, email: info@ogeesintitute.edu.ng; Tel: 0810000 0127.

I present Vol.1 No.1 of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy for your scholastic appreciation.

Very truly yours,

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Editor-in-Chief, Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy