



Editorial Note

I am pleased to introduce the second issue of volume 3 of IJAD for spring 2016. I am pleased to inform readers that our articles have been downloaded over 11,000 times from all parts of world, thus becoming an outlet for global research beyond the African continent. This volume contains six papers that span various topics and dimensions of sustainable development.

The analysis of each research paper has policy implications on how to improve the human condition: The first paper concludes that enhancing community agencies through participatory research leads to just and equitable outcomes by reducing marginalization and absolute poverty which requires good governance at local and community level. The second paper based on data from Morocco concludes its analysis and recommends a more just and equitable global multilateral trade agreements toward agricultural trade and food security. The third paper, based on data from Ashanti Region of Ghana exposes the unethical and illegal practice and mismanagement that led to microfinance institution collapse, and how that crisis related to the global financial crisis even though internal factors are more significant. The fourth paper explores why regional integration efforts have failed and succeeded in Africa comparing the historic experiences of the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC). The analysis of these two regional experiences suggests legitimacy for each government to incentivize regional integration and willingness to sacrifice political autonomy for regional integration which has great potential to redress the unequal effect of global international trade on Africa. The implication of this paper is that each member state of regional governance must be democratic with leadership that can see beyond itself for current and future generations. Effective regional integration is a pre-condition for an economic and political union of the 54 African states.

The final paper is based on US data which is a major public health concern. The study is based on National Longitudinal Survey of Youth of young adults from 1986-2010 cohort obtained from the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. The study shows maternal employment is significantly and positively correlated with child obesity, where US Government must improve its maternal policy for employed mothers and fathers by providing necessary leave of absence for child care as well child care facilities for children in US. In this regard US finds itself behind European states such as Sweden, France, Norway and the UK.

Finally, with above brief introduction of each paper, the Editor invites readers to read the detailed analysis in each of the papers and wishes all happy reading!

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