



Editorial

This issue brings together four articles and one research note on various issues of interest to sustainable development policy-makers and scholars across jurisdictions. The submissions are carefully selected to provide a coherent picture of recent developments in interdisciplinary sustainable development research.

In the first article entitled “**The expanded jurisdiction of the National Industrial Court: Its implication for industrial disputes in Nigeria,**” Osazee Edigwe contributes to the recent debates that have ensued on the impacts of the provisions of the Constitution of Nigeria 1999 as altered by the Third Alteration Act 2010 on the expanded jurisdiction of the National Industrial Court. The author examines how these provisions could affect existing laws of the country and the impacts their implementation may have within this jurisdiction. The author identifies the impacts of the National Industrial Court on trade disputes and labour rights, highlighting the prospects of its recently expanded jurisdiction and arguing that stakeholders may need to clarify some relevant statutory provisions in order to prevent statutory conflicts and complexities.

The second article entitled “**The implications of road tollbooth to local economic development: A case study of Tabre and Offinso**” shifts the attention from Nigeria to Ghana where Benjamin Dosu Jnr employs case study and sampling methods to examine the roles tollbooths play in local economic development in Ghana. The author empirically investigates how incomes from the tollbooth have provided an alternative source of revenue to the Road Fund and contributed in providing employment and livelihood options to residences around the tollbooths. The author concludes that the tollbooth system presents a mixture of benefits and challenges in the study jurisdiction.

Jannatul Islam examines the place of private food standard initiatives which have recently emerged in global governance. In the third article entitled “**Global governance in food safety: a comparative study on private food standard initiatives,**” the author contributes to the controversy on the relationship existing between these private initiatives, global public authorities and international trade, arguing that the existence of private initiatives seems to be unavoidable, hence the need to



incorporate them into international trade rules and institutions by reconstructing existing systems and clarifying the roles of private standards in food safety governance. The author concludes that the existing public food governance structures may need to be newly configured for global regulation of free trade and food safety, incorporating and specifying the role and procedures private standards need in global food safety governance

Ayoola Samuel Odeyemi returns the “train” to Nigeria with the fourth article entitled “**Oil and gas conflicts in the Niger-Delta: Shifting from the tenets of resource violence towards environmentalism of the poor and resource complex.**” At this time when this jurisdiction has just concluded a national election, the author examines the social and economic positions of the indigenes of the famous Niger Delta region in relation to the various attempts by the Nigerian government to curtail incessant conflicts in this region. The author explores the reasons for the low success rates meeting several attempts at addressing resource-related conflicts that have continued to emerge in this geo-political zone. The author’s key argument is that the government of Nigeria should shift its attention from combating violence in the Niger Delta to addressing the issues causing this violence. The author concludes that environmentalism of the poor and resource complex theories describe the Niger-Delta situation better than the resource violence concept, and provides a groundwork for finding solutions to the Niger-Delta crisis.

Prompted by an ongoing project, the concluding research note entitled “**Experiential learning in environmental humanities education: Themes in the emerging literature**” by **Maura Hanrahan & Jennifer Brooke Dare** employs a literature review to examine the incorporation of experiential learning in undergraduate environmental humanities university programmes and the evaluation of these programmes. The authors consulted relevant interdisciplinary literature from Britain, Canada, the United States, Australia and New Zealand where the English language and other commonalities would allow relevant themes to emerge. The research reveals a number of themes based on specific keywords identified for the educational development of the environmental humanities course at Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada— Humanities 3020: Humanities and the Environment. The authors conclude that Future research regarding elements of experiential learning in



undergraduate humanities settings would benefit from a broad search approach accounting for variables omitted from their research.

We believe that the contributions in this issue would have positive impacts for sustainable development research, policy and projects. We wish every reader an enjoyable time reading the issue.

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