



EDITORIAL

ON TRANSNATIONAL AND COMPARATIVE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: OIL CERTIFICATION, NEOLIBERAL WATER MANAGEMENT, INTERNATIONAL TRADE, AND ADVANCED MALARIA THERAPY

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Is there any connection between oil, water and *Alstonia Booney* leaves? Of course, they are gifts of nature that can contribute to human wellbeing, provided that they are used responsibly under well defined regulatory frameworks, irrespective where they are in the world. This issue brings together four articles from authors from Canada, the United States and Nigeria discussing social, economic, and environmental aspects of sustainable development transcending national borders. The research methods employed range from historical review to case studies and laboratory experiments.

The contribution of Edu Banjo Afeez entitled “Non-State Market Instruments for Responsible Oil and Gas Production: A Historical Study of Equitable Origin EO100TM Certification Scheme” provides a timely exposition of an emerging transitional governance initiative in the oil and gas sector. Like the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) for forest resources and the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) for ocean resources, the Equitable Origin (EO) organization emerged in 2009 to address the social and environmental challenges of the oil and gas industry. This organisation has launched the Equitable Origin EO100TM standard, designed to encourage responsible oil practices around the world. The author provides a historical review of this certification scheme and how it fits into the crop of increasingly popular private transnational standardisation practices around the world, which aim not only to create greater accountability but also to bring scalable change in the sector.



Dylan Emerson Odd undertakes a case-based analysis of neoliberal approaches to water resources management in his article entitled “A Case-Based Analysis of Neoliberal Approaches to Water Resources Management in Indonesia, Bolivia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.” Neo-liberalism has been around for some time as a shade of liberalism entrenching free-market capitalism. As such, its core is that free market principles could solve many problems, economic social or environmental, around the world. The author believes that it is unlikely that neo-liberalism movements, whether those rooted in economic modernisation or other models, would solve the complex problems born out of human-environment interactions. He empirically investigates whether neoliberal approaches to water management have made positive impacts in Indonesia, Bolivia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. Within the constraints of his study, the author finds that neoliberal approaches have been largely unsuccessful, concluding that these approaches “should be a bastion of last resort for governments, especially where regulatory mechanisms are weak or unenforced.”

Many stakeholders and commentators believe that the WTO is not an “angel of sustainable development” because free trade is destroying the environment, but still the whole world obeys the WTO rules; hence China needed to do so. In her paper entitled “Trade Policy and Sustainable Development: China’s Economic Reform,” Lulu Uriri Onakpoya employs China as a case study in discussing economic development issues, closely associated with one of the three subsets of sustainable development, economic sustainability. The reasoning behind economic sustainability has entered into mainstream global environmental governance discourse even before sustainable development became embraced as a global concept. Since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (UNCHE) in 1972, the global consensus has been that it might not be possible to protect the environment, given the transboundary nature of environmental problems, without acknowledging the economic needs of developing countries. Based on this kind of reasoning, the author argues for how local variables could enhance access to international markets. In an attempt to increase competitiveness in international trade, many jurisdictions have been making efforts to liberalise trade policies. There is no doubt that China is a leader in this category, hence its suitability as a case study. The author investigates China’s international trade law reforms, revealing lessons that might contribute to the enhancement of economic



sustainability. She concludes that emerging economies could learn lessons, presumably from the experience of China, that could help them take advantage of opportunities presented by international trade.

Entitled “In Vivo Activity of Ethanolic Extract of *Alstonia Boonei* Leaves against *Plasmodium Berghei* in Mice,” Onifade Olayinka Fisayo and Maganda Vera report the result of their experiment on the toxicity and antimalarial effect of *Alstonia Boonei* leaves, in their search for ways to improve antimalarial drugs. Over the years, there have been reports of how territories that have not been able to eradicate malaria, managed the same with therapies that, although otherwise effective, are not failing: Many of these territories fall in the category of developing countries, making them of utmost interest for sustainable development stakeholders and scholars. Although often combined with other procedures, the most popular therapies are those emanating from bio-chemical sources. However, these bio-chemical therapies have faced challenges in recent times, as malaria agents have been showing resistance to them. This is why scientists have been working on improved therapies, such as the advancement of traditional procedures or stimulation of complexes. The authors’ contribution falls into the first category, on advancement of traditional medical procedures, as they attempt to employ elements existing in nature for developing alternative medicine malaria drugs that might complement the failing ones.

We believe that these contributions offer invaluable transnational and comparative insights into how nations could achieve one form of sustainable development or the other. Nonetheless, specific domestic application of the ideas herein should be based on local circumstances.