

## **Introducing the New Journal: Notes from the Editors**

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Early this year the Adonis-Abbey Publishers (London) invited us to start and be principal editors of a new African Journal on Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (AJSTID), and we agreed to take on that responsibility. After a lot of hard work and goodwill from different people – sponsoring institutions, reviewers, contributors, copy editors, and leading thinkers and scholars in this area, the first issue has come out in August 2009. We plan to produce the next two issues (combined) before the end of 2009.

The response from scholars and researchers from all over Africa and across the world to the call for contribution has exceeded our expectations. It demonstrated that there has been a real gap waiting to be filled. Researchers from every region in Africa and beyond have submitted scientific papers representing the work of both emergent researchers and senior researchers for peer review.

One of the core aims of AJSTID is to encourage emerging research scholars particularly in Africa to publish their work in a journal that will be read by the global community of scholars working on these topics. We also intend to encourage well established researchers from all over the world to contribute to the journal and help to build it to be one of the top ranking journals. Although the main focus of AJSTID is Africa, we encourage researchers and scholars from the rest of the world to contribute to the journal, particularly comparative works that have implications for all developing economies.

We decided that AJSTID should be distinct from many other journals in this area. For this, we included research notes/commentaries -- individual accounts from thinkers and experts in this area, and also accounts and contributions from research networks about their activities. The research notes/commentaries will provide on how accomplished researchers selected certain research directions and not others and what

influenced them to make their choices to do certain research and not others. Accounts/ contributions from research networks and their activities are included to stimulate learning on how functioning research networks work. Another novel addition is to invite publication of reprints of path breaking research articles from highly rated journals such as *Research Policy*.

In this first issue of AJSTID, Christopher Freeman has contributed a succinct account of why he made a life-long commitment to work on the economics of innovation. Bengt-Åke Lundvall draws lessons from Danish development for innovation work in Africa. The CAAST-Net have written on their network that aims to enhance research cooperation between Europe and Africa. The IDRC funded a pan-African research on e- local governance that included 10 African countries. The research note by Timothy Mwololo Waema, Winnie Mitullah, and Edith Adera have generated a research framework for monitoring and evaluating local e-governance from the experience drawn mainly from Kenya.

Nelson and Winter's '*Useful theory of innovation*' that came out in 1977 in *Research Policy* is reprinted in this issue. We hope reprinting such seminal and classical work will stimulate emerging researchers and reinforce theoretical development in this area not only in Africa but also in wider global context.

The rest are all scientific papers and they were all contributions mainly by African emergent and senior researchers but also including researchers from outside Africa (Canada): Bitrina D. Diyamett from Tanzania, Michael Gastrow and Saahier Parker from South Africa, Abdelrasaq Al-Suyuti Na-Allah from Nigeria, Mammo Muchie from Ethiopia, Watu Wamae, Timothy Mwololo Waema, Winnie Mitullah, and Edith Adera from Kenya, Abdelkader Djeflat from Algeria, and Laxmi Prasad Pant and Helen Hambly Odame from Canada.

Finally the book reviews included four works that are selected for their power to amplify what is most needed to strengthen research, knowledge and innovation in Africa.

We wish to recognize here the support and encouragement of the Institute for Economic Research on Innovation (IERI) at Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), in South Africa to launch this journal. Without IERI's, TUT's and the South African Research Chairs Initiative's (SARChI's) support, this journal would not have seen the light of the day.

There is hard and very tedious work involved in producing any new journal and more so in this case. In Africa such a journal is needed more than perhaps anywhere in the world. The statistics on scientific publica-

tion, as indeed on many other indicators when it comes to Africa, remain always negative and disconcerting.

AJSTID wishes to break this by providing opportunity to publish so that in the long run science, technology, innovation and development become a power to strengthen research capacity, research systems and the African research and knowledge area.

AJSTID hopes to be a positive force in helping to attract the best researchers and the best research to counter the negative projection that Africa has suffered for so long.

It is with pleasure we invite the readers, institutions, and contributors to use this journal and build it as one of the means to make Africa acquire agency and freedom in running its knowledge and research life for generations to come.

We are proud and indeed privileged to be the facilitators to the birth of this research journal that will contribute to building Africa to emerge also as a research, knowledge and innovation area.

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Editors -in- Chief