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Notes from the Editors: Welcome to the Double Issue!

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(Editors-in-Chief)

We started the African Journal of Science, Technology, Innovation and Development (AJSTID) to open an intellectual, research and knowledge space in Africa for both emergent and senior researchers from in and outside Africa who are working on how science, technology and innovation may be harnessed for development. The objective is to build a highly rated journal coming out of Africa that can publish the best research undertaken both in Africa and the rest of the world.

Both in the first issue and this double issue we have managed to attract the right combination of publishable research papers both from Africa and from the global pool of researchers.

In this double issue we have reprinted a pioneering scientific paper first published in 1985 by Bengt-Åke Lundvall (Denmark) on 'Innovation as an Interactive Process: User-Producer Interaction to the National System of Innovation'. Other research papers are contributed by: Frank K Teng-Zeng (Ghana), Ju Liu (China) and Angathevar Baskaran (India/UK), Kiggundu Rose (Uganda), Astrid Szogs (Germany/Sweden) and Kelefa Mwantima (Tanzania), Adiqā Kausar Kiani (Pakistan), and Massimiliano Ferrara and Roberto Mavilia (both from Italy).

The research notes/ commentary section carries the personal reflections of the preeminent originator and thinker in evolutionary economics Richard Nelson (USA) and articles by Alexis Habiyaremye and Luc Soete (Netherlands), Victor E. Dike (Nigeria/US), and Vusi Moloi (South Africa/ Canada).

We have also included two network articles by Dhesigen Naidoo on the South African Technology Innovation Agency and Almaz Negash on Entwine Global. Four authors, Mammo Muchie, Dániel Vértesy, Angathevar Baskaran, and Abdelrasaq Al-Suyuti Na-Allah have reviewed nine books that came out mostly in 2009 and deal with innovation theory and the challenges of development faced by Africa.

This double issue comes out nearly ten years since we started an important intellectual project on 'Putting Africa First: the Making of African Innovation Systems' in Aalborg University with Bengt-Åke Lundvall who used this first conference to inspire the GLOBELICS Network (www.globelics.org). The book, 'Putting Africa First: the Making of African Innovation Systems' came out in 2003 on time to be launched in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, at the First Globelics International Conference. In every Globelics conference since then, the African presence has been growing. Globelics has held its conference successfully twice in Africa (South Africa-2005; Senegal-2009).

For 2010, along with AJSTID as part of the South African research chair initiative on innovation studies, the National Research Foundation (NRF) has offered 6 PhD scholarships (8 and 10 for subsequent years). We have also received PhD scholarships support in principle from SIDA/SAREC as part of the Lundvall African Doctoral Award. IDRC has also offered the SARCHI 8 PhD awards. In addition, the African Globelics Academy for Research, Innovation and Capability Building (AGARIC) has been given support in principle from SIDA/SAREC.

The objective of mobilising knowledge and research support from Africa and the rest of the world is to build a strong and committed PhD programme to build high quality scientific human power in Africa and for Africa to realise the goal of translating 'Putting Africa First'.

As this is the decade when we launched 'Putting Africa First', AJSTID will join others such as GLOBELICS to organise a research conference to keep scientific production, quality training and publication to flourish in Africa.

The approach is to integrate training high quality PhDs with the production of research papers and the continuation and sustained build up in terms of themes and varieties of materials that will make a big difference in scientific development in Africa.

A specialised library has been set up to assist the doctoral and post-doctoral research under the South African Research Chairs Initiative in IERI in conjunction with the Business School at Tshwane University of Technology. Africa needs systematic skills, research, training and knowledge transformation, not only in the future but also as something that must be done with the fierce urgency right now. Given the shortage and scarcity of PhD level human capital in Africa, organising innovative ways of creating high quality PhD production is a matter that brooks no delay.

Generally speaking, the creation of talented researchers to help Africa help itself is critical to empower Africans to solve their own problems without always asking others to help. This requires commitment and new ways of constructing the Africa-Rest of the World relationship and with each

other where Africans join the best in the world flow of knowledge and the rest of the world introduces the best knowledge and knowledge producers in Africa. This dialectic is not abstract. It must be translated into practice. It must serve as a vision that inspires a practice that yields Africa's independence whilst linking with the best knowledge trends in the world. We have created AJSTID as a small initiative aimed at translating this goal into practice.

We welcome you to this double issue of AJSTID and wish you the best in the coming new decade and beyond.