

**CULTURE, SCIENCE  
AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
IN AFRICA**



*Refereed Papers From  
The First University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin  
Joint International Conference*

*Edited by*  
**Prof. K. Opoku-Agyemang**

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## FOREWORD

The animating idea behind this collection is *Sustainable Development in Africa* across the full range of disciplines and professions in culture and science. Our central objective is the study of the achievement of growth, in all its aspects, in Africa within acceptable levels of global resource depletion, and the avoidance of environmental and mental pollution.

We hold this volume to be the first in a continuing series to grow out of our joint conferences in order to sustain the vision of home-grown scholarship. Our aim is to provide a forum for scholarly presentations and debate that will itself be sustained in the coming years. The point is for our two Universities to shine new light on shared problems in our sub-region and Africa, to synthesise current research, and to highlight best practices towards balanced continental development for our benefit and that of mankind.

We take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to all who made this fine publication a reality. Finally, we look forward to growing this collaboration into a permanent feature of our universities.

*Vice Chancellor  
University of Cape Coast*

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## INTRODUCTION: A NEW TRADITION FOR THE FUTURE

South-to-South cooperation remains one of the more effective ways by which Africa can reinforce its institutions of development, particularly in the University. As a method, such trans-national cooperation, especially among neighbours, lends strength and scale to the frail and the challenged, opens up new vistas, unleashes new energies, and generally confirms the sweet wisdom of the adage that counsels the benefits of two heads over one.

Within these pages are presented the refereed papers from just such a tack: the first Joint International Conference of University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin. This conference was held under the theme which has provided the title for this book: *Culture, Science and Sustainable Development in Africa*. The original idea that became the conference - and this collection - began life as a conversation between the then Vice Chancellors of the University of Cape Coast and the University of Ilorin three years ago. The broad plan was to institute an annual international conference each with a theme predicated on some aspect of Africa's total development, and to alternate venues between the two Universities. The first took place in September 2009 at Ghana's University of Choice, in Cape Coast.

The recent global financial crisis, from which the world is still to recover, and the many unnatural wash of natural disasters of apocalyptic dimensions - earthquakes, tsunamis, nuclear disasters - have served to underline the urgent need for responsible sustainable development in all parts of the globe. At its best, globalisation collapses distances for all our benefit - between peoples, economies, cultures and histories; between nascent hope and its fruiting. This is best illustrated by how ICT today works to make all the cultural and scientific heritage of the entire world open-sourced. The scale of this achievement alone is astounding, and we are yet to see its full transformational impact. This is a situation that would have been impossible to imagine a mere generation ago.

Unfortunately, there is globalisation's distaff side; this is where the dangers of unbounded greed and the old familiar evils of deep exploitation lurk, such as enslavement and colonisation, whose jagged edges still extrude into our daily living, and whose lessons must remain as permanent guideposts, for our sake.

Today, we find our world caught in the epic swirl of globalisation's many contradictions. According to the World Bank, world trade contracted in 2009, the first such contraction in nearly three decades. With some recovery in progress now, it is easy to forget that at its height, only a few years ago, there were those who argued that the benefits of globalisation were boundless and unqualified. There was talk of globalisation as a modern extension of an old beneficent pattern in world trade that is keyed, in this digital age, to bring the nearly prelapsarian benefits of modern technological living to even the most benighted reaches of our world. Others spoke of globalisation as an effect of communism's fall in the old USSR and Eastern Europe, and capitalism's inevitable triumph over all comers. This view accounts in part for the now largely discredited triumphalism of scholars like Friedman and Fukuyama, who generally saw globalism as the unabashed victory of the "idea" of the West over its adversaries.

Be that as it may, the truth is that from an African viewpoint, globalisation presents no theory of justice or equity. As is often pointed out, the globalised financial system, through the instrumentation of the WTO, the World Bank and the IMF privileged the West over the rest of us, and because Africa's leaders for the most part remained unable or perhaps even unwilling to properly define and safeguard the national and continental interest, globalisation led on the whole to the increased marginalisation of Africa. And so, Africa, as ever burdened by debt and debilitating, voracious charities, continued to pay tribute in blood to new and old conquerors, east and west. Thus, paradoxically, in unravelling and reconstituting itself, as seems to be happening, globalisation may unclench its coils and thereby afford Africa some respite.

The papers collected here, each in its own way, speak to the continuing impact of globalisation on African culture, African science and the sustainable development of both. One of the difficult effects of globalisation has been the unearned focus it has placed on the cultural and scientific scholarship of Africans who live and work abroad, the brain-drained. A lot has been said in justification of the scooping of the top soil of African skilled and technical labour to fertilise foreign land. This collection is one of a growing number to redress the imbalance. Ranging across the disciplines in science, agriculture, social sciences and the arts, the book provides a roadmap into the complex world of sustainable

development by examining the notion of its aetiology, its theoretical frameworks, its practice and its impact. And because these are ideas conceived and presented by African scholars in Africa, there is a lingering effect of deep intimacy, akin to eavesdropping on a conversation among family members who, by reason of lived-in familial ties, are not afraid to tell each other the hard but redeeming truth.

Better yet, the book's themes collect around the core markers of African culture and African science and how these respond to change in a changing world. The many case studies that form the basis of a number of these essays provide a rich array of insights that altogether constitute one of the fullest profiles today of Africa and Africans in their struggle for sustainable growth and development. We find sober statistics that lend substance and nuance to positive alternatives. Overall, there is clarity here about difficult issues, a measured consideration of what needs to be done to take the full shape of sustained, ultimately beneficent growth.

Given the manner in which African living is bracketed by seemingly insoluble dilemmas, African intellectuals have a social and moral responsibility to be imaginative and courageous even if, like the rage for change sweeping across Arab North Africa today, they must be disruptive of received traditional notions. In its range and depth, this seems to be the tradition this Joint Conference of our two West African universities, Cape Coast and Ilorin, wish to build for themselves and their common future.

*Prof. K. Opoku-Agyemang*  
*Editor-in-Chief*  
*University of Cape Coast, Ghana*  
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University of Cape Coast



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