

PREFACE

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It has long been argued that Diasporas will be most interested in contributing to sustainable development (SD) efforts when they have a sense of belonging in relation to their country of origin. Therefore it is very important to establish trust between Diasporas and governments in the country of origin. In doing so, governments need to invest in identifying their Diasporas abroad and in understanding their skills and interests.

Sustainable development is a multidisciplinary process that requires the integrative engagement of all disciplines and stakeholders. Therefore, collaboration between the Diaspora and those working within the country of origin offers several opportunities and contributes to increase productivity towards sustainable and inclusive knowledge-based growth. Building constructive relationships between the Diasporas and countries of origin require that Diasporas be treated not as a mere resource, but as partners and investors with mutual benefits.

Many sustainability problems can only be tackled by connecting the diaspora with those working within the country of origin, for example combating the results of climate change, diseases such as malaria, reservation of natural resources, fighting land degradation or limiting the loss of biodiversity and many other problems. Moreover, knowledge or evidence-based policymaking is indispensable if gaps in living standards are to be narrowed. Therefore, building capacity in country of origin is necessary for competing in the global arena and there it is critical to turn the Diaspora into a positive tool for SD as well as serving as role models for the youth in the country of origin.

This book include contributions by international experts and high level Diaspora from the public and private sectors on the **critical role of Diaspora towards sustainable and inclusive knowledge-based growth in the country of origin** to ensure countries of origin are benefiting from their Diaspora and competing at the forefront of science, technology and innovation (STI). In doing so the book will discuss how relevant Diaspora groups could be involved in the development and review of policies that impact on them or their country of origin. They are consulted with regard to the objectives and desired outcomes of the policy, and the best means of achieving them.



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The book provides unbiased point of view on the various important matters relating to the role and involvement of the Diaspora in achieving SD in their countries of origin such as:

- Education
- Capacity development and the skill gap
- Higher education and scientific research
- Role of youth, women and gender inequalities
- Health
- Business, investment and industry
- Information and communication technologies
- Agriculture
- Natural resources and the environment
- Science, technology and innovation
- Creative and knowledge-based economy
- Good governance and anti-corruption strategies
- peace, security and migration issues

The book includes selection of the best papers presented during the 3rd Diaspora International Conference of World Association for Sustainable Development (WASD), and Sudan Knowledge (SK) held in London, UK in the period 25th to 26nd July 2016. The selected papers present the outcome of various studies and researches undertaken across the world over the last few years aimed at examining the critical role of Diaspora in international scientific cooperation with the country of origin. Moreover the book presents several case studies relating to various growing networking and collaboration between education and research institutions, private and public entities as well as commercialisation of research and innovation outputs. These case studies also provide several lessons learned from across the world for the future role of Diaspora in achieving SD in their countries of origin.

In this book a holistic multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach is used to provide an in-depth analysis and state-of-the-art overview of the efforts made by different countries to tackle various issues relating to achieving SD.

The different chapters in this volume cover a wide geographical spectrum and written by more than 25 renowned international experts from all over the world. Moreover the book is intended as a continuation to the first two volumes in the series; *“The role of diaspora in technology transfer and achieving sustainable*



development in Sudan” (2009) and “*Reconnecting universities with the discourse of sustainable inclusive growth*” in 2015. We hope the book will be utilised as a guide by policymakers and senior managers to enhance their ability to think strategically towards achieving SD. We also hope that the ensemble of papers presented in this volume will help to stimulate debate amongst scholars, researchers and policymakers and you find this volume interesting and thought-provoking.

Finally, we would like to congratulate the authors for their valuable contribution and we are grateful to our track chairs and many reviewers for graciously offering their invaluable comments that have enriched the quality of the papers in this volume and also for making available to us their valuable time and efforts. Our most sincere thanks go to all of the keynote speakers and presenters who shared with us their expertise and knowledge.

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