



CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND
UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST
AND
UNIVERSITY OF ILORIN
JOINT INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE

Edited by
I. O. OLOYEDE

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
IN AFRICA**

Edited Proceedings

**Second University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin Joint
International Conference**

**Edited by
I. O. Oloyede**

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INTRODUCTION

ARRESTING CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS THROUGH INSTITUTIONAL COOPERATION

There is nothing on earth that sustains, develops and progresses as well as promotes institutional growth and excellence than cooperation. Indeed, cooperation stoutly stands out as a virile and veritable arch and measure that resolves every potential challenge and opens up new lease of life, energy and strength that often herald new rigours and incremental achievements and successes to the institutional growth and developments.

Within this sphere, it is of note to take cognizance of the fact that these treasures of the earth, both livings and non-livings, could best be protected, secured, fed and be given other bounties of life through joint efforts and cooperation. Hence, problems and issues that are generated are commonly resolved by way of concern and interest particularly whenever such bears either direct or indirect effect on the populace. No doubt, this fact most appropriately affirms the symbolic relationship vis-à-vis its significance to the academic world, their environments, locations (domains) and the populations. Therefore, the conference in the series of international joint efforts of the University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin, under the theme which provided the book titled "Climate Change in Africa". If I may reiterate, the original idea that culminated into the holding this conference on an annual basis was a product of the conversation between the then Vice-Chancellors of University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin some years back. In actual fact it was the foresight of the authorities of the University of Ilorin to, some three decades earlier, make the University of Ilorin an international centre of excellence for all the peoples of the world that unconsciously laid the foundation for this expanding pan African collaboration which currently embraces three of the five sub regions of Africa. Prof E A Obeng of Ghana and Prof Is-haq Oloyede of Nigeria who were then engaged as lecturers in the Department of Religions of the University were the respective Vice Chancellors of UCC and UNILORIN who initiated this continental project with a view to kick -starting the process of inaugurating a formidable African platform of interaction and development. Broadly, the plan was to institute an annual conference with a theme predicated on aspects of the growth and progress of development of Africa, by alternating venues among member- universities. While the first in the series was held in 2009 at the University of Cape Coast, Ghana, the second conference took place in 2011 at the University of Ilorin, Nigeria. The current Vice-Chancellor of UCC, Prof. Naana Jane Opoku-Agyemang followed up with some pleasant feminine touch and insightful dimensions for sustainability. I am in no doubt about the institutional commitments of the two universities and the other members of the Network, to this initiative.

The spate of rising wave of climate change and the widely spread of many unnatural wash of disastrous, apocalyptic dimensional attendants like

volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, famine, drought, earthquakes, landslides, ocean surge, water hyacinth, flood, fire disaster, erosion, green house gases emission, pollutions, deforestation and rainstorm among others have all invented a regime of disaster which underlines the course, process and trajectories to positive development of the Africa region in one form or another.

Unfortunately, as it is in the entire global order, particularly the third world countries of which Nigeria and Ghana are inclusive. They are embodied in a calamitous situation with perhaps a sealed hope invented and hinged on the lackadaisical attitudinal disposition to the perilous state occasioned by the climate change. Despite the fact the ruins of various dimensions that cut across both human life and properties of various sizes that worth colossal amount are involved in losses, still effort to tackle the calamity is still obviously missing. Hence, the threat and challenges which climate change has imported is still a deep enslavement of mankind and a lesson of sort for the mankind to unshackle itself from the bondage of climate variation.

Having said this, mankind needs to free himself totally from the epic swirl of climate change and its contradictions in which it has been engulfed. Thus, inventing every order of technological schema and systemic (i.e. ICT) ways to arrest and resolve the challenges of climate change in the contemporary world order.

However, the best antidote that could safely blow off or at least mitigate and ensure that climate change is more reasonably and timely put under control or managed most adequately in so many ways, is through effective understanding, knowledge and awareness creation. Studies or researches of some sorts needed to be directed on climate change as it cuts across all fields of human endeavours, interdisciplinary, intra-disciplinary and transcends all forms and platforms of knowledge, career and profession to ensure that Africa stands out firm against side effects of climate change.

As it is, climate variation has been pointed as a causative agent that favours spread of endemic diseases with peculiarity to one climate instance or the other. For instance, disease like cerebro-spinal meningitis is acclaimed to be effected by hot and dry weather syndrome. So also, an array of epidemic diseases like cholera, typhoid, deformity of all sorts and untimely deaths are common effects of climate change. This has been the burden and a mere catalogue of the endless catastrophic resultant effects of climate change in Africa.

Therefore, considering the level, height and spate of Africa development, aids and grants that the western worlds and the rest of the advanced world offer to cushion the effects of the climate change are insufficient. The Africa region should hold the bull by the horn. How do we hold the bull by the horn? The fact is not farfetched than for the region to stand up on his feet with precise study on climate change and come up with suggestions on how to manage climate change in Africa successfully. This is the thrust of this conference.

The collection of papers herein, each in its own right, speak on the context and processes of climate change and management of climatic variations

in the region. The collection is most clearly a veritable order to address the ubiquitous challenges posed by the context and processes of climate change via its management as suggested by each of the contributors ranging across the disciplines in science, agriculture, social science, arts and education. Better still, it offers a roadmap with damning truth to import a resounding relieve by reason and fact of being a domicile. Thus, the explication of climate change with its aetiology, its theoretical frameworks cum its impacts and practice to illuminate profusely our minds on the subject matter and to ensure a safe delivery of our region from the calamitous effects of the climate variations become necessary.

As I have earlier indicated, the book's themes collect around from scholars of note on their responses to the changing climate. While the arrays of case studies that form the basis of quite a number of these essays provide a deep-down insights, thus constituting one of the best, if not the fullest profiles of climatic variation to effect a regime of better climate change management. The statistics herein, lend credence to positive alternatives with a force of clarity on difficult issues, a measure of consideration of the needs to order an ultimate beneficent, growth and progress of the region.

Taking cognizance of African living standard, which is seemingly in coma, the social and moral responsibility is for the African intellectuals to be courageously imaginative in the present of all odds. The vicissitude is the challenge posed by the climate variation (change) and we must stand against this challenge and render it impotent by subduing the threat that it poses. Thus, in its depth, range and wideness, this is the context and philosophy of this conference, the duo initiators in West Africa, University of Cape Coast and University of Ilorin are building for the present and subsequent generations of scholars and policy makers.

Is-haq Oloyede

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April, 2012