

PREFACE

The last 25-30 years has witnessed a significant surge and resurgence in public concern about Development and other anthropogenic activities as they relate to the status of the Environment in which we live. A number of international initiatives have contributed as precursor and antecedent, as provenant 'trigger' and provenant 'seeding' and as nurturing consequents in relation to *sustainability as a driving concept with respect to Environment and Development*. For individual countries and groups of countries, the realisation of sustainability will remain contingent upon the ability of the political agenda of the countries to effect a *paradigm shift* out of the *status quo*, namely, ability to develop a vision which is supported by commitment in the form of allocation of adequate financial resource to provide the necessary educational, institutional, organisational, legal and human resource development framework that will continue to nurture sustainability in all its manifestations.

The road to sustainability is long, The Stockholm UN Conference on Human Environment in 1977 marked a significant precursor to sustainability. Within 10 years of the Stockholm Conference, the Brundtland Report, *Our Common Future*, heralded, for the first time, the existence of an "unholy alliance" between Economy and Ecology on Planet Earth within the context of *Sustainability and Ecology* on the one hand, and *Development, anthropogenic activities and Economy*, on the other. The Rio Earth Summit in 1992, 5 years later (Brundtland + "5"), eloquently provided a consensus action plan for the 21st Century ("Agenda 21") *as an embodiment of commitment to sustainable development* in the years following the Earth Summit.

Five years after the Earth Summit ("Rio + 5"), an intergovernmental meeting convened to review progress towards the goal of sustainable development showed variable progress from the standpoint of three indicators comprising *Climate Change, Agenda 21* and *Sustainable Development*. While at Rio, Governments agreed to promote and co-operate on measures to reduce or prevent greenhouse gas emissions, global carbon emission reached a record of 6250 mt in 1996! Furthermore, the 1990s have been the hottest decade since records began. While at Rio, governments agreed to adopt Agenda 21 as the 'blueprint for sustainable development' covering some 20000 recommendations on arrange of environmental, economic and social issues, at "Rio + 5", Agenda 21 had raised government and public awareness, but had little effect on national policies.

Finally, while at Rio, developed countries committed to increase official development assistance (ODA) to 0.7% of GDP, at “Rio + 5”, official development assistance had decreased to 0.27% of GDP, the lowest level since 1970.

The publication *Pollution Control and Waste Management in Developing Countries* had its provenance in a series of training programmes implemented under the auspices of the Commonwealth Secretariat in Nigeria and in Botswana, respectively, during the five year period following the Rio Earth Summit. The publication represents an embodiment of modest initiatives aimed at giving drive to the Rio pronouncements from the standpoint of human resource skills development in an area of greatest significance to Environment, Development and Sustainability, namely, pollution and waste resulting from anthropogenic activities. It is my hope that the publication will provide a timely treatise that will find a timeless role in support of Agenda 21.

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