

Notes from the Editor in Chief

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Early in 2020, the editorial board of the *Proceedings of the Nigerian Academy of Science* resolved to dedicate themed editions and its regular editions to fielding research results and innovations that address the sustainable development goals (SDGs), especially within the context of the sub-Saharan African region. It is against this background that this special edition of the journal focuses on addressing the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14, with the theme “life under water”. The edition features seven original research articles, one review article, and an editorial that elucidate various aspects of this theme, with the idea to galvanize further actions and research for achieving this specific goal in the African region.

Africa is surrounded by vast oceans and portions of water, and has channels, rivers and lakes that dot its internal landscape. Such vast natural water possessions present unique opportunities and economic possibilities, and also some challenges. The specific objective of this themed edition is to provide examples of how scientific research can help in enabling African countries to maximize the opportunities of the available water resources, and also to identify ways to tackle the related challenges. We believe that it is only through empiricism generated through scientific research that African countries can achieve the global goal epitomized in SDG14, of improved water resources and conservation by the year 2030.

The journal is grateful to Professor Olanike Adeyemo, a Fellow of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Professor in the Department of Veterinary Public Health and Veterinary Medicine at the University of Ibadan, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University, for accepting the onerous responsibility of being the Guest Editor of this themed edition of the journal. Her work has included the announcement of the themed edition and call for papers, scrutiny of the submitted papers and coordination of the peer review process, further review and feedbacks to the authors, and final editorial checks leading to the acceptance of the papers. Her in-depth expertise in the discipline, and her association with several international scientists and reviewers in the water science literature has greatly helped to facilitate the publication of this edition.

The journal wishes to take this opportunity to invite themed editions that feature the attainment of the 17 SDGs in the African region. We believe that the elucidation of the issues related to the SDGs consecutively in a themed edition stand the chance of identifying the bottlenecks and challenges that need to be overcome, propelling the rationale use of optimal scientific processes and methods to address them. Only through science and its new and emerging disciplines can the African region achieve the developmental milestones embodied in the SDGs, and meet up with the rest of the world.