

## **What do young and brilliant minds think about Development, Environment and Foresight?**

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Dear colleagues,

You have the opportunity to read the fourth issue of the *Development, Environment and Foresight* journal, published by the Department of Development Studies at Palacký University, Olomouc, Czech Republic.

Albert Einstein once said, “No problem can be solved from the same level of consciousness that created it.”; to honour his quote, we have decided to dedicate this issue to our young colleagues, PhD candidates and students, as we strongly believe that there is potential in their work and their ideas. Therefore, you will find three papers in this issue, written by brilliant young minds in the areas of development, environment and foresight.

In the first paper Chukwudi Nwaogu and his colleagues focused on the sustainable agroecosystem management of maize in the Sub-Saharan region. Based on their research, the appropriate soil resource management processes have been demonstrated to be catalysts in restoring soil fertility and increasing food productivity in the area of Guinea Savannah.

The second paper, authored by Lenka Voleníková and Zdeněk Opršal, describes the role of urban agriculture in household wellbeing and uses the case study of community-based urban agriculture in Ndola, Zambia. Although urban agriculture has attracted the attention of various scholars in recent years, there are relatively few studies from the region of southern Africa. In the paper the authors confirm the positive influence of urban agriculture on household wellbeing.

The last paper of this issue is authored by our first year student from the International Development Studies Bachelor programme, Anna Lodinová. In her essay she has focused on the application of biometrics as a means of refugee registration by the UNHCR. Anna concludes her essay by saying that the application of biometrics to the registration of refugee and asylum seekers has markedly improved national and international efforts to promote their welfare, and the impact has been felt directly (refugee camps) and indirectly (addressing fraud and security concerns). Nevertheless, this is also a means of personal information exposure, an opportunity for misuse and a possible weapon for enemies. Thus, the concerns that have been raised are justified and further debates, security measures and overall improvements should be made to the process, in order to eliminate defects.

With this issue we would like to motivate and invite other authors to contribute to the knowledge and expertise in the areas of development, environment and foresight by sending their submissions to the editorial board of the DEF journal. The aim of the journal is to cultivate academic discussion in the scope of the journal as well as beyond its borders.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Jiří Pánek // member of the editorial board