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Aim and Scope

The Environmental Technology and Science Journal (ETSJ) is devoted to the publication of papers which advance knowledge of practical and theoretical issues that daily plague our society. The aim of the journal is to provide an avenue for the dissemination of academic research findings from various disciplines of the environment, engineering, pure and applied sciences, arts and social science which have materials that emphasize on environmental issues.

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14.

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Editorial

The outbreak of coronavirus virus (COVID-19) has not only interrupted world economies, but impacted negatively on the development of much needed infrastructure. However, in the midst of the COVID-19, the World Cities Day was celebrated on 31st October with this year's theme – valuing our communities and cities. The pandemic has further exposed our fragility most especially in the areas of health and education thereby making the call for R and D to be louder than ever before. It is on this note that I welcome you all to volume 11, number 2, December 2020 edition of Environmental Technology and Science Journal (ETSJ). There are eleven (11) articles that cut across topics from the built environment.

The 1st article by Saidu *et al*. examined the approaches for the implementation of e-procurement in building construction projects in FCTA, with a view to mitigating procurement fraud in the sector. The study recommended that both the Federal and State Governments should come up with policies and frameworks that will mandate FCTA construction projects to be procured through e-procurement platform.

Abu *et al*. in the 2nd paper mitigating strategies for high cost of construction projects in Nigeria advocated for the proper supervision and site management during the course of construction projects in order to reduce the shoddy work, mistakes, reworks and variations that might lead to high cost of construction projects.

According to Bashir, there are several risk management maturity (RMM) models that have defined maturity levels with corresponding capability attributes for each maturity level, however, there is a lack of clear strategies for highway contractors to attain higher levels of RMM. In the 3rd paper, strategies for sustaining optimised risk management maturity level by highway contractors in Nigeria were developed. The study concluded that the adoption of the strategies will ultimately lead to better project delivery and more efficient utilisation of resources in the construction industry.

Preserving green spaces in parks and gardens in the physical landscape of urban built environment is an action that has been identified as a contributing factor to the sustainability of urban areas. Emechebe in the 4th paper assessed green space in urban built environment with a view to enhancing its sustainability. The study recommended creation of awareness on the need of the green spaces to users and also there should be provision of basic laws in the city that will protect the existence and suitability of the green spaces in the urban built environment.

Aka *et al*. in the 5th paper sought find out the underlying strategies that can be adopted for effective minimization of disputes in the Nigerian construction industry. The study concluded that adequate knowledge of contractual document before the start of a project, bringing up contract conditions that are fair to all parties and maintaining a good relationship between the clients, professionals and workers are the underlying strategies that can be adopted to overcome disputes in Nigerian construction projects.

The target of any construction firm is to improve its productivity and organisational efficiency. Unfortunately, Ola-Awo *et al*. argued in the 6th paper that the productivity of construction operatives in Nigeria has been established to be very low and various studies also established that

motivation influences productivity. Hence, their paper assessed the motivational factors for improving construction workers' productivity from the perspective of different stakeholders within Abuja. The paper recommended that management needs to review salaries, working conditions and other benefits to workers from time to time and organise training and re-training to maintain constant productivity improvement.

The 7th paper by Bako *et al.* examined the use of remote sensing technology in the detection of changes on land surface topography which is usually caused by human activities such as mining, building, road constructions, farming, borrow pits and others. The results showed that the topography of the study area has reduced in elevation by 13.55% as at June 2018 from what it used to be in the year 2000. This paper recommended that mining activity should be discouraged and the land reclaimed by the appropriate authority.

The growing demand for University education has led to the gradual elusion from residential housing needs of staff to the development of more academic facilities and no tangible plan has been made to provide housing for University staff. Therefore, Abdulkareem *et al*. in the 8th paper assessed the effectiveness of housing intervention strategies of Universities-based Cooperative Societies to the staff of Nigerian Universities in Southwest Nigeria. The paper suggested that Government at all levels need to encourage the sustainability of housing interventions of Cooperative Societies in Nigeria with a view to eliminating the housing problem of University staff.

The 9th paper by Shittu *et al*. evaluated the effects of material management on the delivery of building construction projects in Niger State with a view to improving the cost and time performance of construction projects. The study recommended that all relevant stakeholders should ensure total implementation of the cost control techniques for improving material management in construction projects in order to avoid cost and time overrun.

Elimisiemon *et al*. in the 10th paper stated that several developed countries in Europe and North America are aware, widely accepted and adopted Building Information Modelling (BIM). However, developing countries like Nigeria are still using conventional construction practices. Hence, the paper assessed the current status of BIM awareness level and usage in Abuja and Kaduna. As the largest client, government's lack of demand contributed to the low level of usage. The study recommended among others that the Federal Government should make BIM compulsory for its projects that exceed certain threshold values in order to encourage the usage among construction professionals.

The final paper by Shittu *et al*. stated that studies have globally revealed that disputes are an endemic feature in the construction industry. When not properly resolved, they may escalate and ultimately require litigation proceedings. The paper therefore evaluated the effects of disputes on construction project delivery. It was thus recommended that parties to a contract should ensure that mechanism is put in place to effectively implement the identified strategies for controlling the effect of disputes so as to prevent ambiguity in the formulation of contract and contract administration.

As the world continue to battle COVID-19 pandemic, we should tarry a little and ponder about what Martin Luther King Jr. said "All mankind is tied together, all life is interrelated, and we are all caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of identity. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. And you can never be what you ought to be until I am what I ought to be – this is the interrelated structure of reality"

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Let us do it again, peace!

R. A. Jimoh
Managing Editor

Contents