

## ***From the Editor***

*This is the second issue of Florya Chronicles of Political Economy. In this issue we are dealing specifically with an important topic: Africa – Turkey relations. This has been growing exponentially for the last decade or so and not only in the sphere of trade and investments but also in the sphere of education, healthcare, development, migration and culture. In line with this growing interest, Istanbul Aydın University has inaugurated Africa Application and Research Center (AFRİKAM) that carries out a variety of Africa related academic events, including an annual international conference on African Affairs. In this issue of Florya Chronicles we have decided to publish a selection of articles of the the First International Conference on Africa held in May 2015. That event was attended by many high profile academics and policy makers and created a positive impact in enhancing awareness on African political economy, in Turkey.*

*Hence we present five selected articles all of which has gone through peer review. The first article is written by Sedat Aybar, Professor of Economics and Finance at İstanbul Aydın University dealing with the determinants of the pull-push factors between the continent of Africa and Turkey, using a gravity model. He argues that bilateral agreements are statistically more significant than other factors in determining gravitational pull between the two entities.*

*The following article is by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Arda, of Galatasaray University and an ex-UNCTAD Director of Department of Commodities. He focuses on trade performance of the continent and argues that as the prices of primary goods started to decline, African growth performance has been negatively affected. He argues that the need to reduce dependence on primary commodities and search for alternative development paths necessitates a return to the pre-2000s strategies. These strategies were employed for improving productivity and the quality of African products, as well as more effective participation in global value chains. According to Prof. Dr. Mehmet Arda, under the current circumstances they appear to be the appropriate policy to be followed. In this regard, he argues growing inflow of FDI can be used to stimulate growth as well as up-graded levels of education.*

*The next article is by Dr. Catherine Long of Kadir Has University, Africa and Middle Eastern Studies Center. She uses “systems framework” to explain*

*complex interactions of developmental networks by focusing on specific sub-categories of analytical, policy, and programmatic frameworks to determine how these are conceptualized. She argues that this is done in a context-specific way. The article uses the example of health systems and health systems strengthening in connection with the SSA development.*

*Education issue has been explored in more detail by Ms. Bahar Dilşa Kavala, Associate Director of Africa Application and Research Center at İstanbul Aydın University. She presents a comprehensive analysis of new diplomacy practices and non-state players, which is also prevalent in the area of education diplomacy. She discusses that Turkey's recent opening to Africa includes education diplomacy and this can play an important role in facilitating bilateral economic and humanitarian relations, as well as supporting the developmental goals of African countries.*

*Finally we have included one article by Asst. Prof. Dr. Özüm Sezin Uzun and Mr. Yusuf Saheed Adegboyega on the political violence and terrorism in Nigeria. This article focuses on the resurgence of terrorist networks by tracing it to the colonial roots and to the formation of modern Nigerian state. Boko Haram and Niger Delta militancy has been studied in detail and offers alternative ways to address political violence. The security architecture seems to be an important area in which mutual collaboration with Nigeria and other SSA countries facing similar threats can produce beneficial outcomes.*

*We are happy to note that interest in our journal has grown and we started to receive positive comments. Our advisory board now added some renowned academics to whom we are grateful for accepting to take part in our effort. We also invite contributions for the coming issues that are particularly focusing on relevant issues through the political economy perspective.*

*As usual we are grateful to the staff at the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences of İstanbul Aydın University and to the Dean of the Faculty, Prof. Dr. Celal Nazım İrem. Naturally, none of this could have been possible without the support of Prof. Dr. Yadigar İzmirli, the Rector of the University and Dr. Mustafa Aydın, President of the Board of Directors, to both we are deeply indebted.*

**Prof. Dr. Sedat AYBAR**  
**Professor of Economics and Finance**  
**Editor**