

## Chimera™

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### A Note to Readers:

The views expressed in articles are intended to stimulate thought and exchanges. They are the views of the authors and not necessarily those of the USA/Africa Institute. We encourage prospective contributors to follow the Institute's guidelines.

## Editor's Note

### *Chimera "The Creation of Imagination"*

Welcome to Chimera, the platform for individuals who seek to nurture and stimulate thought. Chimera, which simply means "the creation of imagination", is a catalyst for discussion by individuals and organizations. This journal is the product of the efforts by the USA/Africa Institute, a non-profit organization based in Tallahassee, Florida. The Institute is focused on increasing substantive and sustainable exchanges in the areas of education, technology, economic development, culture and health between the two regions.

In our premier issue, we have contributors from both regions. These highly regarded individuals provide thought provoking discussion on various issues dealing with United States and African initiatives. Recognizing that Africa has ample capacity for advancement, we at the Institute, have encouraged policy makers and scholars to converse and analyze the current and future possibilities for growth and development. This edition contains articles from professionals who have written extensively on the subject of Africa. We are delighted to have worked with entities such as the Corporate Council on Africa, the Constituency for Africa, the Smithsonian, Microsoft, and other impressive individuals to produce our inaugural issue. Many of the writers have lived and worked in Africa for over twenty years. Hopefully, the articles will reach your innermost

thoughts; inspire you to share in the mission of the Institute and join with these partner organizations in working towards a better Africa.

In pursuing the contributors for this issue, we tapped organizations and individuals who have the responsibility for African development in the 21st century. Clearly in many African countries, the developed nation status is a critical component of the continent's overall growth strategy objectives. As such, the Institute is pleased with the culmination of a series of regional projects, which may be viewed on our website, that have moved several African nations closer to this goal. The synergy of ideas and commitment to progress shown through these projects is a testament that constructive changes are possible.

During the past year, the USA/Africa Institute has successfully forged numerous initiatives and partnerships. We have formed tangible relationships and evaluated opportunities for the mutual exchange of ideas, resulting in positive resolution to long-standing problems. In summary, we will continue our mission by centering full attention on improving the economic and social environment for intercontinental exchanges.

Our readers are paramount to the publication's success. Your comments and suggestions on how we may better serve you are urged. Once again, welcome to Chimera, the place for discussion and stimulation of thought.