



M. Ibrahima Cheikh Diong is the Founder and Chief Executive Officer of the Dakar-based pan-African management consulting and commercial facilitation firm, Africa Consulting and Trading (ACT).

While running the operations of ACT, M. Diong continues, under ACT and as he has been since September 2011, to advise the Middle East and Africa Region Department of the Corporate and Investment Banking Unit of BNP Paribas. His areas of advice include, amongst other things, strategic positioning, access to markets and coverage for the various business lines of BNP's global corporate and investment banking (corporate finance, debt capital markets, energy and commodities, metals and mining, Islamic banking, project finance, etc.) in Africa, high-level business development in Africa targeting decision makers in Africa and development of opportunities in Africa with Chinese financial institutions and State Owned Enterprises.

Prior to that he was Minister, Senior China Adviser to the President of the Republic of Senegal on Chinese affairs and financing of large projects, Ambassador and Director General of the International Cooperation Department of Senegal, leading the country's resource mobilization in emerging markets, particularly in China, the Gulf States and Brazil, and Permanent Secretary of Energy for Senegal in charge of the implementation of Senegal's 4-year energy emergency plan.

Ibrahima Cheikh Diong



He served in 2009 as the first Chairman of Senegal Airlines (SAL), for which he has coordinated the steering committee that helped set up the airline from

a conceptual phase to a full implementation, leading to the launch of the first flight of the airline in January 2011.

Prior to this he was a Manager at IFC where he led efforts to provide financing and advisory services to African SMEs through one-stop shops referred to as SME Solutions Centers. Mr. Diong has also held the position of Regional Coordinator for Africa of the World Bank-managed multi-donor facility, the Public Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility (PPIAF) where he assisted African governments in attracting private investments and management into their infrastructure.

Before joining the World Bank Group, Mr. Diong was with the world's third largest management consulting firm, Booz Allen and Hamilton (BAH), where he led the privatization business practice in Sub-Saharan Africa. As such he was involved in the early privatisation efforts of many African countries. Before BAH, Mr. Diong served as an independent consultant to a number of private, bilateral and multilateral organizations and NGOs on strategic and relevant Africa-related domains.

He has been a Manager of the Environment Unit of the Dakar-based Pan-African Agency for Research and Consulting (PARC) and the Water Department of the African Network for Integrated Development (ANID). While living in Taipei, he had established a consulting firm, Africa Consulting in Taiwan (ACT), whose main purpose was to advise Taiwanese businessmen on investment opportunities in Africa.

Mr. Diong graduated from the prestigious Columbia University in the city of New York with a Master's degree in international affairs specialized in public and environmental policies and international finance. He also holds a Bachelors' degree in Civil Engineering, a diploma on « Structuring of infrastructure projects (PPP schemes) » and a certificate on "Advanced Financial Analysis".

He is fluent in French, English, Chinese, Wolof and has good working knowledge of Portuguese.