

Session 1: Leveraging EPSA to Bridge the Financing Gap for Africa's Private Sector

Opening Remarks



Dr Sidi Ould Tah

President, African Development Bank Group

Dr Sidi Ould Tah, the ninth president of the African Development Bank (AfDB) Group, was elected on May 29, 2025, with the highest first-term vote margin in the Bank's history. The strong backing by the Bank Group's shareholders reflected their confidence in Dr Ould Tah's ability to deliver impactful reforms, leveraging over 40 years of experience in banking, economics, and high-level ministerial roles across Africa and the global south.

Prior to his election as President of the African Development Bank Group, Dr Ould Tah served for a decade (2015–2025) as President of the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA). He coordinated a landmark institutional transformation, elevating BADEA to one of Africa's highest-rated multilateral development banks with elite AAA/Aa1/AA+ credit ratings. Under his strategic leadership, the bank nearly doubled its assets, successfully entered international capital markets, and implemented visionary frameworks, including the BADEA 2030 strategy.

Renowned for his decisive and calm approach to crisis management, he ensured seamless operational continuity during the BADEA headquarters relocation amidst regional instability and the COVID-19 pandemic significantly increasing annual disbursements.

Dr Ould Tah's extensive leadership background includes service as Mauritania's Minister of Economy and Finance. He holds a PhD in Economics from the University of Nice Sophia Antipolis and has completed executive programs at Harvard and the London Business School.

Fluent in multiple languages, Dr Ould Tah is a respected global leader known for diplomatic agility and forging high-level partnerships. His leadership of the African Development Bank is poised to bring strategic vision and transformational impact to the continent.

Remarks

**Ms Hassatou Diop N'Sele**

Vice President for Finance
and Chief Financial Officer,
AfDB

Ms Hassatou Diop N'Sele is Vice President for Finance and CFO of the African Development Bank Group, a role she has held since October 2022. She previously served as Group Treasurer for seven years and Head of Funding from 2009 to 2015.

With over 30 years of experience in banking and finance, Ms N'Sele leads the African Development Bank Group's resource mobilization, treasury, financial management, balance sheet optimization and financial reporting. She has led strategic initiatives for the Bank Group. These include capital increases, overseeing the launch of successful balance sheet optimization transactions, and pioneering sustainable hybrid capital by multilateral development banks.

She is spearheading the innovative use of IMF Special Drawing Rights through multilateral development banks and the transformation of the African Development Fund into a highly rated institution that will raise resources from capital markets. She is responsible for safeguarding the Triple- A credit rating of the African Development Bank, increasing its financial capacity and ensuring its long-term financial sustainability.

Ms N'Sele serves on the Board of the International Finance Facility for Immunization (IFFIM). Before joining the African Development Bank in 1999, she worked at Citibank and as Finance Director at Tiger Denrees Senegal.

In 2024, *TIME* Magazine named Ms N'Sele one of the 100 most influential leaders in climate action. The same year, New African Magazine listed her among the 100 Most Influential Africans. And in 2025, she featured among *Forbes Africa*'s 50 most inspiring women.

A Senegalese citizen, Hassatou N'Sele holds a Master of Business Administration in Finance and a Bachelor of Business Administration in international business from the George Washington University in Washington, DC.

**Mr Shigeo Honzu**

Mr Shigeo HONZU is JICA's Senior Deputy Director General of Private Sector Partnership and Finance Department, in charge of its Non-Sovering Lending and Equity Investment operations across the globe.

JICA's Private Sector Investment Finance serves as a catalyst to mobilize investment from private sectors to developing regions, and JICA currently focuses on creating development impact for achieving sustainable society in emerging Africa.

Since Mr HONZU joined JICA, he was engaged in development cooperation for areas as transport infrastructure and urban development in Indonesia. He has also served as Representative of JICA South Africa Office in charge of capacity development of

Deputy Director General, JICA	Development Finance Institutions in Southern Africa region under collaboration with SADC-DFRC and DBSA. He holds Bachelor of Commerce from WASEDA University, Japan and MBA from the School of Management, University of Bath, UK in 2009.
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Presentation & Panel Discussion

	<p>1987 Joined NEC Corporation.</p> <p>1987 to 2000, Business operation of Australia and New Zealand handling Information and Telecommunication products and systems.</p> <p>2001 to 2003, General Manager of Information and Network systems sales and marketing in NEC Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.</p> <p>2004 to 2010, Security trade control management of all group companies.</p> <p>2011 to 2014, IT business development in Australian market through M&A.</p> <p>2015 to 2025, Business development and building public private partnership in the field of International Cooperation.</p> <p>Building relationships and projects with MDBs, JICA, UN organizations, other public agencies, and government authorities. Currently focusing on Africa.</p>
	<p>Ms Fumiko Miyashita Yamaguchi is the Founder and Managing Director of COTS COTS, a cross-border enterprise bridging business and development through operations in Uganda and Japan. With a background in social anthropology, she has built a distinctive career at the intersection of academia, humanitarian action, and private-sector innovation.</p> <p>Since founding COTS COTS in 2017, she has led the company's growth—developing its management systems, launching a restaurant and commercial complex in Kampala with an iconic, award-winning building, and implementing inclusive value-chain projects that connect smallholder farmers and fishers to global markets. Her initiatives span multiple sectors, including a partnership with major Japanese corporations to establish an inclusive global organic cotton supply chain engaging refugees in Northern Uganda, collaborations with Japanese startups to generate agriculture-based carbon credits, and joint efforts to expand export</p>

	<p>markets for fish produced through environmentally responsible aquaculture.</p> <p>She holds a Master of Arts in Cultural / Social Anthropology from Kyoto University's Graduate School of Human and Environmental Studies.</p>
 <p>Mr Kuniyuki Furuta Founder and CEO, SOIK Corporation</p>	<p>Worked in development cooperation at the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), managing projects across Africa, including overseeing operations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After leaving JICA, served as COO at a medical device company specializing in solutions for developing countries.</p> <p>In 2019, founded SOIK Corporation in Japan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, leading the development and deployment of SPAQ, a maternal health Digital Transformation platform aimed at improving healthcare access in underserved regions of Africa.</p>
 <p>Mr Yosuke Kaneko Founder and CEO, SORA Technology</p>	<p>Mr Yosuke Kaneko is the founder and CEO of SORA Technology, a Japan-based company using drones, AI, and satellite intelligence to improve public health and climate-smart agriculture across the Global South. A former member of JAXA, he brings aerospace-level precision and systems thinking into real-world implementation.</p> <p>Under his leadership, SORA operates in multiple African countries, delivering up to 4x operational efficiency while reducing chemical use and labor requirements. Kaneko is recognized for building commercially viable models that align with both government priorities and private-sector investment, enabling large-scale deployment and generating measurable community and economic impact.</p>
 <p>Mr Kohei Muto CEO, Double Feather Partners</p>	<p>Mr Kohei Muto leads Double Feather Partners (DFP), an Africa-focused venture capital and consulting firm investing in Africa's future by supporting ventures that address socioeconomic challenges with scalable, sustainable solutions. DFP has invested in six African countries and advises governments, international organizations, and corporations on innovation strategies and projects. Mr Kohei has extensive experience advising global and local firms on capital raising, acquisitions, and investments. He began his career at Morgan Stanley and later joined an international organization, a private equity investment team in the Middle East, focusing on banking and clean-tech sectors. His education spans boarding school in Pennsylvania (USA), the University of Tsukuba (Japan), UCLA (USA), and Bucerius Law School (Germany).</p>



Ms Tamao Tada

Chief Business Officer,
Space Shift, Inc.

Ms Tamao Tada has been deeply concerned about issues of poverty and climate change since her junior high school years. This early awareness shaped her academic and career aspirations, leading her to pursue a degree in Geophysics at the Faculty of Science, Tohoku University, where she focused on global warming from a scientific perspective. Building on this foundation, she continued her studies at the Graduate School of Frontier Sciences at the University of Tokyo, specializing in International Cooperation Studies. There, she conducted research on strategies to support African farmers in adapting to climate change.

Upon completing her graduate studies, she joined a leading construction consulting firm, where she spent approximately six years as a specialized consultant in climate change and renewable energy. During this time, she collaborated with governments and corporations across more than 10 countries and 20 cities in Southeast Asia, Africa, and Central America to implement effective environmental measures, including renewable energy solutions and climate change adaptation strategies.

In June 2021, she transitioned to Space Shift Inc., a startup in the rapidly expanding space industry, driven by her desire to harness advanced technologies to address critical social challenges. As Chief Business Officer (CBO), she is responsible for developing innovative business solutions across diverse sectors, including environment, infrastructure, energy, agriculture, and finance. Her work extends beyond domestic markets to international collaborations in Europe, the United States, and the Global South, with a focus on creating new markets and fostering impactful partnerships.

Summary



Mr Hasegawa is the Director for Policy Co-ordination at the Multilateral Development Banks Division of the International Bureau.

Mr Hasegawa began his professional career in the Ministry of Finance Japan in 2008. Prior to his current role, he served in various positions in the Ministry, including Section Chief in the Office of the Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Deputy Director in the Foreign Exchange Markets Division, Deputy Director in the Policy Planning and Research Division, and Director of the Tax Policy Research Division. Also, he was seconded to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he served as an economist in the African Department.

<p>Mr Minoru Hasegawa Director for Policy Co-ordination, Multilateral Development Banks Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan</p>	<p>He holds an LLB from the University of Tokyo and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.</p>
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Moderator

 <p>Ms Cecile Ambert Manager, Syndication and Cofinancing Division, Syndications, Client Solutions and Africa Investment Forum Department, AfDB</p>	<p>Ms Cecile Ambert is the Manager for Syndication and Cofinancing at the African Development Bank Group, leading efforts to mobilize financing for sovereign and non-sovereign operations across Africa. She oversees the Bank's corporate cofinancing partnerships with DFIs, ECAs, insurers, and institutional investors.</p> <p>With extensive experience in private sector operations and risk participation, Cecile is passionate about bringing transformational projects across the continent to financial close. Before joining AfDB, she was a partner at an infrastructure consultancy in South Africa.</p> <p>She holds an MBA from École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (France) and an MSc from the University of the Witwatersrand (South Africa).</p>
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Session 2: Integrating Africa into Global Value Chains – Mobilizing Private Investment through Co-financing and Credit Enhancement

Opening Remarks



Mr Solomon QUAYNOR

Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure & Industrialization, AfDB

Mr Solomon Quaynor is the Vice President for Private Sector, Infrastructure & Industrialization at the African Development Bank (AfDB). He joined AfDB in May 2020. He has over 25 years' experience in development finance and investment banking.

From 2018-2020 after Mr. Quaynor left IFC to join the private sector, he provided specialized advisory services in emerging markets as: Senior Advisor to Rothschild Global Advisory for Africa (excluding SA); Senior Advisor to IFU (Danish DFI) for sub-Saharan Africa; Investment Committee member and Senior Advisor to a \$350 million African PE Fund; Senior Advisor to an African infrastructure fund; and, served on the boards of InfraCredit Nigeria and Verdant Ventures.

Mr Quaynor previously worked at IFC in various capacities for several years and there he became an emerging markets specialist investor with experience developing business and investing across financial institutions including banks & NBFIs, Telecoms Media & Technology, Infrastructure including Energy, Manufacturing, Agribusiness & Services. He has experience supporting senior executives and board leadership of corporates in strategy development, key government/regulatory engagement and private sector partnership development, and often served as trusted advisor to the C-Suite with companies across multiple sectors in Africa.

Before IFC, Mr Quaynor worked in the US in investment banking on Wall Street, providing corporate finance advisory services to large and medium corporates. He worked for Merrill Lynch and Bear Stearns, respectively, in New York City as an Associate and Vice President in the generalist and media & communications groups.

Before business school, Mr Quaynor was a college professor at the Atlanta University Center in Math and Engineering. Mr. Quaynor is a graduate of the J L Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. He also holds an MSc in Electrical Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as a BS in Applied Physics from Atlanta University Center.

Presentation & Panel Discussion

Part 1: Co-Financing & Credit Enhancement

	<p>Following experience in corporate and project financing at MUFG, Mr Akita joined NEXI in 2003. He has led underwriting teams in the infrastructure, transportation, manufacturing, power, and mining sectors. Their expertise covers sovereign, corporate, project and asset backed finance, as well as political risk insurance.</p> <p>He also led the corporate planning division, overseeing the strategic policy. He developed untied loan policy guidelines of the LEAD initiative. He was NEXI's chief negotiator for the OECD Arrangement. During a secondment to the Cabinet Secretariat of the Government, he coordinated overseas infrastructure business promotion policy across ministries and agencies.</p> <p>As a senior advisor, he currently oversees international and strategic policy issues of NEXI.</p> <p>He holds an MBA from the University of Manchester, an MSc in Development Finance from SOAS, University of London, and is currently a PhD candidate in Public Policy at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Tokyo.</p>
	<p>Ms Nisrin Abouelezz – Managing Director, Head of Africa Group - is a seasoned and experienced banker with a career dedicated to building the business activities for SMBC across the African continent, for the past 18 years; with teams based in London, Johannesburg and Cairo, Nisrin is in charge of leading strategic initiatives, origination, structuring, and managing a portfolio of Sovereigns, Financial Institutions, MDBs, and corporates across all financial products and solutions provided by SMBC.</p> <p>Nisrin holds a BA in Business Management & Economics, MSc in international Finance and an MBA from London business school.</p>
	<p>Mr Ahmed Rashad Attout, an Egyptian citizen, is a seasoned and results oriented banker, with a special emphasis on capital markets, sovereign, and corporate finance. He has over 24 years of banking experience in Africa and the Middle East and is currently the Director of the Financial Sector Development Department of the African Development Bank Group (AfDB).</p> <p>In this role he has been instrumental in establishing client-facing financial markets operations and executing key financial markets-funded and unfunded operations worth over \$10 billion across more than 40 African countries. He has also been pivotal in crafting</p>

<p>Director, Financial Sector Development Department, AfDB</p>	<p>strategies to develop and broaden Africa's financial sector using various bank products and instruments.</p> <p>Mr Ahmed Rashad Attout has spearheaded several initiatives to develop Africa's capital markets, including the Capital Markets Development Trust Fund, which supports countries in developing their capital markets, and the Africa Exchange Linkage Project, which aims to integrate Africa's Stock Exchanges. His work also includes leading sovereign and non-sovereign financial market transactions, broadening funding sources for various African financial entities, and structuring liquidity schemes to address funding challenges.</p> <p>Before joining the African Development Bank Group, he worked at Banque Audi, the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa, and at Société Générale Bank. He holds an MSc in Management of International Development from the University of Turin, Italy, and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Sadat Academy for Management Sciences, Cairo, Egypt.</p>
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Part 2: Business & Global Value Chain

 <p>Mr Minoru Hasegawa Director for Policy Co-ordination, Multilateral Development Banks Division, International Bureau, Ministry of Finance, Japan</p>	<p>Mr Hasegawa is the Director for Policy Co-ordination at the Multilateral Development Banks Division of the International Bureau. Mr Hasegawa began his professional career in the Ministry of Finance Japan in 2008. Prior to his current role, he served in various positions in the Ministry, including Section Chief in the Office of the Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Deputy Director in the Foreign Exchange Markets Division, Deputy Director in the Policy Planning and Research Division, and Director of the Tax Policy Research Division. Also, he was seconded to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), where he served as an economist in the African Department.</p> <p>He holds an LLB from the University of Tokyo and a Master of Public Administration from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs.</p>
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 <p>Mr Tatsushi Amano Senior Executive Managing Officer Global Head of Energy and Natural Resources Finance Group Japan Bank for International Cooperation</p>	<p>Mr Tatsushi Amano was appointed as Senior Executive Managing Officer, the Global Head of Energy and Natural Resources Finance Group on the 1st of July, 2023. He is supervising three financing departments (oil & gas, mining and hydrogen/ammonium). Prior to his current role, he served as Director General of the Strategic Research Department from 2019, providing strategic analysis on a wide range of issues to the members of the Board of Directors. Since joining JBIC in 1995, he has worked in several positions in various departments including legal department, corporate finance department, policy planning department and new energy and power finance department.</p> <p>Mr Tatsushi Amano also worked at the Japanese Ministry of Finance from 1999 to 2001 as a part of JBIC's human resource exchange program. He is admitted to the NY state bar in 2002 and practiced law in London from 2012 to 2014. Mr Tatsushi Amano received his BA degree at the University of Tokyo (Faculty of Law) and an LLM degree at the University of Pennsylvania, Law School.</p>
 <p>Dr Shoichi Suzuki Senior Director, JOIN</p>	<p>Dr Shoichi Suzuki is Senior Director of the Project Department at Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN), a semi-government fund. Since 2024, he has been working at JOIN, which primarily provides direct financial support through equity investment to facilitate Japanese companies' participation in overseas transportation and urban development projects.</p> <p>Dr Suzuki has over 25 years of professional experience in the field of infrastructure development and management since joining Japan's former Ministry of Construction (now the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism). His career includes policy planning at the Ministry's headquarters, hands-on project implementation at Regional Development Bureau and River and National Highway Offices, and serving as a Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Land and Infrastructure Management (NILIM). Beyond the Ministry, he has served as Infrastructure Attaché at the Embassy of Japan in Malaysia and as an Associate Professor at the University of Tokyo, engaging in research and education.</p> <p>He holds a doctorate in Engineering from Kyoto University, where he also earned his master's and bachelor's degrees in civil engineering. Dr Suzuki is a certified Professional Engineer, Japan (Civil</p>

	<p>Engineering) and a member of the Japan Society of Civil Engineers (JSCE) and the Japan Society of Traffic Engineers (JSTE).</p>
 <p>Mr Akira Satoh Founder and CIO, &Capital Inc.</p>	<p>Mr Akira Satoh is an accomplished investment professional with over 20 years of experience in private equity, M&A advisory, and impact investing.</p> <p>Over the past eight years, he has developed and refined an original investment concept focused on emerging markets, particularly Africa, through strategic partnerships with Japanese corporations. As Founder and Chief Investment Officer (CIO), he played a central role in establishing &Capital Inc., an Africa-focused impact investment platform supported by Keizai Doyukai. He also led the creation of four Mauritian entities, including the GP entity and two limited partnerships. As a key person, he is involved in all final investment decisions alongside the director of the GP entity.</p> <p>Before launching &Capital, Akira served as a Managing Director at the Innovation Network Corporation of Japan (INCJ), a Japanese investment firm. During his tenure, he executed numerous domestic and cross-border transactions spanning startups to large-cap acquisitions, and led both direct investments and fund-of-funds commitments. His experience includes IPOs as well as M&A and trade-sale transactions involving major Japanese corporations.</p> <p>Earlier in his career, Akira worked at Daiwa Securities SMBC and, UBS (Japan) where he advised on high-profile M&A transactions across a wide range of industries. He holds the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Tokyo.</p>

Closing Remarks

 <p>Mr Yasuo Takamura</p>	<p>Mr Takamura is Councillor at the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of Japan, where he currently serves as Head of Global Business Investment Support Office as well as Director General for Domestic Coordination at the Government Headquarters for the TPP.</p> <p>Mr Takamura began his professional career at the Ministry of Finance of Japan (MOF) in 1990. Prior to his current position, he led the Customs and Tariff Bureau as Director General. He also held key positions at MOF, which include Director of the Comprehensive Policy Division, Director of the Office of the Vice Minister of Finance for International Affairs, Budget Examiner of Budget Bureau as well as Director of Research Division and Director of Regional Financial Cooperation Division at the International Bureau.</p>
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<p>Head, Global Business Investment Support Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Japan</p>	<p>Mr Takamura has extensive experience of working at Multilateral Development Banks. He served as Executive Director at the African Development Bank, besides assuming roles as Alternate Executive Director at the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (World Bank Group) and Director General of Budget, Personnel and Management Systems Department at the Asian Development Bank.</p> <p>He holds a BA in Law from the University of Tokyo (1990) and an MBA from the University of California, Berkeley (1994).</p>
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Moderator



Ms Aida Ngom

Director, Private Sector Development Department, AfDB

Ms Aida Ngom has more than 25 years' experience in investment banking and development finance. She is currently the Director for Private Sector Development at African Development Bank. Aida has successfully led innovative financing schemes to scale up private sector investments on the African continent leveraging on private capital and blended finance and has built strong relationships and partnerships with key corporate clients and developers.

Ms Ngom has also served as the Manager for Energy Financial Solutions at the African Development Bank within the Power, Energy, Climate and Green Growth complex, after having been Chief Investment Officer for Infrastructure and Private Public Partnerships. In her different tenures, she played a key role delivering groundbreaking infrastructure projects and scaling up private sector development on the African continent. Ms Ngom has also served as an advisory Board member of private equity funds and is currently a Board member of the Dhamana Guarantee Company.

Ms Ngom has led, managed, and brought to financial close corporate and project finance debt transactions, equity investments, guarantees and syndicated loans leveraging a diverse array of instruments to implement complex transactions. She is currently chairing AfDB Technical Investment Committee.

Prior to joining AfDB, Ms Ngom has worked in several commercial Banks in the continent and in France, including Citibank and Mauritius Commercial Bank in both credit and investment functions.

She graduated from Heriot Watt University in Edinburg and holds a Master of Sciences in Banking and Finance from Paris V University. She also completed several executive education programs with Wharton and Harvard Business Schools.

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Mr Solomon Mugera

Director, Communication
and External Relations,
AfDB

Mr Mugera was appointed Director, Communication and External Relations, for the African Development Bank Group in 2021.

Before that, he was Head of Journalism for the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) Africa, and presided over the largest expansion of the BBC on the African continent since the 1940s, supporting the corporation in reaching a weekly audience of more than 100 million across 12 languages on radio, television, digital and social media. With an annual budget of \$42 million, Mr Mugera managed a team of 600 staff in the UK and across Africa. He has extensive experience in leading multimedia operations, and an excellent track record of editorial leadership, communication, budget management, and stakeholder outreach.

Mr Mugera joined the BBC in September 1998 and worked with various departments of the corporation, including as Editor of the BBC Swahili service in 2006 and then as the first African to head the African region of the BBC World Service in 2011.