



## Knowledge Economy, Job Creation, and Government Policies in MENA: Towards New Development Strategies

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### PROGRAM BIOGRAPHIES



**Abdi M. Abdullahi**

*Education Specialist, Human Development Department, IDB*

Abdi M. Abdullahi is Education Specialist at the Human Development Department of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which is a multilateral development institution based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Prior to joining the IDB, he worked with several international development institutions, with Government, and with NGOs as a sector specialist, development manager and program/project manager in the UK and in developing countries.



**Mukhtar Ahmed**

*Deputy Director General, ISESCO*

Professor Dr. Mukhtar Ahmed has been Deputy Director General, ISESCO since Feb 2011. With a Bachelor's and Master's of Science degree from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan and Master's in Business Administration and Ph.D. from the University of California, Riverside, USA, he has over 24 years of educational development and management experience, including teaching, research, policy development, linking educational research to industry/commercialization, and introducing entrepreneurial approaches to education and a diverse range of educational development programs. His distinguished career has been enriched with diverse academic, research and administrative experience, both in the public and private sectors of higher education in Pakistan. He has worked with numerous educational institutions in different capacities as Lecturer, Associate Professor, Professor, Chairman/Head of Departments, Dean, Rector, Member (Operations and Planning), Acting Executive Director, Consultant Coordinator, Project Director, Director Student Affairs, Director Campus, etc.



**Nabeel Al-Fayoumi**

*Vice President, Royal Scientific Society, Jordan*

Nabeel Al-Fayoumi was recently appointed as the Vice President for Testing, ICT, and Quality at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), which is the most prominent Scientific and Research Organization in Jordan, the President of which is Her Royal Highness Princess Sumaya Bin Al-Hasan. Up until last month, Dr. Al-Fayoumi served as the Government of Jordan's Chief Information Officer (CIO) and Director General of the National Information Technology

Center (NITC). Before that, he led the regional IT solutions and services business at the STS Group (2004 – 2010). Between 1998 and 2004, he served as the ICT Training strategy adviser for the minister of ICT while working as an associate professor of computer engineering at Yarmouk University. He has participated in many international and regional conferences and forums on the various aspects of Information Technology and Knowledge Management. He has published a number of white papers and scientific publications in international journals as well as various technical consultancies. He has headed, and still is a member of, numerous national steering committees and task forces ranging from strategic to technical. He earned Masters a Ph.D. Degrees in Computer and Information Engineering from the University of Florida, United States, in 1995 and 1998 respectively. He is highly interested and active in the area of knowledge and technology management for socio-economic development.



**Abdalla Al-Najjar**

*President, Arab Science and Technology Foundation*

Abdalla Al-Najjar is President of the Arab Science and Technology Foundation (ASTF), an international non-profit, since 2000. He is a member in the Governing Board and Executive Committee of the International Science, Technology and Innovation Center for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) under the Auspices of the UNESCO. Mr. Al-Najjar has initiated and led many S&T initiatives and activities related to capacity building and development of the Arab community. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Physics from the University of Durham, UK and a B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics from the United Arab Emirates University, Al-Ain, UAE.



**Ghada Amer**

*Deputy CEO, Arab Science and Foundation Technology*

Ghada Amer started her professional career as Lecturer Assistant (1996-1999) and gradually became Associate Professor (2007) and Head of Electrical Engineering Department (2007-2009) at the High Institute of Technology, Benha University. As part of her academic career, she has served as member of scientific committees, and as chairman and editor of many regional and international scientific conferences. Ghada Amer is also the editor of two international journals on her field of specialty. In addition, she is an active member of committee of the Egyptian Engineers Syndicate, and a member of the Third World Organization for Women in Science TWOWS 2008. In 2009, she received the "Best Mother Model Award" from Benha University where she recently became the S&T Advisor. She holds a Ph.D. degree in Electrical Power Engineering from Cairo University.



**Jean-Eric Aubert**

*Senior Consultant, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*

Jean-Eric Aubert, international expert, formerly Lead Specialist at the World Bank Institute, used to manage WBI's Knowledge Economy work. He also managed the World Bank office in Marseille (France) focused on urban development in the Mediterranean area. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2000, Jean-Eric Aubert worked at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) where he used to lead science, technology and innovation policy studies. He has also been consultant for a number of international organizations including UN agencies and the European Commission. Throughout his career Jean-Eric Aubert has worked as policy evaluator and advisor in more than 40 countries at all levels of development. Jean-Eric Aubert, a French national, holds post-graduate diplomas in Economics and a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from Paris Universities.



**Latifa Belarbi**

*Research Analyst, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*

Latifa Belarbi is a Research Analyst at the World Bank working for the CMI's Knowledge Economy program. She joined the CMI from the European Investment Bank where she worked at the Projects Directorate on a project of monitoring technical assistance to technopoles and business angels networks, as well as on the CMI IT1 program on financing innovation in the Mediterranean. She holds a Masters degree from the University of Perugia (Italy) on Internationalization and Communication of Productive Systems in the Mediterranean and graduated from HEC Alger. At university, her specialization was on Mediterranean industrial clusters and then on science parks and technopoles in the MENA region. She has also worked in Milan and Rome with the Italian Institute for Foreign Trade.



**Simon Bell**

*Sector Manager in the Finance and Private Sector unit of MENA, World Bank*

Simon Bell is currently Sector Manager in the Finance and Private Sector unit of the Middle East and North Africa region (MENA) of the World Bank. Prior to joining the MENA region he occupied a similar management position in the South Asia region within the World Bank – where he has worked for almost a decade. Before that, he worked in the Africa region of the World Bank for eight years on similar FSD and PSD issues. He works on all countries of the MENA region on Financial Sector, Private Sector and, increasingly, Knowledge/Innovation issues.

Simon has a Masters Degree in Development Economics from the University of New England, New South Wales, Australia. He is keenly interested in innovation and the development of Knowledge Economies in the Middle Income region of MENA – having supervised extensive work in the regard while working on India.



**Mohamed Chafiki**

*Director of Studies and Financial Forecast, Moroccan Ministry of Finance and Privatization*

Mohammed Chafiki is the Director of Studies and Financial Forecast in the Ministry of Economy and Finance since 2004. Prior to that he served as the Principal Private Secretary of the Minister of Finance and Privatization. He is a Professor of Economics at the Faculty of Legal, Economic and Social Sciences in Rabat, as well as in other higher education establishments. Mohamed Chafiki was awarded the National Order of Merit by the Kingdom of Morocco, and appointed Knight in the Order of the Légion d'honneur (France). He is interested in public finance, governance, institutional and economic reforms and in the follow-up of economic and financial cooperation at multilateral and bilateral levels.



**Carl Dahlman**

*Professor, Georgetown University*

Carl J. Dahlman is the Luce Professor of International Relations and Information Technology at the Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University. He joined Georgetown in January 2005 after more than 25 years of distinguished service at the World Bank. At Georgetown, Dr. Dahlman's research and teaching explore how rapid advances in science, technology and information are affecting the growth prospects of nations and influencing trade, investment, innovation, education and economic relations in an increasingly globalizing world. He holds a Ph.D. in economics from Yale University and a B.A. in international relations and economics from the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University.



**Fadi Daou**

*CEO, MultiLane SAL*

Fadi Daou is CEO of MultiLane SAL, a developer of state of the art instruments for the semiconductor industry. Fadi is a serial entrepreneur with 25-year experience in developing state of the art technology, and creating and managing technology companies. Fadi has founded and sold multiple high technology companies in the US and in Lebanon since 2000 that include Telephotonics; FiberGrade; PXIT; ATC VLSI... Fadi has also founded the International Network of Lebanese Entrepreneurs and Technologists (INLET). He repatriated to Lebanon 2006 with the aim to of creating technology companies that compete in the global market out of Lebanon. Fadi also hosts and incubates technology companies at MultiLane in the Houmal Technology Park.



**Ndiame Diop**

*Lead Economist, MENA Region's Economics Department, World Bank*

Dr. Ndiame Diop is currently lead economist in the MENA region's economics department of the World Bank. His main country focus is Lebanon and Jordan.

Mr. Diop joined the World Bank Headquarters in 2000 (through the Young Professionals Program) as economist and has worked in South Asia (India and Bangladesh) and the trade department of the Bank (applied research on trade) before joining the MENA region as senior economist for Tunisia and resident representative in Tunis. Mr. Diop has published extensively in the areas of trade, growth, and competitiveness. His most recent publication (co-editor) is a book on trade and competitiveness in MENA in 2010.



**Pavel Dvorak**

*Economist, Office of the Chief Economist, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

Pavel Dvorak is an Economist in the Office of the Chief Economist at the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) in London. He provides expertise on structuring and appraisal and monitoring of investment projects mainly in the ICT, real estate and health care sectors in the EBRD countries of operations. He also contributes to the development of country and sector investment strategies. In his previous role as country economist for Latvia and Lithuania, he worked on macroeconomic and structural reform assessments for the two Baltic economies.

Pavel joined the EBRD in June 2009. Prior to that, he was a Senior Consultant at Deloitte. He focused mainly on strategy development, operational efficiency and commercial due diligence in a number of sectors in Central and Eastern Europe. Pavel holds a Ph.D. in Economics from CERGE-EI in Prague.



**Mona El Baradei**

*Senior Advisor, Egyptian National Competitiveness Council and Professor of Economics, Cairo University*

Professor Mona El-Baradei is a prominent Egyptian economist. She is Professor of Economics and the Former Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University (from 2005 through 2008). She was the Former Executive Director of the Egyptian National Competitiveness Council, ENCC (from 2008 through 2011). She is now Senior Competitiveness Advisor at the same council. Professor El Baradei is a board member of a number of private and public institutions such as the Centre for Research and Technological Planning, Cairo University since 2008; the General Assembly of Egypt Import and Export Company, since 2009; and member of the consulting committee of El Adl party, 2011. She has been a consultant for a number of organizations including the Social Fund for Development, UNDP, UNICEF and the Ministry of Economic Development.



### **Jejel Ezzine**

*Director General, International Cooperation, Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Tunisia*

Jejel Ezzine received a B.S. from National School of Engineers (ENIT), a MSEE in Electrical Engineering from University of Alabama in Huntsville, and a Ph.D. from Georgia Institute of Technology. He is currently a Professor of Systems Theory and Control at UTM. During 2003-2005, he was Deputy Director and Director of Studies of ENIT. In 2005 he was called to the Tunisian Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research to serve as the Director of Graduate Schools and Research Valorization till 2009. Presently, he is the Director General of International Cooperation. His research interests include control and stabilization of hybrid systems, application of systems and control theory, and sustainability science.

Mr. Ezzine is co-founder and co-Chairman of the International Symposium on Computational Intelligence and Intelligent Informatics (ISCIII). He is also the Founder and General Secretary of IEEE Tunisia Section, and founding President of the Tunisian Association for the Advancement of Science, Technology and Innovation (TAASTI).



### **Mourad Ezzine**

*Education Sector Manager, Human Development Department in MENA, World Bank*

Mourad Ezzine is the Education Sector Manager, Human Development Department in the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1992 and worked extensively on human development issues and the linkages between education and economic development in North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. Before joining the Bank, he was Director of Planning and Information Systems in the Tunisian Ministry of Education and held management-level positions in a Tunisian private development bank. Mr. Ezzine holds a post-graduate degree in economics and statistics from the *Ecole Nationale des Statistiques et de l'Administration Economique* in Paris, a Masters degree in development economics from the Sorbonne University in Paris, and a *Maîtrise* in Mathematics from the University of Sciences of Tunis.



### **Ghaith H. Fariz**

*Director/Coordinator of the Arab Knowledge Report, UNDP, Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum Foundation*

Ghaith H. Fariz is a strategic planner with extended international experience in the Arab and Asia regions in providing policy advice; planning; programming; and managing large portfolios in the fields of “knowledge societies/economies”, poverty alleviation, and socioeconomic development. He is also an expert with hands-on experience in change management and in piloting UN reforms with special emphasis on the evaluation of impact, effectiveness and efficiency. He has coordinated and authored several publications and papers as well as regional and international level developmental reports. He was the coordinator of the Arab Human Development Reports (AHDRs) for 2004 and 2005 and tangibly participated in writing AHDRs of 2002 and 2003. He is the author of the first Arab

Millennium Development Report 2003 and he supervised, and contributed to the formulation of several other developmental reports all over the Arab region. He is also the author of several publications in socioeconomic development and population-environment dynamics. In addition, he is an expert in gaming and simulation.

Ghaith Fariz has a Ph. D. in Planning from the University of Michigan, USA, with main subjects of research involving socioeconomic development, socioeconomic-environment dynamics, and gaming and simulation for research and training. He is Jordanian and he is married with four children.



**Guy Fleuret**

*Economist, European Investment Bank*

Guy Fleuret joined the European Investment Bank (EIB) in 2008 on a secondment from the Caisse des dépôts (CDC) in France. He has spent some 25 years working in the field of economic development both in France and in the Mediterranean region. In particular, he took on, as a territorial administrator, the responsibilities of: deputy director of a Regional Council economic development services, of general secretary of an average urban area and, within the CDC, of person in charge of an urban development program. He was then named deputy director of the local development's branch and of the network of the CDC. Specialist in the field of structural urban development, he is currently working on a number of large scale projects supporting innovation and development in the MENA area.

He joined the EIB from the World Bank, where, as an Urban Development Adviser, he was responsible for devising and organizing numerous technical assistance and capacity reinforcement programmes, both with local and national government institutions, as well as for the support of the World Bank's operational teams in the same area. Guy's earlier career includes various posts with the CDC and a number of French government ministries, including the Ministry of the Civil Service and State Reform, the Ministry of Employment and the Ministry of Defence, as Deputy Manager of restructuring of defence delegation. He is a graduate of the University of Paris Panthéon – Sorbonne, in Public Policy and Economic Science.



**Mohamed Hassoun**

*Regional Director for Rabat, National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills, Morocco*

Mohamed Ayoub Hassoun has been Regional Director of the Moroccan National Agency for the promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) since 2004. Prior to ANAPEC, he was the Director of ISTA (Institut Spécialisé de Technologie Appliquée) in Oued Zem (1990-1992), then in Khourigba (1992-1997) and Beni Mellal till 2001.

Mr. Hassoun is a State Engineer in Materials Science. He graduated from the Ecole Nationale de l'Industrie Minérale à Rabat in 1980. He has represented ANAPEC in many international forums in Belgium, France and Italy.



**Mats Karlsson**

*Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*

Mats Karlsson is the Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI) in the MNA region. A Swedish national, he joined the World Bank in 1999. His most recent assignment was Country Director for the Maghreb (Algeria, Libya, Malta, Morocco and Tunisia) which he took up in November 2007. As World Bank Vice President of External Affairs and United Nations Affairs 1999-2002, he pursued strategic policy dialogue with the Bank's partners, civil society and other stakeholders. From 1994 to 1999, he was Swedish State Secretary for International Development Cooperation.



**Yevgeny Kuznetsov**

*Senior Economist, Innovation and Growth group of the Economic Policy and Debt Department, World Bank*

Yevgeny Kuznetsov is Senior Economist at Innovation and Growth group of Economic Policy and Debt Department of the World Bank. He joined World Bank in 1995 from the Brookings Institution. A specialist in technological innovation and international migration of highly skilled, he focuses on political economy of reforms of innovation and the higher education systems. He has acquired a unique perspective on reforms which blends insights of a practitioner (operational support to innovation projects in Argentina, Chile, India, Mexico, Russia, Iran, Armenia, Tanzania, Morocco, Colombia and other economies) and a scholar (more than 30 articles and books on innovation and knowledge-based growth). In recent years, he also focuses on diasporas of highly skilled as change agents to promote institutional development in home countries and has published a book and various articles on this issue.



**Kurt Larsen**

*Senior Education Specialist at the Growth and Competitiveness Practice, World Bank Institute*

Kurt Larsen is a Senior Education Specialist at the Growth and Competitiveness Practice of the World Bank Institute (WBI). He is currently working as Coordinator for the Skills and Innovation Policy Cluster and responsible for WBI's capacity building work and training in the areas of education, skills development, innovation policy and the knowledge economy. Before joining the World Bank Institute, Kurt was Senior Analyst at the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation at the Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation (OECD) where he did policy research of education and trade; learning cities and regions; knowledge management in the education sector; and the internationalization of tertiary education. He has furthermore worked more than 10 years in the Danish Government in the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, and in Prime Minister's Office on education, research, as well as social welfare policies.

Kurt Larsen is a Danish national and has a Masters Degree in Human Geography and a Bachelors Degree in Mathematics from Aarhus University, Denmark. He has complemented his post-secondary education with an international degree in Public Administration from the École Nationale d'Administration, Paris.



**Jacques van der Meer**

*Economic Adviser at the Project Directorate, European Investment Bank*

Jacques van der Meer is economic adviser at the Bank's Project Directorate, where he is in charge of the appraisal of industrial and public sector R&D and Innovation projects. In 2010, Jacques van der Meer headed a Technical Assistance team in JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) for projects to foster the New Member States' Knowledge Economies (projects involving R&D-, ICT-, Education-, and specialised healthcare infrastructures).

Jacques van der Meer has a Master degree in Business Administration from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam (1983). His interest in Intellectual Capital and R&D dates back from his Ph.D. study (1987), which addressed the key issues for successful R&D-strategies in the semiconductor and pharmaceutical industries. Before joining the EIB in 1991, Jacques van der Meer lectured on Strategic and Innovation Management at the Rotterdam School of Management of Erasmus University and at the Ecole Supérieure de Commerce in Lyon (now known as EM de Lyon).



**Maha Merezak**

*Programme Specialist at the Science Directorate, ISESCO*

Maha Merezak is an economist, in charge of programs at the Science Directorate of the ISESCO. She has authored various research papers in social economics and development, and is an active member of several research associations. As part of her studies particularly on microfinance, she has carried out project-based field work in the remote areas of Morocco. She holds a doctorate in international economics from the University Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco.

**Nicolas Peridy**

*Professor of Economics, Université du Sud Toulon-Var*

Nicolas Peridy is Professor of Economics at the Université du Sud Toulon-Var (France) and Director of the research centre in economics (LEAD, Laboratoire d'Economie Appliquée au Développement). His research topics mainly include international trade, regional integration, FDI and migration, concerning especially South and Eastern Mediterranean countries. He is currently working on innovation, growth convergence as well as on climate change in these countries. He has published more than 30 articles in international reviews, such as World Economy, Review of World Economics, Journal of economic integration, Economics Letters, International Economic Journal, Economic Systems, etc. He is consultant for several international organizations, including the World Bank, the European Commission as well as the FEMISE network.

**Gilles Pipien**

*Senior Environmental Specialist, World Bank, CMI*

Gilles Pipien is currently Senior Environmental Specialist in the World Bank (MNSEN), based in the CMI leading programs linking economics and environment, and more specifically. the on-going “2012 MED report: Towards Green Growth in the Mediterranean Countries.” He was formerly the head of the private office of the French Minister for Ecology and Sustainable Development, Mrs. Bachelot (2002-2003). He has occupied different positions in several major French cities (Montpellier, Lille, Lyon, Nantes,...), being in charge of State government services in the fields of infrastructure, transport, urban planning, and environmental matters.

Gilles is Senior Civil Engineer (Ingenieur General des Ponts et Chaussees), specialist in urban development, environment and transport. He is currently attached to the Director for European and International affairs (DAEI, secretary general) of the French Ministry for Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Planning (MEEDDAT).

**Ismail Radwan**

*Lead Economist, Africa Finance and Private Sector Unit, World Bank*

Ismail Radwan is a Lead Economist in the World Bank's Africa Finance and Private Sector Unit. He manages a number of high profile projects for the Bank throughout the region including the Nigeria Growth and Employment Project. Previously Ismail worked in the South Asia region where he managed the e-Sri Lanka initiative--a path-finding project to bring the benefits of ICT to the rural population. Ismail is a prolific author whose recent publications include “Knowledge Competition and Productivity: Creating a New Nigerian Economy”. He has completed offshoring reports on Nigeria, Sri Lanka and India. Ismail is known for his inspirational speeches on a variety of ICT related and general management topics.

Ismail studied economics and politics at Oxford University and received a masters degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He has lived and worked in more than thirty countries. Prior to joining the World Bank in 2000, Ismail was a principal consultant with PricewaterhouseCoopers London in the economics and strategy department. Ismail is originally from Cairo Egypt and has completed field assignments in Colombo and Abuja. Since June 2010 he is based in Washington D.C.

**Jean-Louis Reiffers**

*President of the Scientific Council, FEMISE*

Jean-Louis Reiffers is the President of the Scientific Council of the Femise and the Mediterranean Institute and President of the Second Chance School in Marseille. He was Chief Advisor for Education and Training to the French Prime Minister, Edith Cresson (1991-1992) in Paris. He is also Professor of Economics at the “Université du Sud”. He has edited and contributed to the publishing of five general publications on Mediterranean countries (1994-2002).



**Pierre Strauss**

*Economist, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM), Africa Unit, World Bank*

Pierre Strauss works in the Africa Unit of the World Bank as an Economist for the Poverty Reduction and Economic Management Network (PREM). His first field assignment was in Nigeria where he managed projects covering macro-economic, private sector development, and governance issues. He has developed an extensive expertise in budget support operations (Nigeria and Mali) and coauthored a publication on the Growth and Employment Potential in Nigeria's Entertainment Industry.

Prior to joining the Bank, Pierre gained valuable experience in the private sector consulting for international companies. Pierre received a master degree in economics and politics from the University of Neuchâtel, as well as a master in international relations from Sciences Po Paris. Pierre is a Swiss citizen and lives in Washington DC.



**Tamer Taha**

*Research Analyst, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*

Tamer is currently Research Analyst at the World Bank (Center for Mediterranean Integration), working on two programs: Knowledge Economy and Governance of Higher Education. His main field of interest is the relationship between knowledge-based economy and job creation, notably in the Arab world. He holds a Masters degree from Paris-Sorbonne University in International Economics of Development (2010) and a Bachelors degree in Economics and Computer Applications in Social Sciences from Cairo University (2009), where he participated in various developmental projects.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Tamer had some consulting experiences for public and private entities.



**Anuja Utz**

*Deputy Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)*

Anuja Utz is Deputy Director of the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI). She also leads the Center's work on the Knowledge Economy in MENA. Before this assignment, she was the Program Leader of the *Knowledge for Development* Program at the World Bank Institute (WBI) where she managed the design and delivery of a variety of capacity building fora for policymakers from Africa, East Asia, Latin America, and MENA. She is the author of the World Bank report on *India and the Knowledge Economy*, and a contributor to *Building Knowledge Economies: Advanced Strategies for Development* and *Innovation Policy: A Guide for Developing Countries*. She has worked on country strategy reports on the knowledge economy for Argentina, Brazil, Chile, China, Korea, and Tanzania.

In addition to more than 15 years experience as a development specialist at the World Bank, Anuja has also taught and carried out research at Emory University, USA, where she received her Master's and Ph.D. degrees in Economics.



**Zeine Ould Zeidane**

*Economist, Former Prime Minister, Mauritania and Senior Advisor, Center for Mediterranean Integration*

Zeine Ould Zeidane is a Mauritanian mathematician, economist and politician. He served as Prime Minister from April 2007 until May 2008. Before that, he held several positions including economist at the World Bank office in Nouakchott, Coordinator of the Mauritanian Center for Policy Analysis, Economic Counsel to the President of Mauritania Maaouya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Governor of the Central Bank of Mauritania, as well as teaching posts at the University of Nouakchott and at the University of Nice, from which he graduated.