

SHORT BIOGRAPHY ESSAY

El Hadji Beye

Greetings, my name is El Hadji Beye, I was born and raised in Senegal (West Africa). After graduating from a two year Civil Engineering program from **ENSUT (Ecole Normale Supérieure Universitaire de Technologie)** a department of the **Cheikh Anta Diop University** located in **Dakar (Senegal)**, I came to United States with the goal of obtaining a **Bachelor degree in Civil Engineering**

It has taken me several years of obstacles to finally complete my college curriculum despite other social or professional obligations. After several years of education interruptions, I had to commit myself to a strenuous regimen in 2011 to complete the Bachelors degree. The acquisition of my U.S. citizenship in March of 2011 has greatly facilitated the process of returning to college and I am very thankful for that.

My interest in engineering started at a very young age: I used to perform slab repairs, masonry work and light woodwork tasks in our Senegal home as a teenager. Growing up in Senegal, the need for improved construction was clearly noticeable in my view: African nations are in **dire need of quality buildings, infrastructure, roads and energy plants** along with **viable water and sanitation solutions**. Better **concrete design and workmanship**, along **with improved construction technology** are necessary to reduce the frequency of **poorly built infrastructures** and improve the safety and longevity of future projects.

On the verge of completing the **MBA in Engineering**, I plan on passing the **PE exam (Professional Engineer)** exam in the next few years to complete my education.

After sixteen years of engineering practice in the United States, I plan on bringing appropriate **American technologies** to **Africa** to improve construction methods and implement significant **development projects** in the regions within the fields of **transportation, sanitation, housing, energy and clean drinking water**: the plan is to help develop a rich network of American technology exporting towards Africa could be established through this endeavor.

Construction is valuable in **Africa** not only because of the **lack of infrastructure** on the continent but mostly because of the large amount of natural resources used to produce construction materials. For instance, cement is widely manufactured in West Africa where silica and other raw ingredients are commonly found as well as an abundant amount of sand. Cement production and usage is economically beneficial for the regions in question since there is a growing demand for infrastructure.

Aside from the growing production of construction materials, another particularly important aspect of construction in Africa is the need for **safety improvement**. Harnessing systems are rarely used by builders on elevated scaffolds: this need should be addressed by raising awareness and providing affordable safety gear. As concrete preparation and installation is often performed by informal sector workers who are not knowledgeable in proper workmanship: their defective work can cause serious safety issues because, often, the concrete is not properly mixed, nor vibrated, poorly reinforced and not poured in acceptable amounts of batches. The concrete reinforcement (Rebar) is also lacking in methodology and workmanship, as a result several buildings have collapsed in West Africa due to poor construction methods. It is essential that current construction processes are improved to increase concrete structural integrity and protect lives.

To help achieve an overall trend of improvement in the construction sector, African engineers ought to expand proper practices in their respective regions. This can be achieved by connecting globally with professionals in the following sectors of **construction, engineering, technology, and social entrepreneurship** through social media. Such networking on Twitter or LinkedIn will help build a strong international network of professionals for the dissemination of instructional videos, manuals, and other valuable resources: such network could benefit members from shared knowledge or other productive activities.

Through these exchanges, trade can be encouraged, technologies can be transferred, thoughts can be shared to advance development, not only economic and environmental but also cultural for both American and African continents.

Heavy global migrations are occurring around the world because populations are fleeing poverty and instability to live better lives, but if third world nations create jobs, improve their infrastructure and quality of life then people would not have the desire to leave. It all rests on the ability of poorer nations to grow out of misery by encouraging entrepreneurship, investing in job creation to resolve the most urgent needs in water, food, transportation, education, health and energy.

African future generations have to develop a motivation to succeed, I hope my future endeavors in the diaspora will encourage other African expatriates to return in their respective homeland to contribute to a continent in need and inspire youth.

Thank you

El Hadji Beye
MBA student at NorthCentral University