SUMMER 2021

THE BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

The Blockchain Associations Forum is hosted by The British Blockchain Association

NATIONAL ADOPTION OF BLOCKCHAIN & CRYPTOCURRENCIES:
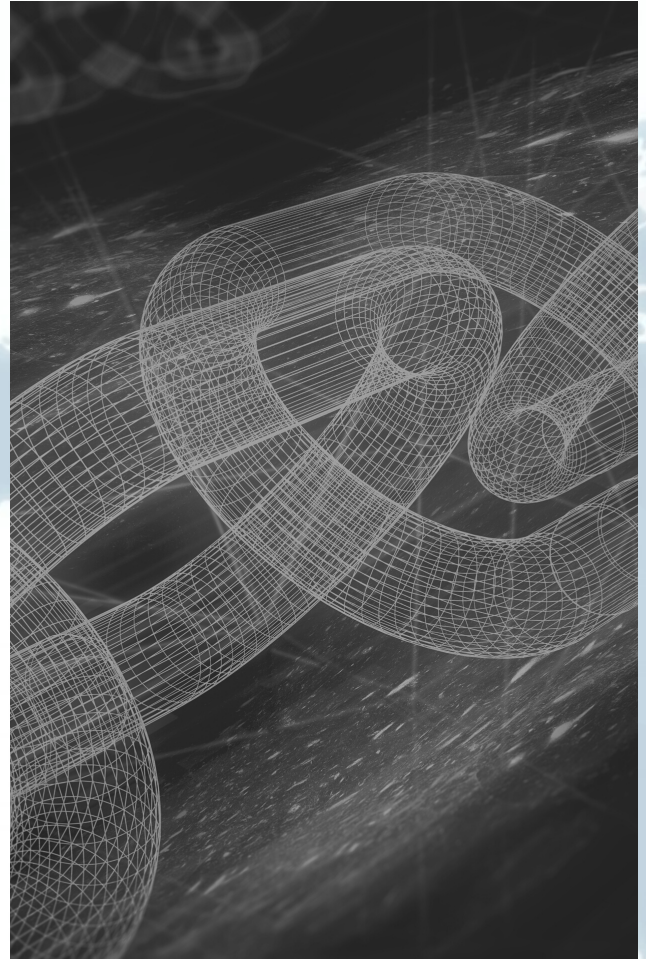ADDRESSING CHALLENGES AND GUIDING GOVERNMENT POLICY

JUNE 2021 SUMMIT REPORT

ABOUT BAF

A neutral and decentralised platform for change, the Blockchain Associations Forum's vision is to achieve international co-operation and to address global challenges around blockchain education, workforce planning, policymaking and government regulation. Fostering a learning culture by sharing intellectual resources in accordance with emerging evidence and local and regional requirements has also been cited as one of the Forum's top priorities.

BAF is an inter-disciplinary, trans-national harmonisation group of some of the most influential and visionary Blockchain and DLT associations. Founding members convened at the Forum's Inaugural Meeting in April 2021 and wholeheartedly committed to debating emerging trends, discussing common pressing issues and the exploration of solutions for the many challenges that the industry faces.

This Forum offers a collective voice on the advancement of DLT and a unique opportunity to network with peers and contemporaries at other member associations.

The Quadruple Helix of Blockchain Innovation Ecosystems (government, industry, public services/ society and academia), and those that represent them, require our support if they are to advance in the right direction.

The joint strategies that we plan to deliver will specifically support government policy makers and private sector influencers alike.

THE BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATIONS FORUM AIMS TO FOSTER OUR NATIONS' COLLECTIVE WISDOM.

BLOCKCHAIN
ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

FROM THE HOST
(UNITED KINGDOM)

The United Kingdom has developed a world-class Blockchain ecosystem, lead by the British Blockchain Association. With a portfolio comprising of the world's first scientific Blockchain research journal (The JBBA), the world's first Centre for Evidence-Based Blockchain (CEBB), Flagship Blockchain Scientific Conference (ISC), Blockchain Fellowships (FBBA), an international Think-Tank of Industry leaders and academics, and many other global initiatives, BBA has helped to cement the UK's position as a world leader in Blockchain.

In July 2021, BBA published the UK's Excellence Standards Framework as part of the UK's National Blockchain Roadmap (NBR), setting out a long term, high-level strategy to make Britain a global hub of Blockchain and Crypto innovation. The roadmap focuses on public-private collaboration, retention of DLT skills, workforce planning, establishing steering groups, evidence-informed policymaking and fostering a futuristic vision for distributed ledgers.

The NBR has been published in collaboration with the UK's All-Party Parliamentary Group on Blockchain, with Lord Holmes of Richmond MBE, APPG Vice-Chair, calling it a **"Landmark report which will become a milestone for setting a policy framework for UK's Blockchain economy."**

BBA invites its members and stakeholders to become a part of the UK's Blockchain VISION 2030 and to contribute to the future of Blockchain in the UK, and beyond.
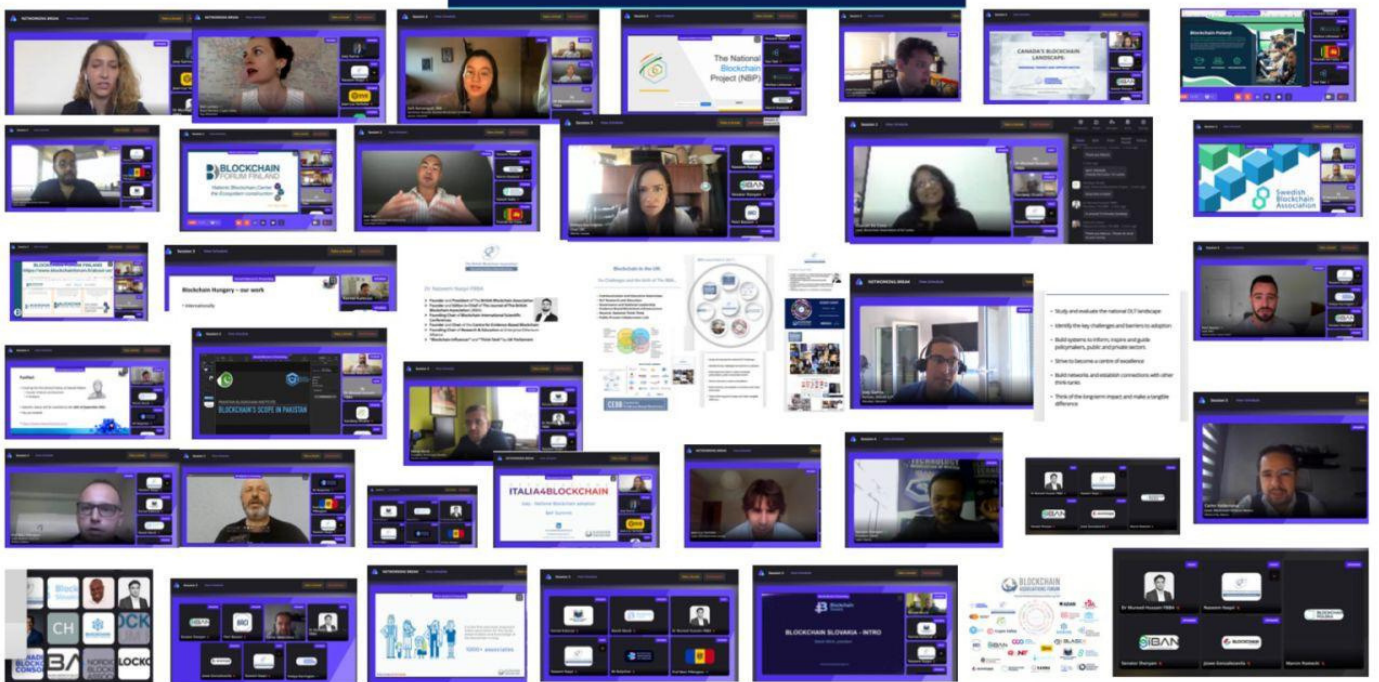
Dr Naseem Naqvi FRCP FBBA
President, The British Blockchain Association
Chair, BAF

THE BBA ECOSYSTEM

BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

FORUM INSIGHTS

BAF SUMMIT - JUNE 2021

FORUM INSIGHTS

BELGIUM
Jean-Luc Verhelst - HIVE Blockchain Society

The Belgian government has organised a series of consultations, allowing them to have a better view of what's actually going on in the crypto space and to gauge regulation clarity. A key challenge for the Association is that Belgium is too regionalised.

An example of this is that the Flemish region of the country is technologically crypto-advanced, however other regions are not. Federally, Belgium must educate regions that lack engagement and understanding, however, it is understood that education and awareness are not easy to achieve.

An additional challenge is that the Belgian government is concerned about high levels / high profile crypto scams, and although unrelated this negatively impacts blockchain development and government support.

CANADA
Koleya Karringten
Canadian Blockchain Consortium

In Canada, government support for the blockchain industry is very limited, and the Canadian association's key goals are to generate international interest in Canadian crypto and blockchain enterprises. Its roadmap is clear - they are defining a path towards a central bank digital currency.

Another major challenge is that there are problems with the privacy and security of health data. It is estimated that there is a $30 billion (per annum) black market associated with this, so the government is actively pushing the industry towards better traceability, using blockchain technology frameworks. Logistics and transportation are also key areas of growth.

The Association aims to encourage the Canadian government to take strategic risks and invest/support innovative crypto/blockchain companies and the blockchain ecosystem as a whole.

CAYMAN ISLANDS
Petri Basson
Blockchain Association of Cayman Islands

The Cayman Island is a major financial centre, and many companies have representation there. The national blockchain association is committed to educating residents, company partners, government stakeholders and individual investors alike.

The blockchain roadmap ahead includes exchange and custodian licensing as well as much needed Sandbox legislation where blockchain entities can operate from the Cayman Islands, developing and testing innovative ideas. the Association outlined how Cayman is an ideal test market for start up and scale up enterprises, before pushing related products and services in other international territories.

DENMARK
Dan Taki - Nordic Blockchain Association

There is a strong desire to change the negative narrative of blockchain technology by educating the general public, decision-makers, as well as government authorities. Many journalists and politicians do not understand the true capabilities of blockchain technology.

The negative sentiment and perception in the mass media are like a self-fulfilling prophecy, which does not represent reality conveying the positive capabilities of blockchain that, in reality, could help solve several of our global problems like corruption, poverty, and sustainability. This narrative does not only affect the perception but also the adoption of blockchain technology. Governments around the world took decades to effectively regulate the Internet to where it is today.

We need well-informed leaders, to make well-informed decisions. Therefore, we need Governments who are able to make well-informed regulations of blockchain technology. Blockchain technology can help solve several of our global problems in humanity, and we need to remember that every technological innovation must be used emphatically by putting people first, not technology. The world needs empathetic leaders and change-makers.

FINLAND
Markus Lehtonen - Blockchain Forum Finland

Finland is a technologically progressive country, and an encouraging number of decision-makers believe in the significance and long-term relevance of blockchain technology.

The Finnish roadmap sees industry participants expanding international relations and connections, and transcending borders within all business sectors. Key challenges include mitigating the use of blockchain cryptocurrencies for money laundering, and ensuring Finnish financial legislation corresponds with EU directives.

GREECE
Tasos Oureilidis - Hellenic Blockchain Association

"Stuck in the Middle Ages", was how the representative of the Hellenic Blockchain Association described blockchain adoption and perception in Greece.

There is limited understand of the concept of digital transformation, mostly because tech geeks are insular and are not effectively communicating the wide-ranging benefits with the people that matter. A key challenge - there is no focus on using blockchain for post-pandemic recovery. It's time that we fit our world around blockchain's capabilities, not fit blockchain around our problems.

A key focus in Greece is to make blockchain more anthropocentric - interpreting or regarding the world in terms of human values and experiences. A roadmap forward includes plans to communicate the benefits of blockchain technology within society and with government influencers.

BLOCKCHAIN
ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

FORUM INSIGHTS

HUNGARY
Kornel Kalocsai - Blockchain Association Hungary

The aim of the Blockchain Association Hungary is to foster better regulation, arrange industry education and networking events and work to develop a solid blockchain ecosystem.

The roadmap for the future includes using INATBA to focus on getting more Hungarian blockchain technology start-ups launched. There are challenges relating to industry regulation within Hungary. Working with the Digital Welfare Programme of the Ministry of Innovation, the Hungarian association is working hard to create a Blockchain Act.

They are also participating in the European Union-based group to assess regulation concepts.

INDONESIA
Oham Dunggio - Asosiasi Blockchain Indonesia

In Indonesia, the goals are to focus on regulation, governance and education with other blockchain members across the globe. Keyword is 'empathy', with the primary aim of the Association being to distribute wealth to the masses.

We are entering an age of inclusion, and blockchain has the potential to provide value where there is a need for transparency, traceability, efficiency, trustworthiness and disintermediation. The Association's executives and members share the challenges of their global peers, although the Indonesian government's mindset is not currently focused on being a regulator.

NIGERIA
Senator Ihenyen
Stakeholders in Blockchain Technology Association of Nigeria (SiBAN)

In Nigeria, there is concern about several threats to the emerging blockchain industry.

The biggest challenge is that the Central Bank of Nigeria has introduced a policy that restricts financial institutions from providing banking and financial services to entities and individuals involved in cryptocurrencies. To address this, the community has taken a self-regulatory approach and also formed an alliance to help engage government regulators.

By driving education around both the opportunities and the risks surrounding cryptocurrencies, we can openly debate the issues bordering on fraud, money laundering, and terrorism. The roadmap is to leverage blockchain to secure the future, especially in a country with a young and tech-savvy population as Nigeria willing to get involved. We are countering misunderstandings and bridging the gap between players in space and the Nigerian government.

ITALY
Chiara Ventura - Italia4 Blockchain

The Italian representative outlined that the Covid pandemic has considerably slowed investments even though not as much as expected, showing the strength of the industry. The Government has established a vibrant startup ecosystem, but the challenge is to solve regulatory uncertainty, information asymmetry and bridge the skills gap.

The association strongly supports the development of blockchain-related skills in the technology community. Italian governmental blockchain projects and incentives are encouraging - Italy was the first to legalise smart contracts in 2019 - but the Italian legislature is now waiting for the EU legislature to catch up.

A key focus is on the promotion and dissemination of training and research, integrating blockchain and education in schools and universities, while supporting innovation.

MEXICO
Carlos Valderrama - Blockchain Alliance Mexico

In the face of the crushing reality generated by the pandemic, exponential technologies such as blockchain are gaining relevance in countries like Mexico, whose private sector is pushing hard to have a system that really allows disruptive innovation.

The recent so called Mexican fintech law, although it is far from perfect, is a good start as from it we have seen how Latin American governments are taking inspiration and generating an openness in the ecosystem. In a world with a talent shortage, forums like BAF provide the opportunity to connect with experts and generate strategic alliances.

PAKISTAN
Ahmad Manzoor - Pakistan Blockchain Institute

In Pakistan, people don't differentiate between cryptocurrencies and blockchain, which leads to confusion and scepticism.

People are unaware of blockchain's potential. The key focus is on educating people, to show blockchain's potential across Pakistan in major cities and to introduce blockchain research into universities.

Once the government has been educated, it will be easier to achieve wider acceptance of this technology.

INDIA
Sandeep Shukla - National Blockchain Project

There is strong focus on finding and tracking malicious activities in the Bitcoin and cryptocurrency platforms, including finding malicious domain names and providing forensic information to law enforcement.

The National Blockchain Project is also implementing land record registry on blockchain and transparent e-procurement system for one Indian state. Also, Crubn - a start-up launched under the NBP - is planning on implementing these along with possible implementation of agro-subsidy distribution and accounting for another state, and cold-chain tracking for vaccines.

Further, Crubn's self-sovereign identity platform has been developed and self-sovereign e-KYC are being looked at by the Indian government.

REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA
Prof Marc Pilkington - Moldova Tours 2.0

The challenge for Moldova's blockchain community is to help take the country out of its economic slump.

To do this, Moldova Tours 2.0 is setting up the Moldovan Blockchain Centre and encouraging education and training through it. The centre will raise awareness of blockchain's potential for generating knowledge, business, and economic and social gains.

The aim is also to educate the academic community by upgrading their blockchain technology skills. There is a particular focus on targeting banking, insurance, energy, tourism 2.0 and microfinance.

POLAND
Marcin Rzetecki - Blockchain Polska

Our mission is to drive improvements in knowledge about and experience of blockchain technology in Poland, and show internationally that blockchain innovation in Poland is growing.

Our roadmap is to re-connect and focus on sharing blockchain knowledge with the Polish community and to establish three goals.

First, continue current workshop with Blockchain Devs and work with current and new developers, as well as with Polish Universities.

Second is to continue to connect the Blockchain Business with Polish blockchain businesses through webinars and networking.

Last is to be part of European Blockchain activities.

FORUM INSIGHTS

PUERTO RICO
Josee Gonzalezavila - Blockchain Puerto Rico

Financial inclusion is a major hurdle. Crypto fintechs are unable to access local banking services and consumers are unable to wire crypto proceeds back to their local personal bank accounts without being harassed by local banking institutions.

Crypto Individuals and businesses are simply unbanked due to local bank policies in lieu of their 'HIFCA' status with FinCEN.

These issues should be addressed through education. Educating banking and regulatory institutions on Know Your Customer & Anti Money Laundering best practices as well as proper risk assessment tools, practices, and standards in order to bank the industry.

SLOVAKIA
Marek Mocik - Blockchain Slovakia

Our key ambition is to create a realistic view of blockchain and its use across business and government services. The key factor in solving blockchain's problems is education at all levels.

Our second mission is international networking with the aim of connecting stakeholders in the industry.

By forming partnership with NGOs, companies and government agencies - as well as working with the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Innovation and National Bank of Slovakia, we can improve regulation and trust in bitcoin and cryptocurrencies.

SWEDEN
Sukesh Tedla - Swedish Blockchain Association

Our core focus in on educating, engaging and empowering the community in Sweden to drive the future innovation in the blockchain industry and eliminate any misconceptions

SRI LANKA
Chanaki De Costa
Blockchain Association of Sri Lanka

Our key focus is on further advancing Sri Lanka's involvement in the evolving digital world of blockchain. With Covid19, the world has become a very different place. Countries are looking internally for solutions around economic cooperation and recovery.

The Sri Lankan Government recognises the opportunity of transformational change that Blockchain can bring and has formed a separate ministry for digital technology and entrepreneur development. That said, government and business must still navigate blockchain regulation and and lack of knowledge if we are to alleviate the fears surrounding it.

SWITZERLAND
Emi Lorincz - Crypto Valley

2020 has been a tremendously successful year for the Crypto Valley Association. Despite not being able to host our signature event, the Crypto Valley Conference, - we managed to transform into a fully global and digital association, - attracting members from across the globe and across various sectors and industries, and connecting with our members in a whole new way.

Just to mention a few of our new members as of last year, Kraken, Ledger, CME Group and also Blockdaemon decided to be part of our flourishing ecosystem.

Our key focus is to further and support the development of regulatory frameworks, cybersecurity, taxation and investments relating to crypto assets, but also to provide guidance for start-ups who are choosing to domicile in Switzerland.

We are working together with universities such as the HSLU - we co-organize the Crypto Valley Conference in October together.

We collaborate with various cantons, especially the Canton of Zug and unite resources to define Investment Promotion & settlement projects.

UKRAINE
Vitalii Bulychov
Blockchain Association of Ukraine

Criminal activity is the main problem in the Ukraine. we believe the solution is alignment with EU laws.

Our ongoing plans are to deploy formal cybersecurity methods into DLT systems to better detect intruders and fraudsters while reducing malicious sexual content and resisting the increase in cyber-attacks.

BLOCKCHAIN
ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

FORUM NEWS

BAF was featured in the UK's National Blockchain Roadmap - emphasising the importance of global collaboration and partnerships for nations devising blockchain policies.

DRAW ON NATIONS' 'COLLECTIVE WISDOM': GARNER SUPPORT THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES

The NBR should embrace a collaborative approach with international players, build new links and connections with market leaders, and share best practices to learn from other countries that have successfully implemented blockchain in their socio-economic infrastructures. A global platform such as the Blockchain Associations Forum provides a platform for an exchange of ideas, resources and shared objectives, as well as an interconnected bridge to support harmonisation efforts in the spirit of inclusion, diversity, and collaboration.
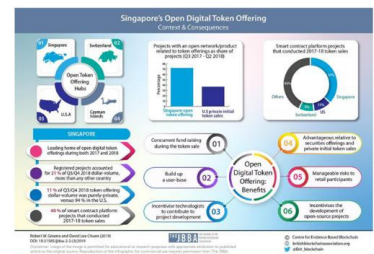
The UK must adopt a culture of learning to identify the DLT interventions and strategies that are most likely to be effective over an extended period of time. All interconnected links must be managed over time to ensure continued alignment with the overarching vision proposed in the roadmap.

References:
The Blockchain Associations Forum:
The Blockchain Associations Forum (BAF)

Centre for Evidence Based Blockchain (CEBB) Africa Summit

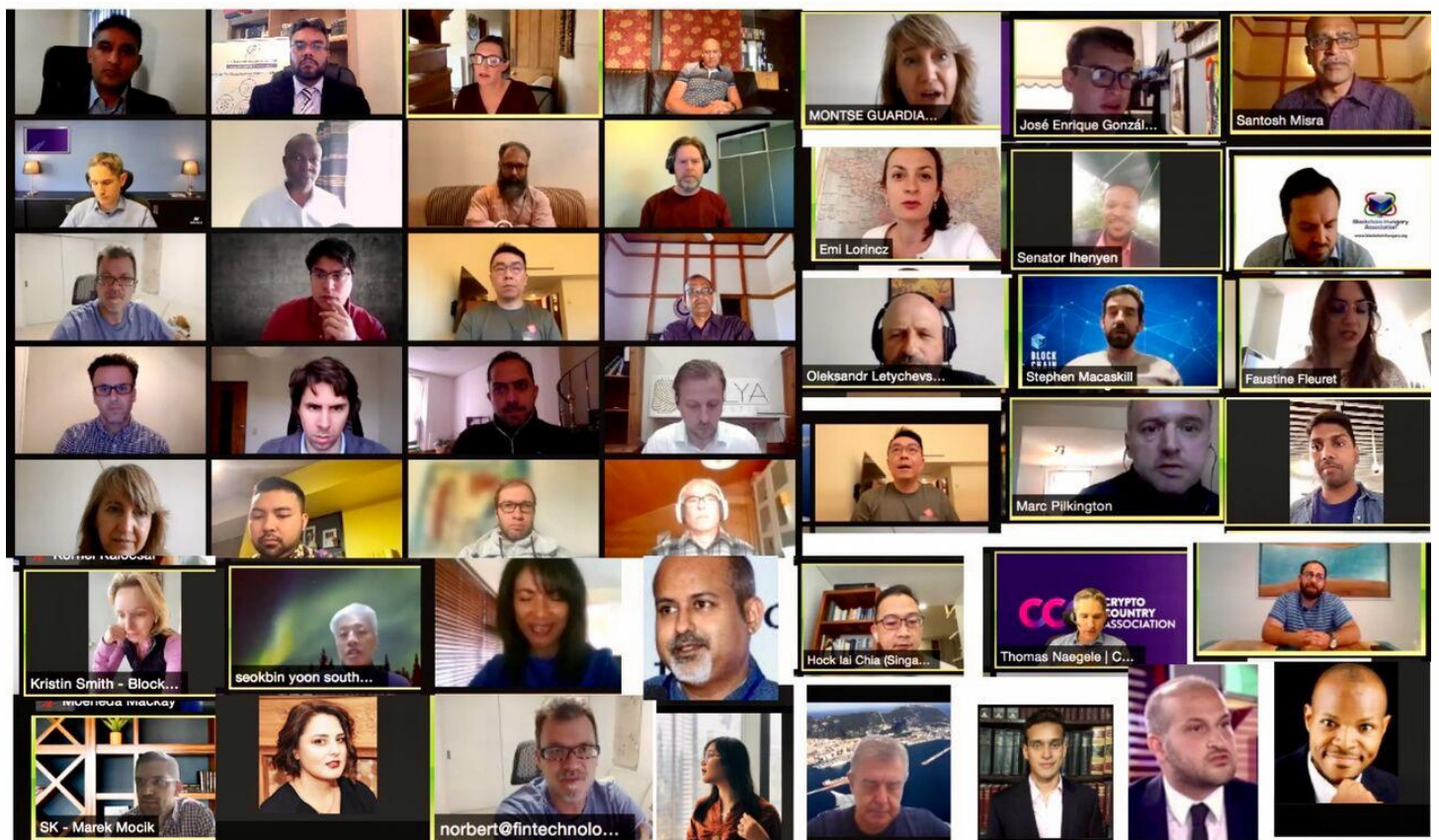*Singapore's OpenToken offerings: Context and Consequences*

FUTURE EVENTS & MEETINGS

BBA's Monthly Forums will feature a dedicated session on BAF ecosystem updates and BAF member presentations.

NEXT MEETING: 22 AUGUST, 2021

REGISTER HERE FOR FUTURE BAF MEETINGS - [CLICK](#)

(BAF's Inaugural Meeting, 24 April 2021)

BLOCKCHAIN
ASSOCIATIONS FORUM

MEMBERSHIP

BAF membership is open to blockchain associations at the forefront of DLT leadership in their respective countries.

Where a country has no such association or blockchain body consideration will be given to allied organisations who have taken leadership roles in blockchain space, such as fintech associations, or other government and academic bodies. BBA's Premium Plus Membership offers a complimentary BAF membership with full access to Forum activities.

THE BAF COMMITS TO ADVANCING EVIDENCE-BASED APPLICATIONS OF BLOCKCHAIN BY DRAWING ON "NATIONS' COLLECTIVE WISDOM" AND GARNERING SUPPORT THROUGH COLLABORATION WITH MEMBER COUNTRIES.

FOR MEMBERSHIP ENQUIRIES PLEASE EMAIL HERE

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS