

**Global Mayor's Forum  
2018 Urban Innovation Conference  
The 4<sup>th</sup> Edition of Guangzhou Award**

**Session No. 2  
“Blockchain: Tools for Governing Metropolitan  
and Urban Management”**

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**Venue**

Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Center  
Yunfu Hall, F1, Block 4

**Date and Time**

December 7, at 2 pm

**Duration**

2 hours

**Summary**

Blockchain has become *the* fashion word. It is so topical that it has entered the urban environment in a strong way. Blockchain technology is considered a revolutionary idea, equivalent, for some, to the emergence of the Internet, or even digital computing itself. There are those who view Blockchain as an element of change for the economy and society, with a potential to transform industry and services, as well as social relations. **But will the emergence of blockchain bring only technological changes or will it usher a social revolution?**

The Internet emerged from military and academic research. Today it is present in all aspects of our digital daily lives. Blockchain began as a solution for the design of digital money. It is rapidly morphing into a powerful instrument for institutional and social coordination. There is a long road ahead, as this instrument is still in its earliest phases of development, but Blockchain is already opening multiple and inclusive markets for all kind of values, making it possible a new Internet of Value.

Metropolis organizes this Session No. 2 to better understand what Blockchain is and what it represents, both at a technological, political and social level. What role can it play in social transformation, and whether it can improve the construction of metropolitan governance. Metropolis Observatory Issue Paper No. 5 “*Blockchain, a tool for metropolitan governance?*” shall be presented as a starting point for a dialogue to explore collective answers to these questions between panelists and audience.

**Program**

- **Mr. Octavi de la Varga**, Secretary General of Metropolis.  
Introductory remarks, Metropolis Observatory and its Issue Paper Collection, in particular No.5 “*Blockchain, a tool for metropolitan governance?*” [5'-10']
- **M.Arch.A.S. Alfonso Goveia**, Metropolis Consultant on Blockchain and Urban Innovation.  
Presentation of Issue Paper No. 5 and panorama of Blockchain use in all 139 city members of Metropolis as a framework for our dialogue. [10-15']
- **Prof. Zibin Zheng**, Associate Professor, School of Data and Computer Science, SYSU,  
Panorama of Blockchain applications in China from a theoretical and academic perspective. [10-15']

- **Dr. Deng Mu**, Founder/CEO of Ecosysnet, Panorama of Blockchain applications in China from an entrepreneurial and private sector perspective. Beijing, China, a member city of Metropolis. [10-15']
- **Mr. Emmanuel Noah**, Founder of BenBen, Case Study on Land Registry on Blockchain in Accra, Ghana, Africa, a member city of Metropolis. [10-15']
- **Dr. Chen Haifeng**, Executive Director of Bubi (Guangzhou) Blockchain Technology Research Institute. Potential uses of Blockchain for Social Purposes, particularly in the Chinese Red Cross Foundation. Guangzhou, China, a member city of Metropolis. [10-15']
- **Mayor Yiannis Karousos**, Mayor of Ayia Napa, Cyprus Actual use of Blockchain to improve his municipality's productivity and services provided to citizens and visitors. [10-15']
- **Debate** [30']. Suggested discussion points:
  - The role that blockchain can play in social transformation and in building sound metropolitan governance.
  - Blockchain as a tool for monitoring the development and implementation of metropolitan policies.
  - Blockchain as an instrument for institutional and social coordination, specifically to promote social cohesion and inclusion.
  - Questions and answers from the audience.

#### **Bios of Speakers**

- **Mayor Yiannis Karousos** of Ayia Napa, Cyprus, has been re-elected for a second term 2016-2019. Keen on making Ayia Napa a No.1 world-class tourist destination, has signed an agreement with the University of Nicosia (UNIC) Research Foundation to apply innovative technologies such as artificial intelligence, smart cities, and Blockchain to improve the municipality's productivity and services provided to citizens and visitors.
- **Dr. Deng Mu**, Founder/CEO of Ecosysnet, provider of blockchain-enabled solutions for finance, the sharing economy, supply chain management, remittance solutions, and smart city. Has been Assistant Vice President for Market Rise Management Department of the Chinese Bank Corporation, and core member of the Singapore Risk Management Institute.
- **M.E. Chen Haifeng**, Executive Director of Bubi (Guangzhou) Blockchain Technology Research Institute, member of the Finance Technology Expert and Blockchain Expert Committees of Guangzhou Finance Association, and Director of the Digital Chain Technology Blockchain Research Office of the Chinese Red Cross Foundation.
- **BS. Emmanuel Noah**, Accra, Ghana, CEO of BenBen, a Ghanaian based proptech firm leveraging Blockchain Technology for reducing the barriers of entry and access to African mortgage, housing and land markets. One of the OECD (Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development) top 10 Blockchain innovations in public sector. He is a distinguished 2018 United Nations Solution Maker, and Advisor on the National Property Reforms Working Group of the Government of Ghana.

- **Dr. Zibin Zheng**, Guangzhou, Associate Professor, School of Data and Computer Science, SYSU, 2015 ACM (Association for Computing Machinery) China Rising Star Nomination Award. 2014 Outstanding Leadership Award, IOV'14. An often quoted researcher (154 publications, 4,451 citations and 65,400 reads) he shall provide a sound scholarly overview of Blockchain Technology, Big Data and Computing Intelligence.
- **M.Arch.A.S. Alfonso Goveia**, MIT & UIA, Co-Founder of DigitalCivix, a NGO Partner of UN-Habitat to advance Civic Literacy, and empower citizenship in our Digital Era through platforms of knowledge, ecosystems of interaction, and interfaces of governance. Promoter of City Coins, Tokens of City Life, and the series of City Changer, City Builder, City Maker and City Blockchain Labs. Expert on Blockchain and Cities. Metropolis Consultant on Blockchain and Urban Innovation.