

CYPRUS-CHINA BLOCKCHAIN FORUM

December 5, 2022

9:30 – 15:10

Parklane, a Luxury Collection Resort & Spa, Limassol

Organisers:



Cyprus
Chamber
of Commerce
and Industry



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BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

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09:30-10:00	Registration & Coffee
10:00-10:15	Welcoming Addresses
10:00-10:05	Mr. Marios Tsiakkis – Secretary General – Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry
10:05-10:10	Mr. Theo Parperis – President – Cyprus-China Business Association
10:10-10:20	Keynote Speech
10:10-10:20	Dr. Nicolas Mastrogiannopoulos – Chief Scientist – Research & Innovation Foundation Cyprus' outlook and strategy on Blockchain and its interoperable byproducts
10:20-11:30	Section 1: Overview of Blockchain Ecosystem
10:20-10:30	Mr. Marios Georgoudis – Secretary General of TechIsland The evolution of Cyprus as an EU tech Hub
10:30-10:40	Mr. Antonis Polemitis – CEO – University of Nicosia/Chairman of TechIsland Enterprise Blockchain: When, why & how
10:40-10:50	Chinese Blockchain/Digital Currency Firm based in Dubai TBC Integrating Blockchain technologies: Lessons from abroad
10:50-11:00	Mr. Bill Papacharalambous – Managing Director – Dart Dao Case Study: A multinational Blockchain success story
11:00-11:15	Mr. Chun Yin Cheung – Partner – PwC China China's Blockchain ecosystem and its potential links with Cyprus
11:20-11:35	Coffee break
11:35-12:15	Panel Discussion 1: Forward-looking initiatives in Cyprus to enhance the streamlining of Blockchain Chairman: Mr. Theo Parperis – President of Cyprus-China Business Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Stavriana Kofteros – Vice-President – Research & Innovation Foundation • Mr. Antonis Polemitis – CEO – University of Nicosia/Chairman of TechIsland • Dr. Theodosis Mourousis – Managing Partner – Electi Consulting • Mr. Bill Papacharalambous – Managing Director – Dart Dao Q&A (Chinese to English translation available)
12:15-13:30	Lunch break
13:30-13:50	Section 2: Regulatory Developments in both Cyprus and China vis-à-vis Blockchain & its byproducts
13:30-13:40	Mr. Konstantinos Kaniouras – Officer A' – Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission Overview of CASP and initiatives to streamline Blockchain & interoperable byproducts
13:40-14:00	Mrs. Avigail Oron – Blockchain Team Leader of Tel Aviv – Yafo Research Center Cloud Lab – Huawei Insights into trusted Collaborations: Time for each option
14:00 - 14:30	Panel Discussion 2: Can Cyprus become a fintech powerhouse? Chairman: Mr. Theo Parperis – President of Cyprus – China Business Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Irene Piki – Economic Director, Directorate on Economic Policy & European Affairs – Ministry of Finance • Mrs. Andri Michael – Partner – Kinanis LLC • Mr. Yuriy Romanyukha – CEO – iClub Global • Dr. Andreas Mathikolonis – Senior Investment Analyst – Quonota Investments Q&A (Chinese to English translation available)
14:30 – 15:10	Panel Discussion 3: The way forward to achieve a Blockchain alliance between Cyprus and China Chairman: Mr. Theo Parperis – President of Cyprus-China Business Association <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Chun Yin Cheung – Partner – PwC China • Mrs. Avigail Oron – Blockchain Team Leader of Tel Aviv-Yafo Research Center Cloud Lab – Huawei • Mrs. Andri Michael – Partner – Kinanis LLC • Chinese Blockchain/Digital Currency Firm based in Dubai – Name TBC soon Q&A (Chinese to English translation available)
15:10	End – Networking Reception



Mr. Marios Tsiakkis
Secretary General
Cyprus Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Marios Tsiakkis has studied Business Administration at the American University of Beirut from where he graduated in 1982.

Between 1982-1986 he held managerial positions with MEMRB, in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait working in the field of market research for multinational European and US companies.

In 1986 he joined the Cyprus Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He served as Director of Industry and then as the Deputy Secretary for 4,5 years. Having been appointed in January 2013 by the Board, he is now the Secretary General of the Chamber.

As Director of Industry he was a member of the Committee for High Tech and participated in a number of missions abroad for the creation and operation in Cyprus of the National Scheme for Business Incubators. He also served as a member of the Steering Committee for the establishment of a National Scientific & Technological Park as well a member of the Committee on Innovation.

With his own initiative started the procedures for the establishment of Green Dot (Cyprus) Public Co Ltd, the collective system for the recycling of Packaging Materials, in which he serves as its Vice-President. He is also the Vice-President of WEEE (Electrocyclosis) Ltd responsible for the recycling of electrical and electronic goods. He also served as a member of the Impartiability Committee of the Cyprus Certification Company from 2006 until 2013.

Since 2001 he is the Chief Executive Officer of GS1 Cyprus. GS1 is the International Organisation dedicated to the design and implementation of global standards and solutions to improve the efficiency of supply and demand chains.

He is a member of the Committee for the Cyprus Export Awards and the Committee for the CCCI Business Leader Awards. He is also a member of the Consultative Body on Labour Matters and of the Consultative Committee on Economic Affairs.

He has written many articles and publications and has made a lot of presentations about Cyprus, in seminars abroad.



Mr. Theo Parperis

President

Cyprus-China Business Association – CEO of Kiteserve Ltd

Theo was a Partner at PwC Cyprus heading Tax and Legal services and a member of the Management Board for the last 10 years. Theo took early retirement from PwC on 30 June 2022 and together with another two ex PwC partners has founded Kiteserve Limited a boutique professional services firm. He is currently the Managing Partner of Kiteserve.

Theo started his career in London and then moved to PwC Cyprus where he actively served a very extensive portfolio of international clients, operating in a broad range of sectors. He has vast experience in business consulting, tax planning and corporate compliance, transaction support and group restructurings, as well as wealth management and family office services to private clients.

Theo is a keen sportsman having completed Marathons, Triathlons and Ironman races.



Dr. Nicolas Mastrogiannopoulos
Chief Scientist – Research & Innovation Foundation

Dr. Nicolas Mastrogiannopoulos has extensive experience and a doctorate in Molecular and Cellular Biology. He also has a degree in Biomedical Sciences. He has been working at the Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics from 2006 and in 2012, he was appointed Lecturer and later Assistant Professor at the Cyprus School of Molecular Medicine (CSMM). On March 4th, 2020 Dr. Mastrogiannopoulos was appointed Chief Scientist of Research and Innovation by H.E. the President of the Republic of Cyprus and Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Research and Innovation Foundation.

Dr. Mastrogiannopoulos was also appointed as a board member of the JRC Board of Governors, the National Board for Research and Innovation, member of the steering investment committee of the Cyprus Equity Fund in collaboration with the European Equity Fund (EEF) and Chairman of the Ministerial Committee for Research and Innovation.



Mr. Marios Georgoudis

Secretary General – TechIsland

Marios holds a Civil Engineering diploma from the National Technical University of Athens (NTUA), an MBA from the Cyprus International Institute of Management (CIIM), and is currently studying for a PhD in Oil, Gas and Energy Engineering, at the University of Nicosia.

In the beginning of his professional career, Marios was employed at Civil Engineering companies in Cyprus and then for 3 years at the Embassy of Cyprus in Tel Aviv following Scientific and Commercial matters. Returning back to Cyprus in 2014, he was employed for 5 years as Investment Promotion Officer at the Cyprus Investment Promotion Agency. Afterwards he was employed for 1,5 years as Projects Officer at the newly established Deputy Ministry of Research, Innovation & Digital Policy of the Republic of Cyprus.

Currently he is serving as General Manager of TechIsland, a non-profit organization with the mandate of establishing a global brand for Cyprus as a world class destination for international Tech Companies and IT Professionals.

He is an active member of ETEK, Startup Cyprus, Cyprus Enterprise Link, and participated in many committees including EIT (European Institute of Innovation & Technology), trilateral Project CEG COIN (Cyprus – Egypt – Greece collaborative innovation network), CIFA IT Technical Committee, ETEK Research & Innovation Committee and as advisor at many other committees for Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Cyprus.



Mr. Antonis Polemitis

CEO – University of Nicosia – Chairman of TechIsland

Mr. Polemitis currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the University of Nicosia and EDEX, as a Board member of EDEX and UNICAF, and as a member of the Council of the University of Nicosia.

The University of Nicosia (UNIC) serves over 14,000 students, along with over 18,000 additional students in its affiliated academic institutions. UNIC is the largest university in Cyprus and is the largest English language university in southern Europe.

Mr. Polemitis helped found the world-leading Digital Currency/Blockchain Initiative at the University of Nicosia, co-taught the first university cryptocurrency course in the world, and is regularly quoted as an expert on cryptocurrency issues. He was a member of the national committee that designed the blockchain strategy for Cyprus.

Mr. Polemitis is the managing partner of Ledra Capital where he led early-stage investments in, or software development of, Software-as-a-Service platforms in the areas of higher education, cryptocurrency, online video publishing and legal research. Mr. Polemitis was previously a principal at ACG Capital, a privately held multi-billion dollar investment firm and a partner based in New York and London in the private equity practice of Mercer Management Consulting (now Oliver Wyman), one of the world's leading strategy consultancies.



Mr. Bill Papacharalambous
Managing Director – Dart Dao

Former Lieutenant Officer of the Hellenic Underwater Demolition Teams. After the military he emigrated to Scotland and followed the most important training of his life – not military this time. He acquired the necessary knowledge on eCommerce and he quickly became the most popular on his field in Greece & Cyprus.

Accomplished Operations Manager on eCommerce development and has helped more than 4,000 people start their eCommerce journey. Has taught people in 7 countries how to achieve a basic income on eCommerce or even build a steady career. Additionally, he has helped build two 8-figure online companies who have served more than 150,000 users globally generating over \$4 Bn GMV in the major e-commerce platforms, both as master trainer and corporate member.

His vision is to provide unlimited value to the global e-commerce and blockchain industry introducing to the mainstream innovative decentralized technologies that combine the power of blockchain with multi-commerce platforms and change the way the masses think of cryptocurrencies.



Mr. Chun Yin Cheung
Partner – PwC China

Chun Yin Cheung is a partner in PwC China's Risk Assurance Practice, based in the Shanghai office. He has worked at PwC for over 14 years, including five years in PwC Hong Kong's Risk Assurance practice.

Mr. Cheung is our information security subject matter expert and has strong technical background and extensive experience in security assessment and regulatory compliance related advisory for financial service institutions, MNCs and SOEs in China. Mr. Cheung focuses on IT related regulatory compliance issues in China and Hong Kong.

Mr. Cheung is a member of the CPA (Hong Kong), CISA, CRISC, CISSP and CISP.



Mrs. Stavriana Kofteros

Vice-President – Research & Innovation Foundation

Stavriana A. Kofteros is Vice Chair of the Research & Innovation Foundation, Cofounder and Chair of Startup Cyprus, member of the European Innovation Council Investment Jury (EIC) and EIC Ambassador. Stavriana is an angel investor with positions in European startups. She is active in the international startup ecosystem; she is a member of EU's Innovation Ecosystem Leaders Group under Commissioner Gabriel, the European Digital Leaders Network of the World Economic Forum, the EPP Expert Group on Innovation and Digital Transition, the Innovation Advisory Board of the Biosense Institute in Serbia, and Cofounder of the European Startup Network, on the Board of which she has served as Vice Chair.

She has also served on the Transatlantic Council of Allied for Startups. She holds degrees in Business Administration and Political Science from the University of La Verne (USA) and has specialized in Entrepreneurship Development at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) (Fulbright Scholar).



Dr. Theodosis Mourousis
Managing Partner – Electi Consulting

Dr Theodosis (Theo) Mourousis is a cryptologist and information security professional with strong interests in both academia and industry. He holds a BA/MA in Mathematics and a MSc in Pure Mathematics from the University of Cambridge, a MRes in Security Science and a PhD in Information Security with specialization in Cryptography from University College London. He was the first recipient in the UK Cyber Cipher Security Challenge in 2013.

Theo is the Managing Director and Partner of Electi Consulting, a consultancy specializing in Blockchain, Cryptography and Artificial Intelligence. He is also Industry Associate at UCL Centre for Blockchain Technologies, Expert in Residence at the Institute of Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the London Business School and Mentor in Blockchain at Judge Business School of University of Cambridge.

He has extensive experience working with governments, leading companies and organizations such as European Commission, European Central Bank (ECB), Lloyds Bank, US Navy, MSC Shipmanagement and many others.



Mr. Konstantinos Kaniouras

Officer A'

Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission

Konstantinos has a solid background of over 16 years of practical experience in the field of financial services, which has been acquired in Luxembourg, Cyprus and Germany and covers both the industry as well as the regulator's perspective on legal and regulatory aspects of fund management and asset management in general, financial innovation and crowdfunding. Within the context of his financial innovation duties Konstantinos was actively involved as a national expert in the MiCA Working Party.

Konstantinos holds an LLB from the University of Athens, an LL.M. from the University of Heidelberg, an LL.M. from the University of Luxembourg and a Master in Business Law and Taxation (MBLT) from the University of Mannheim.



Mrs. Avigail Oron

Blockchain Team Leader

Tel Aviv – Yafo Research Center Cloud Lab – Huawei

Experienced software architect with 20+ years in enterprise software development. Leading all architecture aspects in large, geographically distributed software teams.

Tech-savvy, leveraging cutting-edge technologies and trends to deliver business goals, such as: blockchain, cryptography, containers, microservices, confidential computing, big data and more.

Keen on innovation and cultivating it in the organization, with proven track record of finding novel solutions to persistent problems.

Customer-centric; successfully transforming customer technical needs into system capabilities and devising architecture for complex deployments.

Excellent communication/presentation skills, public speaker to audiences of engineers as well as corporate executives.



Mrs. Irene Piki

Economic Director

Directorate on Economic Policy & European Affairs
Ministry of Finance

Irene holds a BSc on Economics and Human Geography from Reading University and a Master on Environmental and Resource Economics from University College London (UCL). She is the Economic Director of the Directorate on Economic Policy and European Affairs. Since joining the government in 1997, she has worked on EU Cohesion policy for the Cyprus Presidency of the Council of the EU in 2012, the Unit for Administrative Reform and as Head of the Minister's Office at the Ministry of Finance, as well as serving on the Board on a number of state-owned enterprises.



Mrs. Andri Michael
Partner – Kinanis LLC

Andri Michael is a lawyer, partner at Kinanis LLC. She has joined the firm in 2005 and her main areas of practice, for over 10 years, included corporate law, banking and finance, funds and capital markets.

For the past few years, Andri has been leading the Financial Services and Funds department of Kinanis LLC focusing mainly on legal advisory, formation and regulatory compliance for collective investment structures and other licensed entities. She also specialises on legal advice and support for international clients for listings on capital markets as well as on legal consulting for blockchain matters.

Andri holds an Undergraduate (LL. B) and Postgraduate Degree in Law (LL.M) from the University of Southampton, UK and was admitted to the Cyprus Bar Association in 2004. She is also a holder of a Professional Certificate of the University of Nicosia, Cyprus on Blockchain Law, Regulation and Policy and a holder of the advanced diploma of the Cyprus Securities and Exchange Commission. Andri is also an active member of the Technology Committee of the Cyprus Bar Association and member of the Board of Directors of the Cyprus Blockchain Technologies.



Mr. Yuriy Romanyukha
CEO – iClub Global

15+ years in fintech and venture capital, launching innovative business models in the US, EMEA, APAC.
CEO at iClub Global – operating in 11 countries and #1 angel investors community in Cyprus.

Cyprus Director at TA Ventures (200 deals and 66 exits).

Mentor at Google Startups, Startup Wise Guys, ARIS Limassol.

Co-Founder at 1CBDC, researching and implementing CBDC protocol in Africa, Oceania, LATAM, EMEA.

UC Berkeley, Haas School of Business Alumni.

Lecturer at Kyiv School of Economics.

B2B Sales Course Lectures at Projector School.



Dr. Andreas Mathikolonis

Senior Investment Analyst – Chairman – Quonota Investments

Andreas has over fifteen years' experience in strategic and operational management positions at corporate, educational and non-for-profit entities. This has provided him with hands-on experience with setting up organisations, project management, operational and budget planning and strong business acumen, key skills to evaluate projects and businesses for potential investment.

He is very passionate about blockchain technology and he has been actively involved in the digital assets (cryptocurrencies) industry since 2015. He specialises in digital assets trading, infrastructure development with yield generating aspects, fundraising, token economics design and evaluation, and venture capital investments in small-medium enterprises. He actively manages day-to-day activities of a yield generating crypto fund. He also provides trainings, consultations and business-related mentorships. He is a certified trainer by HrDAuth (AvAΔ) and holds Prince2 certification. He is a regular speaker and panelist at Digital Assets and FinTech events.