Exploring innovation in transactions and financing in the Caribbean

Port of Spain, 1-3 June 2016

A

Adam Vaziri

Adam Vaziri is a blockchain lawyer and set up Diacle to assist blockchain & fintech projects with compliance. Diacle is based in London and Hong Kong. He is a tireless blockchain entrepreneur and labelled a 'bitcoin pioneer' by Bitcoin Magazine. It is now his third term as director of UKDCA, which lobbied and achieved the most favourable regulatory environment for cryptocurrency in the world. Adam runs bitlegal.io a global tracker for blockchain law since 2014 and featured by CNN and Washington Post. Adam ran first suite of blockchain hackathons across the world: UK, India (read Economic Times article), HK and Malaysia under HackCoin. Adam formulated the first open-source ISDA for cryptocurrency trading: aperta. Adam is a member of Chain-Finance which provides dedicated news/events for the blockchain financial services industry. Recently Adam has been engrossed with blockchain IoT and co-founded a global blockchain IoT lab Chain of Things to investigate the role of blockchain tech in securing IoT. Diacle means 'compass' - clear direction for innovative blockchain businesses.

B

Bobby Williams

Robert Williams is Associate Information Management Officer at the UN ECLAC Subregional Headquarters for the Caribbean in Port of Spain. In this capacity, he performs policy research and analysis on issues related to ICT for Development in the Caribbean. Focal points for his research include the development of ICT as an economic sector, the potential use of innovative payment systems for e-commerce, fostering inter-governmental cooperation in matters related to ICT, and the use of ICT for disaster risk management.

Byron Gibson

Byron Gibson has 20 plus years of strategic, brand and product marketing experience gained from working with global brands in the Caribbean, has equipped Byron with me with a high level of proficiency in managing and maintaining international brands at a local level.

Byron's last 7 years have been spent developing competencies in the areas of Mobile, Mobile Payments, Web and Social Media with specific strengths in developing Mobile Marketing strategies and campaigns for execution across pan Caribbean regional markets.

Byron is the Group CEO of Wi-Connect Mobile Inc (August 2010 – Present)

Wi-Connect Mobile is a Barbados based entity that operates a full service mobile marketing strategy and solutions consultancy and mobile marketing platform, specialising in The Caribbean region. Wi-Connect develops and executes sms and mobile marketing strategies and campaigns in the form of opt in database creation, harvesting and management, contests, mobile coupons and tickets, mobile loyalty and VIP, and e-surveys. Over the next 5 years, Byron's focus will be on helping to evolve the Mobile Marketing, Web Commerce and Web Development ecosystem in the Caribbean with a view to encouraging the growth of tech innovation and entrepreneurship throughout the region.

C

Cleveland Thomas

Mr. Cleveland Thomas was appointed the ITU Representative for the Caribbean effective August 14th, 2011.

Prior to this appointment Mr.Thomas was the CEO for the State Enterprise, National Information and Communication Technology Company Limited (Trinidad and Tobago). He also held the post of National Chief Information Officer (NCIO) for the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago.

Cleveland is a Certified Accountant having obtained his designation in the United Kingdom and also possesses a Masters Degree in Information and Communication Technology for Regulations and Policies form the University of the West Indies (UWI).

Cynthia Reddock-Downes

Cynthia Reddock-Downes is by profession a Chartered Accountant and also holds a Degree in Management from the University of the West Indies. She has experience in both operating and regulatory telecommunications environments, having worked at the Telephone Company in Trinidad and Tobago (now TSTT) for several years in various positions in Finance and Accounting; Internal Audit; Development Programme Finance and Financial Systems implementation and development. Cynthia also worked in Finance and Accounting in the United Kingdom for several years and joined the regulator Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago in November 2004. Since that time, she has been Executive Officer for Finance and Administration at the Authority involved in Financial and Human Resource Management, procurement, the development and implementation of policy frameworks on costing of services; the LRAIC Model; tariffs; Universal Service; Regulatory Accounting and other related policy frameworks. Cynthia also represents the GORtt and the Authority as Vice-President of the ITU Study Group 3 – Regional Group for Latin America and the Caribbean. Cynthia is currently Chief Executive Officer (Ag.) of the Authority.

E

E. Jay Saunders

E. Jay is the Chairman and CEO of Domus Semo Sancus (DSS), a company that's building financial tools to "Make Lives Better". DSS' first product, SafetyNet™, is a revolutionary new KYC background checking and on-boarding utility, which is built on top of IBM's Watson cognitive computing platform. Canada's national newspaper, the Globe and Mail, described SafetyNet as one of the products that's "…set to reshape the financial world". DSS' other product, Wowlet is a pre-paid digital wallet designed to encourage financial inclusion and help bridge the e-commerce divide.

E. Jay is a shareholder and Director of Digicel Turks & Caicos – part of the Digicel Group of companies. He is a Director of the Pine Cay Project – a non-profit organization that has donated over US$900,000 to promote high academic achievement in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and a Member of the Governor's Business Advisory Group.

Emma Thwaite

"In 2015, the Commonwealth Secretariat convened a Round Table on Virtual Currencies, observing the need to determine the particular impact that virtual currencies will have on small and developing states. A working group was established, and the resulting report of the Commonwealth Working Group on Virtual Currencies was published in early 2016. David Tait played a key role in coordinating this work at the Secretariat. Emma Thwaite's work at the Secretariat includes virtual currencies as well as broader cybercrime initiatives. Together, they will present the findings of the report and invite discussion on the topic, as well as highlighting the Secretariat's upcoming work in this field."

G

Gabriel Abed

Gabriel began exploring cryptocurrencies, and their underlying Distributed Ledger Technology, during his undergraduate study as early as 2010. An alumnus of the University of Ontario he received a Bachelor of Information Technology specialising in Cryptographics and Network Security. Enthralled by the potential of cryptocurrencies, and conscious of the revolution unfolding around him, he became an early adopter and lifetime evangelist. He capitalised on his 15 years of experience working in the software and technology field, founding BitEdge with its subsidiaries: Caridot (the largest and leading Caribbean domain name registrar) and websites.bb (a leader in custom website designs). Bitt, his latest and most groundbreaking journey, is a FinTech company built around the twin pillars of global connection and financial inclusion. Gabriel believes that Bitt offers unprecedented solutions to disruptive regional issues from remittance payments to providing much-needed access to e-commerce solutions.

Glynis Alexander Tam

Glynis Alexander–Tam is the General Manager of InfoLink Services Limited. InfoLink is the owner of the LINX brand of debit payment services and manages the electronic debit payment network in Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to joining InfoLink, she worked within the ICT sector as technical lead and project manager for ICT projects both locally and regionally for several years.

Mrs. Alexander-Tam has attained both undergraduate and postgraduate degrees at the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine campus as well as an MBA from Arthur Lok Jack School of Business. She is a certified project manager and currently sits on the board of the Project Management Institute Southern Caribbean Chapter. She is also the Chairperson of the Trinidad and Tobago e-Business Roundtable (a private sector led partnership with government that aims to map out a strategy for Trinidad and Tobago's economic growth and success by focusing on leadership, opportunity recognition, innovation and revenue generation through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) in business).

I

Ian T. Alleyne

Ian T. Alleyne currently lectures on entrepreneurship at The University of Trinidad and Tobago. Prior to joining the university, he worked in the financial sector at RBTT Bank Limited (now Royal Bank of Canada) and Development Finance Limited. His tenure at these institutions comprised nine years in IT and the remainder in finance.

He has written several articles that appeared in Caribbean360.com, the Business Guardian and Entrepreneur-spirit magazine. Subjects included the analysis of the local mobile market, electronic payment systems and the motivation of non-profit entities.

In 2013, he founded Paywise Limited, a secure and reliable payment solution for local businesses.

J

Jeremy Stephen

Jeremy Stephen, the current President of the Barbados Economics Society, has extensive experience in private equity, and economic consulting in Barbados regionally. His core consulting specialities include corporate advisory; financial due diligence; economic analysis; economics of cryptocurrencies, and web and app development.
He has provided business advisory services, inter alia, to the Government of Barbados; the Caribbean Development Bank; One Caribbean Media; and The Craane Group (Merrill Lynch). He lectures in Banking & Finance at the University of the West Indies – Cave Hill Campus. His research in cryptocurrencies has produced the widely regarded research paper in conjunction with Professor Winston Moore: "Should Cryptocurrencies be included in the Portfolio of International Reserves held by the Central Bank of Barbados?"

Judith Margaret Susanah Mark

Ms. Judith Margaret Susanah Mark, MBA, Post Graduate Certificate, Marketing and Consumer Behaviour, B.Sc. Management Studies is the Managing Director at CME Consulting Limited an enterprise development company, and is also a lecturer in Innovation and Entrepreneurship studies at the post-graduate level. Judith has held executive positions and board memberships in the state and private sectors, including serving as CEO at two state entities in T&T. Her expertise covers strategic and project management, enterprise development modelling and SME risk-based financing with emphasis on venture capital. Judith has written and presented on entrepreneurship, corporate governance and innovative financing for SMEs. Her interests include abstract art, design-thinking and innovative regional transformation initiatives.

K

Kentus Mark

Kentus has a degree from Andrews University in Computer information Systems, an advance Diploma in web-applications using open source (Okinawa International Center (OIC) Okinawa, Japan), a certificate in Project Management (Taiwan) and has done several shorts courses, seminars and workshops in various areas.

Kentus is a civil servant who gets things done. He is Team member of the ICT Internal Auditor who helped the national Data Centre to successfully complete the ISO 27001 Certificate. He has assisted in the successful implementation of a number of computer system for the Government of Saint Lucia including Electronic Correspondence System and HR System. He is also a member of the ICT government taskforce.

Kentus has Conducted Training for staff from various Agencies in the Government of Saint Lucia, in a variety of areas including Job Description Writing, Electronic Correspondence system (EDRMS), Process Mapping and HR System. Experience has equipped Kentus to recognize that the core issue at the base of almost any information technology problem is usually a people issue, not a technology one. Unless people are motivated to change, unless they are involved in finding solutions to the problems at hand, and unless they communicate with each other, the best technology is bound to disappoint.

Kim Mallalieu

Dr. Kim Mallalieu completed the BS in Electrical Engineering from MIT in 1982, MS (Optics) from the Institute of Optics, University of Rochester in 1983 and the Ph.D. from University College London in 1987. She is a Fulbright Fellow and has served as Visiting Scientist at MIT on different occasions.

Kim joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at The University of the West Indies in 1987. She is currently the Head of the Communication Systems Group, where she also directly leads the academic, commercial and outreach programmes in Communication Systems. Kim is the developer and coordinator of the

Master's degree in Regulation and Policy in Telecommunications, the MRP (Telecommunications). The MRP programme has been delivered to professionals in the telecommunications sector from over thirty developing countries around the world and is the first online programme to be delivered from the St. Augustine campus of The UWI.

Kim has been described as a trail-blazing pioneer in engineering education and is the recipient of local, regional and international teaching awards as well as other awards of distinction.

She has authored many academic papers and invited book chapters and has delivered a number of keynote addresses at home and abroad. She has served on various boards, including the Board of the Telecommunications Authority of Trinidad and Tobago and has also sat on the advisory council to the Boards of academic journals, including the International Journal of Electrical Engineering Education.

Kim's research interests include:culturally-appropriate telecommunications technologies; wireless networks and technologies for poverty alleviation; as well as telecommunications policy and regulatory intervention for social inclusion. Kim is an active member of a Latin American and Caribbean academic network, Diálogo Regional sobre Sociedad de la Información (DIRSI), which is engaged in research on ICT policy and regulatory intervention.

M

Marlon Marie

Marlon Marie is the Acting Head of Unit at the Competitive Business Unit of the Organisation of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) Commission. As an I.T. Consultant, Marlon oversees all e-Business initiatives on behalf of the OECS Commission. This includes working closely with Governments, SMEs and NGOs to ensure that the proper framework for economic development through e-Commerce is in place. He has worked on EU, CDB & World Bank funded projects assisting with SME development through e-Business as well as holding several portfolios in the banking industry where he worked with SMEs to manage their financial portfolios. Marlon holds a BSc. in Management from the University of the West Indies and an MSc. in Technology and Innovation from Aspen University. He is also CompTIA (A+, Network+ and Security+) certified.

Michel Stéphane Bruno

Michel Stéphane Bruno is the Executive Director of Digital Products and Services at one of the largest bank in Haiti, Sogebank, a newly created position where his job is to spearhead the initiatives of the bank for digital banking.

Prior to joining Sogebank, Mr. Bruno has introduced the first cross-border mobile remittance service in Haiti in 2013, as the Country Manager for Boom Financial Inc., a California-based startup offering a digital alternative to money transfer services in Latin America and the Caribbean. Within one year, the startup was processing $200.000 per week in the Florida-Haiti corridor.

Bruno's extensive mobile financial technology background stems from his role as Senior Technology Advisor for Haiti Integrated Finance for Value Chains and Enterprises project (HIFIVE), a USAID-funded project. Under HIFIVE's Chief of Party leadership, he spearheaded the efforts of introducing mobile technology in the financial sector in

Haiti. Bruno was instrumental to the partnership between USAID and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, which resulted in the creation of the Haiti Mobile Money Initiative (HMMI). HMMI facilitated the launch of two mobile money services on the Haitian market, 9 months after the earthquake, shaking a financial sector that has been stagnant for some years.

Mr. Bruno also conducted various mobile money consulting in Africa, namely in Kenya, Burkina Faso and made various learning trips and appearances in conferences in more than 15 countries. He has a combination of experiences in the private sector, international organizations and NGOs, and in the public sector as a consultant.

N

Nerissa Golden

Nerissa Golden is a media strategist, business innovations specialist, speaker, and author. She was recently certified by InfoDev-World Bank to conduct accelerated programmes for women on Montserrat and Antigua.

As an advocate for entrepreneurship across the Caribbean for the past 20 years, she has developed both for profit and not for profit ventures including Victory Christian Academy (VCA) on St. Maarten, now in its tenth year and Goldenmedia, a media strategy and content creation firm.

Nerissa is the author of five books and was named one of TechLink's 2013 Caribbean Innovators for her work in technology advocacy, education, public awareness and innovative solution implementation.

Nigel Cassimire

Mr. Nigel Cassimire is a telecommunications engineer with over thirty years of experience in the operational and executive management of telecommunications technologies and services, with practical experience in network planning, network operations management and telecommunications policy development.

Mr. Cassimire has functioned as a Consulting Telecommunications Specialist since July 2005 and has worked extensively with the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) Secretariat in Port of Spain in the areas of spectrum management and Internet governance. He has also successfully conducted consultancies for several of the member governments of the CTU.

Mr. Cassimire has Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical Engineering as well as a Diploma in Management Studies from The University of the West Indies, St. Augustine. He is a fellow of the Telecommunications Engineering and Management Institute of Canada (TEMIC) and an alumnus of the Advanced Management Programme at INSEAD, Fountainbleau, France.

R

Reginald Bourne

Mr. Bourne has over 42 years in the Telecommunications/ICT services sector; he spent his first 32 years in the private sector working for a regional telecommunications services provider. He has worked in many aspects of the business (for example, radiocommunications, data communications, circuit-switched telephone networks, satellite communications systems).

In addition, he has had responsibility for managing the Company's capital projects. In his last 4 years in the private sector he was Regional head of Business Protection, of which one of the key functions was Information and Electronic Security.

Mr. Bourne rejoined the public service in 2004. He had resigned from his public sector job, as a School Teacher to enter the private sector where he had embarked on his Engineering career.

Rhea Yaw Ching

Rhea Yaw Ching is the Founder and Executive Director of Covela Foundation, a US-registered non- profit dedicated to the creation of technology-enabled solutions in the Caribbean and Latin America (CALA). She is also Managing Partner at Covela Consulting, supporting high potential social innovation startups. Ms Yaw Ching experienced executive and passionate advocate of the use of technology to harness the creative skills and resources of the Caribbean. A seasoned professional having spent over 20 years in the CALA region serving in executive level roles in telecommunications, manufacturing and distribution with several multinational corporations including Columbus International, Coca-Cola, Kraft and 3M. She is a member of the The Open Data Institute and International Association of Innovation Professionals and she is a strong proponent of the use of open data and innovation, human-centered design and collaborative business models in the solution building.

S

Shiva Bissessar

Shiva is the Managing Director of Pinaka Technology Solution which focuses on strategic ICT and Information Security. He has provided informed commentary on Caribbean Digital Economy and Cyber security via Pinaka's blog, newspaper articles, TechnewsTT and other outlets. His involvement in digital currency began at University College London in 2013 with an M.Sc Information Security thesis examining Bitcoin blockchain transactions. He later served as consultant to study and author of the report "Opportunities and risks associated with the advent of digital currency in the Caribbean" as commissioned by UN ECLAC. Seeking to address deficiencies uncovered in this study, he conceptualized this workshop and worked with the ITU to bring it to fruition.

T

Terrence Clarke

Terrence has been in banking and investments for more than 20 years, most of them at the senior management level for both local and international financial institutions, and participated in funding proposals for a wide range of sectors across the Caribbean.

In addition to banking and investments, he also became a regulator when he was the General Manager of the Trinidad and Tobago Securities and Exchange Commission. He is presently the founder of a private fintech company that provides online funding and trading platforms for the Caribbean securities market.

He holds a Masters degree in economics from the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, and an MBA in corporate finance from York University in Toronto, Canada. He is the author of two textbooks in both capital markets and mutual funds in Trinidad and Tobago, and co-authored another for the University of the West Indies Open Campus on financial economics. He has lectured at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in economics and Caribbean capital markets.

V

Vijay Mauree

Vijay Mauree joined the ITU in 2010 where he is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the Bridging the Standardization Gap programme, development of e-learning courses on standardization and undertaking research on emerging ICT standardization activities for production of Technology Watch reports. He coordinates the work of the Focus Group Digital Financial Services and assist developing countries in setting up a national standardization secretariat.

He has already published four ITU Technology Watch reports on Mobile Money, ICT as an enabler for Smart Water Management, the Optical World and Privacy in the Cloud. He holds a Masters in Information Technology from Imperial College London and an MBA from Cranfield University.