



Connect Africa to host webinar on how Crypto, Blockchain, NFTs and the Metaverse can transform African markets

Connect Africa, the premier business platform for Africa based in Singapore, will be hosting a webinar session on Monday, 04 April 2022. The session will explore how African markets are poised for the opportunities and challenges posed by emerging technologies such as crypto, blockchain, NFTs and the Metaverse, and will be covered by the pan-African news forum, Platform Africa, as the main media partner for the event.

The webinar will be moderated by Dr Faiz Shah, the founding president of Thailand's premier social business hub, the Yunus Thailand Foundation. Dr Shah will speak to a panel of expert speakers such as Dr Roland Amoussou-Guenou, Partner at Vovan & Associés and President of the AsiaAfrica Foundation, based in Thailand; Jessica Naga, co-founder and Managing Director at pan-African financial services and FinTech legal and compliance firm, Digital Associates Ltd, which has its headquarters in Mauritius; and Rivaj Parbhu, Head of Engagement, Control Risks Africa, with its main office in Kenya.

The panel will delve deep into thought-provoking questions such as:

- (a) What makes Africa one of the leading adopters of crypto worldwide?;
- (b) How is Africa poised to leapfrog using emerging technologies such as crypto, blockchain, NFTs and the Metaverse?; and
- (c) Are African economies ready for the challenges that come in the wake of these exciting yet nascent and ever-evolving technologies?

The session will be held virtually at 12 noon (UTC+4) Mauritius time or 16:00 hours Singapore time (GMT+8).





Speaking in advance of the event, Dr Faiz Shah said: *“I am looking forward to moderating this session, amidst increasing interest in transformational technologies across Africa. Financial empowerment of vulnerable populations is at the very root of the Social Business idea pioneered by Grameen Bank founder Professor Muhammad Yunus. Financial inclusion and pro-poor technologies are therefore in the DNA of work that the Yunus network partners are doing in Africa. I am especially keen to understand how we can scale the benefits of our learning into impact for our communities.”*

“I am thrilled to be joined by Dr Roland Amoussou, Jessica Naga and Rivaj Parbhu, who bring their deep insights, and diverse experience in digital finance in Asia and Africa.”

How to get event ready

We invite you to attend the event on a first-come, first-serve basis. To register, click here: https://adansoniamanagement.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4r-xiIS_RGGszQ_WC7Qodw

Want to learn more about the event? The profiles of the panel members are available here:

Dr Roland Amoussou-Guenou



Dr Roland Amoussou-Guenou is a Partner at Vovan & Associés and an expert in international arbitration, personal data protection, digital economy law and crypto currency regulations. He is also a member of the sub-committee for the digital economy regulations of the European Association for Business and Commerce (EABC) in Thailand.





Dr Amoussou is a former member of the Paris Bar Association and former Senior Legal Adviser of the International Development Law Organization (IDLO) in Rome, Italy. He served as Legal Expert for the Regional Cooperation in the ASEAN (French Government project), Consultant for the UNESCAP and Lecturer on business and technology law at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT). Roland has more than 20 years of professional experience in Asia as an international law expert, senior legal adviser, as well as adviser to governments and international organisations. He specialises in international arbitration and ADR, personal data protection (GDPR/PDPA) intellectual property law, public private partnerships (PPPs), contract management, international contracts, mergers and acquisitions, construction law, energy law, telecommunication law, banking law and cybercrime law.

Dr Amoussou serves as resource person for professional training programmes on various leadership and management related topics and has trained hundreds of senior government officers over the years. Dr Amoussou is an arbitrator of the ICC, Thai Arbitration Center (THAC) member of the Arbitration Commission of ICC Thailand, and served as President of an international arbitration tribunal, the UNCITRAL. He is also co-founder and president of AsiAfrica foundation (since 2009) and has won multiple awards for his contribution in promoting education, culture, ADR and international Arbitration, and for bridging business opportunities between Asia and Africa. More recently, Roland initiated the BBA-AsiAfrica Foundation blockchain Academy in Bangkok, with #asiafricacoin (Fundraising and "Goodness" token) to be released by June 2022.

Jessica Naga





Jessica is a barrister, qualified at the Bar of Mauritius and England & Wales. She is the founder of Digital Associates Ltd, a Pan-African licensed law firm, which specialises in FinTech and Tech-related activity. She co-founded the SECDEX group, a regulated market infrastructure ecosystem located in the Seychelles, which includes an exchange, a clearing house, a securities depository and a digital custodian, with the intent to bring funding and liquidity to African businesses, including SMEs and entrepreneurs. She also co-founded the MINDEX group, which is about to launch a similar ecosystem in Mauritius, licensed by the Financial Services Commission.

In addition, to build more capability in Africa in the professional digital services space, Jessica co-founded the Digital Partners Network Group, a full-fledged financial services provider, with specialisation in FinTech, Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Jessica was a Women In Africa 54 (WIA54) 2020 Laureate in the digital and technology category for Southern Africa and is part of the Women in FinTech Powerlist 2021 under the Senior Leaders category, as proclaimed in March 2022 by Innovate Finance, an independent industry body that represents and advances the FinTech community in the UK and beyond.

Rivaj Parbhu



Rivaj is the Head of Engagement at Control Risks based in London from where he looks after the DTS digital innovation, literacy and engagement practice across the globe. Prior to his current location and role in the UK, he was based in Johannesburg, South Africa where he managed the data science, digital forensics and eDiscovery practice for Africa for 5 years.





He joined Control Risks in 2014, and has currently over 20 years' experience working across Europe, Middle East and Africa. During this time, Rivaj has worked on and led a number of projects related to the use of data to enable complex business functions across a variety of industries including security, insurance, banking, technology, extractives, retail and FMCG.

Dr Faiz Shah



Dr Faiz Shah is founding president of the Yunus Thailand Foundation, a regional social business hub that promotes Enterprise-led Development approaches across the Asia-Pacific region, with an expanding portfolio of projects in ESG and corporate sustainability, community entrepreneurship, and capacity-building. As director of the Yunus Centre at the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, he leads the Yunus Masters in Social Business & Entrepreneurship, the Professional Masters in ESG Management, and the SDG Lab, which work on enterprise solutions for implementing the UN goals.

As Managing Partner at Grameen Options, a consulting social business, Dr Shah engages with Academia, Business, Communities, Government and International Development Organisations across the region to pioneer Social Business solutions. With faculty affiliation at the AIT School of Management, he coordinates the AITE Healthcare Resources Group, co-directs the Energy Distribution Services Management & Technology programme, and is visiting professor at the College of Innovation, Thammasat University, Bangkok. An original contributor to the GRI standard, and its food sector supplement, and the Fairtrade standard on sportballs, Dr Shah has published the authorised Urdu translation of Professor Yunus' "A World of Three Zeroes."





Since, 2017 Dr Shah has been on the advisory team of Dorium, a blockchain-driven social value exchange mechanism that validates impact investments and generates rewards.

About Connect Africa:

Connect Africa is a not for profit, Africa-focused business networking community, whose aim is to connect and leverage African skills and knowledge in Southeast Asia and Africa, to raise the profile of Africa as a Continent of investment opportunities. By connecting such skills and knowledge, the aim of Connect Africa is to develop into a “deal” platform linking human and monetary capital looking to capitalise on trade and investment opportunities in Africa.

Further information on Connect Africa, including how to become a member, is available on our website: www.connectafrica.com.sg. Follow us on LinkedIn at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/connect-africa-south-east-asia/>

About Platform Africa:

Set up by representatives of the business, legal and media communities in Mauritius in 2016, Platform Africa focuses on providing first hand news and views from those who are already doing business in Africa in the areas of finance and the economy, sustainability, leadership, innovation, health, lifestyle, culture and entertainment. Towards this end, Platform Africa acts as a media partner for high level events regarding Mauritius and Africa.

Further information on Platform Africa is available on our website: www.platformafrica.com. Follow us on LinkedIn at: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/platform-africa/>

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