



Office of the President

State House, Mauritius

Press Release - Mauritius Blockchain Center of Excellence (MBCE)

Her Excellency, Mrs Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, G.C.S.K., C.S.K., PhD, DSc, President of Republic of Mauritius announced the creation of the official Mauritius Blockchain Center of Excellence (MBCE) today at a Presidential Lecture organized by the Office of the President in collaboration with the Embassy of the United States of America: *'Unleashing the Wealth with Blockchain Technology for Economic Development'* by Mr Julius O Akinyemi, Entrepreneur in Residence at the MIT and Founder & CEO, UWINCorp and Ms Sandra Ro, Managing Partner & COO, UWINCorp.

“Blockchain is perhaps the biggest innovation in computer science to date. We have experienced the first generation of the digital revolution that gave us the Internet of Information. This second generation which is being powered by Blockchain technology, is bringing the internet of value. In collaboration with UWIN Corp, we are creating a new platform that will shape the world of Finance, Business and Science as never before and transform the old order for the better” Ameenah Gurib-Fakim, President of the Republic of Mauritius.

The mission of Mauritius Blockchain Center of Excellence is threefold: blockchain education, community building, and development of use cases, which solve real world problems. It will be officially launched in January 2018.

The initial founding members and governing board members will include representatives from several institutions of Mauritius as well as the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), Rogers Capital, and UWIN Corp (Mauritius) Ltd., an 'Unleashing Wealth in Nations' initiative.

Members as Observers will include the Office of the President, the Ministry of Innovation, Communication and Technology, Ministry of Agro Industry and the Financial Services Commission.

MBCE reaches out to those interested to participate. Please contact: contact@rogerscapital.mu for any enquiries.

"I am proud and glad to partner with the Mauritius Blockchain Center of Excellence project... It will be an asset for our island's ambition to be the bridge between Asia and Africa, two continents which are buzzing. The Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation is harnessing that dream by promoting a new mindset towards new technologies like blockchain and crypto-currencies. We need to thank UWINCorp for guiding us towards these new horizons." **Hon Yogida Sawmynaden, Minister of Innovation, Communication and Technology.**

“Blockchain breaks all the codes of traditionally centralized and controlled data and provides a real freedom of information access and trust. This new technology has the potential to disrupt all industries and provide a real multi-level economic democratization. A revolution in moving money is underway and Mauritius has the potential to be a major player in this emerging field. The Blockchain Centre of Excellence aims at making Mauritius THE regional Blockchain Hub and an Internationally Recognized Blockchain platform.” **Kee Chong LI KWONG WING, the Chairman of the State Bank of Mauritius.**

“Blockchain technology is about to reinvent the way we transact, the way information is stored, shared and exchanged and will obviously disrupt existing business models. Mauritius has formulated its ambition to becoming one of Africa’s leading Fintech Hubs. The establishment of the Mauritius Blockchain Center of Excellence is undoubtedly pivotal in this endeavour. Rogers Capital, the Fintech arm of the Rogers Group, is delighted to be one of the founding partners in this initiative. We look forward to contributing in what is poised to constitute an exciting transformation journey.” **Kabir Ruhee, CEO of Rogers Capital.**

“Mauritius has the opportunity to leverage its competencies: ease of conducting business, strategic location, and keenness to advance technology to become a significant blockchain epicenter. I, personally, am delighted to collaborate with our partners to bring blockchain expertise to Mauritius and more importantly, help develop a local blockchain brain trust and opportunities for the Mauritius community at large.” **Sandra Ro, Managing Partner & COO of UWINCorp and former Head of Digitization of CME Group.**

**The Office of the President
State House,
Le Réduit,
Mauritius**

Friday, November 17th 2017