



Professor Yu Xiong from Newcastle Business School with delegates and guest speakers

Mar 22, 2019 14:42 GMT

Historic setting for international Blockchain seminar

Northumbria academic Professor Yu Xiong has led an international forum exploring how innovations in Blockchain technology can foster links between UK and the Chinese businesses, and new opportunities for collaboration.

The China UK Blockchain Application Forum was held at the historic Magna Carta Island near Windsor, widely regarded as the site where King John signed the Magna Carta more than 800 years ago. It was attended by Innovation UK, cross-party parliamentary innovation groups and world-

leading academics in Blockchain technology from universities, including UCL, London School of Economics, Durham and Northumbria.

Blockchain is an emerging technology that is revolutionising the financial industry by changing the way transactions are made and recorded. By allowing digital information to be distributed but not copied, blockchain has created the backbone of a new type of internet and a peer-to-peer network built on the three pillars of decentralisation, transparency and immutability – unchanging through time.

Professor Xiong, Chair of Technology and Operations Management at Newcastle Business School, said: “Blockchain is fundamentally changing the trust mechanism, and therefore the behavior, displayed in financial transactions; put simply it has the potential to reshape how we do things. Its applications also stretch far beyond just economic considerations, which will inevitably have wider impacts and benefits on society. This presents significant opportunities, which is why bringing high profile Chinese and UK delegates together in this seminar is so significant. We were able to explore how Blockchain technology can help facilitate greater collaboration between businesses and organisations from both nations – something which should resonate with continuing Brexit uncertainties.

“I was also delighted to Chair the event from the historic and famous Magna Carta Island – the first time an innovation-inspired seminar has been held here. The UK has a rich history, as well as a high capability for innovation, which is why it was so symbolic to hold the forum here. China is also the world’s second largest economy and is seen by the UK Government as a natural innovation partner.”

Delegates to the seminar included Mr. Yuanfeng Chen, Chair of Magna Carta Island International Innovation Centre, Professor Jiang Duan, Director of Blockchain Research Centre of China, Mr. Guoyu Du, Co-founder of UKDE, Dr Jean-Francois Fava-Verde, Innovation Lead-Digital from Innovate UK, Professor Julian Williams, Co-Director in the Institute of Hazard and University of Durham, Dr. Garrick Hileman, Head of Blockchain Research from LSE. Also attending were Professor Birgitte Andersen, CEO of Big Innovation Centre, Mr Rob Fletcher, Geospatial Platforms and Solutions Manager, Satellite Application Catapult, Professor Paolo Tasca, CEO and founder of UCL CBT, Dr. Junyi Han, Senior Solution Architect from Minder Technology and 99P Recycling, Dr. Yunming Shao, Vice President and Investment

Director, Tus Holding UK, and Dr. Tao Xu, Managing Director of Yitu Tech EU.

Northumbria is a research-rich, business-focused, professional university with a global reputation for academic excellence. To find out more about our courses go to www.northumbria.ac.uk

If you have a media enquiry please contact our Media and Communications team at media.communications@northumbria.ac.uk or call 0191 227 4604.

Contacts



Rik Kendall

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Business and Law / Arts, Design & Social Sciences

rik.kendall@northumbria.ac.uk

07923 382339



Andrea Slowey

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

Engineering and Environment / Health and Life Sciences

andrea.slowey@northumbria.ac.uk

07708 509436



Rachael Barwick

Press Contact

PR and Media Manager

rachael.barwick@northumbria.ac.uk

07377422415



James Fox

Press Contact

Student Communications Manager

james2.fox@northumbria.ac.uk



Kelly Elliott

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

kelly2.elliott@northumbria.ac.uk



Gemma Brown

Press Contact

PR and Media Officer

gemma6.brown@northumbria.ac.uk