

REPORT: MATHEMATICS FOR INDUSTRY: BLOCKCHAIN AND CRYPTOCURRENCIES

Applicant: Dr. Saralees Nadarajah & Stephen Chan¹

¹*School of Mathematics, University of Manchester, UK*

Conference link: <https://blockchain-mcr.github.io/>

Outcome of the conference

The response and reception received from this one day workshop on Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies (Saturday 8th September 2018, University of Manchester, UK) was extremely positive and the event was an overall success. The programme started off at 8:30am and ran all the way through to 6.15pm, with the day consisting of invited and contributed talks, in addition to a poster session in the afternoon. There were a total of seventeen presentations from both academic and industrial speakers, and a wide variety of individuals including university students, academics, those working industry, and general blockchain enthusiasts. A link to the programme schedule and abstracts for the day's talks can be found on the workshop website: <https://blockchain-mcr.github.io/schedule.pdf>

The theme of the workshop focused on the broad area of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies, and the talks covered specific areas such as: academic research on Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies; industrial applications of Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies; applications of Fintech in academia and industry; the economics of Blockchain technology; financial analysis and risk management with Cryptocurrencies. In addition, all full papers submitted to the workshop are being considered for publication in a special issue of the Journal of Risk and Financial Management on Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies (see link: http://www.mdpi.com/journal/jrfm/special_issues/Blockchain). The aim of this special issue is to provide a collection of papers from leading experts in the area of blockchain and cryptocurrencies that will lead the next wave of research on such a divisive but interesting topic.

Participant's comments:

The following comment we received from the presenter at the workshop:

Dr. Shahzaib Tahir (City University of London, UK) "It was very well organised and the weekend was spent well. All the talks were very informative and beneficial. I not only look forward to be part of the next conference but I also look forward to have an active collaboration with your research group. It was nice to meet you yesterday. I want to thank you for having me and would like to congratulate you on making the conference a great success."

How the funding aided the workshop process

Overall, we would like to express our gratitude to the MI-NET Committee for providing us with funding to support the organisation of our workshop. Without this funding, it would not have been possible to organise and run such a successful and beneficial workshop for the first time. We hope that we can build on the success of the first "Mathematics for Industry: Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies", in the School of Mathematics at the University of Manchester, and look forward to organising a follow up workshop in the near future.