July 20, 2017

Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio University

Center for Socio-Global Informatics, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

A Globally Open Industry-University Collaborated Research Association of

Blockchain Technologies

Annoucement of BASE Alliance Establishment

The Keio Research Institute at SFC, Keio University and Center for Socio-Global Informatics, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo announces establishment of "BASE Alliance", a globally open industry-university collaborated research association of the emerging Blockchain technologies. We will hold a press conference on Monday, July 24th, prior to our launch. We look forward to seeing you there.

■Press conference details

Date: Monday, July 24th, 2017, at 1:00pm-1:30pm

Place: North Building, Keio University Mita Campus

Access: https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/maps/mita.html

https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/assets/download/maps/mita/map_mita.pdf

The conference will be held on the first floor of campus map #1.

Attendees:

Kanta Matsuura　Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

Jun Murai　Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University

Shinichiro Matsuo　Project Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University /Research Fellow, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo /Directors Liaison for Financial Cryptography at MIT Media Lab.

Jay Kishigami　Professor, Muroran Institute of Technology / Visiting Professor, Keio University / W3C Advisory Board

Shigeya Suzuki Project Associate Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

Tatsuya Hayashi　Researcher, Blockchain Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC

※As stated in the attached document, we will hold a public workshop after the conference.

Please note that we will be taking only 15 press personals in the order of arrival.

Press Application : Please contact the BASE Office Secretariat by Sunday, July 23rd, 12:00pm (noon). Contacting information is stated below. We cannot provide parking or parking vouchers. On arrival, please use public transport. We appreciate your understandings.

Required Content : Media name, press personal name, email address, phone number, attendance for the workshop, plans of photo shooting (with or without).

Contact here: kbcl-info@sfc.wide.ad.jp

■Founding Spirit of BASE Alliance

Blockchain technology was born along with Bitcoin, the cryptographic currency, and is not only giving birth to several other digital currencies, but it is also expected to be merged to other fields due to its characteristic of being a distributed ledger.
To use Blockchain technology as a foundation, its necessity of improvements by open discussion, research and development, and experimental demonstration is coherent.

From these standpoints, we founded BASE Alliance, a globally open industry-university collaborated research association that enables us to openly discuss/research and develop/experimentally demonstrate Blockchain technologies.

The BASE initiative stands for "Blockchain Academic Synergized Environment", which represents the synergy of industry and university for the academic Blockchain studying environment.

■Activity Overview of BASE

BASE is responsible for promoting researching and developing, experimentally demonstrating, and developing communities of the Blockchain technologies with the collaboration of faculty members/researchers from universities and Blockchain interested company members.

BASE is to carry out the following research activities.

- Research and development on blockchain technology in general.
- Research and development of applications using blockchains.
- Construction and operation of test bets to demonstrate experiments using existing and implemented blockchain technology, as well as its research.
- Fostering an international industry-university collaborative community.

We are planning to set up working groups according to the topics based on these core activities.

In addition, if necessary, we will also collaborate and provide mutual feedbacks to various global standardization organizations in order to contribute to global standardization.

■ Messages from founding members on establishment of the alliance

Joi Ito
Distinguished Researcher, Keio Research Institute at SFC / Director, MIT Media Lab.

The internet transformed telecommunications, computation and, eventually almost every industry in the world using a wholly new architecture built on layers of standards like the Ethernet, TCP/IP and HTTP/HTML that work together and fall under no one's control. That architecture allowed an unbundling that didn't exist before the Internet, when telecommunications companies had monolithic control over everything from the wires and hardware to software and content.
It gave entrepreneurs and companies the ability to build products and services at each layer, creating an explosion of innovation among and between the protocols that required no "permission" from a teleco or government. Innovators could freely participate in that ecosystem, and they created businesses and tools that no one had ever imagined before.

A similar open architecture is now emerging with the blockchain, which is unlocking the layers of protocols controlled by the financial industry, and entrepreneurs are already building previously unimagined services and businesses among those layers. As with the Internet, the standards that govern the blockchain will best be developed by multiple stakeholders and centered in academic institutions and research labs. My hope is that BASE becomes one of the key players building an architecture for the blockchain that is as free and flexible as the architecture of the internet.

Kanta Matsuura
Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo
 (Translated from Japanese)
What exactly is securing information security in the first place? Up to this day, information security was generally understood as managing the qualities of Confidentiality, Integrity, and Availability. Now, however, it is strongly required to keep the trust relationship unique to each application. Technology that does not undergo scrutiny or operation attitudes that are just being pushy is not a true defense. This is why we need BASE-oriented R&D and demonstration experiment system for the security field.
In a particular field where the principle of human or organization behavior that affects trust relationship are studied, especially in that of information security related scientific approaches, we have Information Security Economics.
Fifteen years have passed since that global research community was first established. Compared to that of fundamental computer science or cryptography that supports the basis of Blockchain technology, their history is still small. However, the impact of enabling researchers to study in the technology-irrelevant field with their feet on the ground has been magnificent.

When it comes to applying this to virtual currencies, the role of Information Security Economics will be even greater. This is why the expectations for BASE-oriented R&D and demonstration experiment system in the security field are great.

In order to sustain a practical use of infrastructures such as Blockchain, we must not consider information security as a tiring war of attrition. It should improve the productivity of legitimate users, along with the advancement of vital society, and also provide happiness. I cannot help hoping that BASE Alliance, collaborated by interested parties that have gathered in my home country, will make this dream into reality.

Jun Murai

Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio University
(Translated from Japanese)

Social infrastructure that can be used by anyone, anywhere, needs to be discussed and developed openly in the public by interested parties. Additionally, the developed systems need to be sustained, evaluated fairly and composedly, and modified continuously.

Now that the Internet has become a social infrastructure, we need a platform mechanism for constructing a trusted distribution system on the Internet. BASE has the framework for multiple applicable data platforms, such as Blockchain, to be R&D'd and to have a demonstration experiment in a globally open industry-university collaborated network.

These frameworks were rapidly promoted during the dawn of Internet. Wide Project, collaborated with academia and organizations have contributed to standardization and R&D, also performing a demonstration experiment for the early internet. First founded in the United States, Interop has been responsible for forming a community of developers and operators, through interoperability tests of the systems developed dispersedly. In order to realize new demands and expectation for the new information distribution infrastructure by collaborating diverse scientists and engineers, we have newly launched BASE as an activity system. I hope that the activities here will contribute to the futures of the Internet society.

■ Alliance Members (in random order)

(Researcher/Steering committee)
Joi Ito   Distinguished Researcher, Keio Research Institute at SFC / Director, MIT
    Media Lab.
Kanta Matsuura Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo
Jun Murai   Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio
    University
Shinichiro Matsuo Project Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio
    University/   Research Fellow, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of
    Tokyo/
Directors Liaison for Financial Cryptography at MIT Media Lab.
Jay Kishigami   Professor, Muroran Institute of Technology / Visiting Professor, Keio
    University / W3C Advisory Board
Shigeya Suzuki   Project Associate Professor, Graduate School of Media and
    Governance, Keio University
Tatsuya Hayashi   Researcher, Blockchain Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC

■Contact Information
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【Source of Distribution】
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Keio University

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Announcement: "Future of Blockchain Workshop"

Co-Hosted by
Blockchain Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC
and
Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

Blockchain Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC and Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo co-host a workshop on ongoing work on academic research on blockchain on July 24th, 2017 at Keio Universit Mita Campus.

Admission to the workshop is free (first come, first serve basis. After the workshop, we will hold a social gathering. Please understand that we will charge for the social gathering.

- Details -

Date and Time: July 24th, 2017, 2pm-6pm, (the social gathering will be 6pm-8pm)
Place: Keio University, Mita Campus, North Hall (Number 3 building in the following map)

https://www.keio.ac.jp/ja/maps/mita.html

Program:

14:00-14:25   Opening remarks and Keynote Speech 1
               Jun Murai
               Professor, Faculty of Environment and Information Studies, Keio
               University

14:25-14:50   Keynote Speech 2
               Defender Movement by Blockchain and Trust Relationship
               Kanta Matsuura
               Professor, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo

14:50-15:00   Keynote Speech 3: Expectation to Industrial-Academia collaboration in
Blockchain research and development (Video)
               Joi Ito
               Distinguished Researcher, Keio Research Institute at SFC /
               Director, MIT Media Lab.

15:00-15:10   (Break)

15:10-15:30   Presentation 1: BSafe.network: The international research network for maturing Blockchain technology
        Project Professor, Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University
        Research Fellow, Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo
        Directors Liaison for Financial Cryptography at MIT Media Lab.

15:30-15:50   Presentation 2:   Application of Blockchain in Safecast's Open Radiation Sensors

        Pieter Franken
        Senior Visiting Researcher, Keio Research Institute at SFC
        Representative Director, Safecast Japan
        (In English. We will not provide simultaneous translation)

15:50-16:10   Presentation 3: Blockchain x Opendata
        Jay Kishigami
        Professor, Muroran Institute of Technology

16:10-16:30   Presentation 4:   Blockchain as an Audi-table Communication Channel

        Shigeya Suzuki
        Project Associate Professor,
        Graduate School of Media and Governance, Keio University

16:30-16:40   (Break)

16:40-17:40   Panel Discussion
17:40-17:45   Closing Remarks

18:00-20:00   Social Gathering (Coop Dining Hal, Keio University Mita Campus)

Please use following site for registration. For media coverage, please contact us using the contact information below.

Please use following links. The registration fee for the social gathering is 3000JPY per person. (Note: Deadline for the social gathering is July 20th)

Workshop (Free):   http://peatix.com/event/282882
Social Gathering (3000JPY):   http://peatix.com/event/282915

Contact on this workshop:
Blockchain Laboratory, Keio Research Institute at SFC
E-Mail: kbcl-info@sfc.wide.ad.jp   Web: (Will open soon)