

Hi there,

Welcome to the February 2023 edition of the BRI Newsletter. We hope you find this content useful. You can find a PDF version of the newsletter [here](#). As always, if you have any comments, announcements, or recommendations for content in future editions, or would like to contribute content, please let me know: [douglas@blockchainresearchinstitute.org](mailto:douglas@blockchainresearchinstitute.org)

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From the editor's desk

Douglas Heintzman, Chief Catalyst, BRI

## Lessons form Davos 2023

In mid-January, 2400 of the world's business and governmental leaders, gathered in the Swiss resort town of Davos for the World Economic Forum's annual meeting. There they discussed renewable energy, environmental degradation, global monetary policy, global trade, and investment, "friend sourcing" and the outflow of capital from developing economies, the future of cities and local economies, and emerging technologies. Quite fittingly, this year's conference was themed "cooperation in a fragmented world."

The backdrop for the conference was what the World Economic Forum's "Global Risks Report for 2023" which detailed a "polycrisis" of "inflation, cost-of-living crises, trade wars, capital outflows from emerging markets, widespread social unrest, geopolitical confrontation and the spectre of nuclear war." The report further argued that these challenges were being "amplified by comparatively new developments in the global risks landscape, including unsustainable levels of debt, a new era of low growth, low global investment and de-globalization, a decline in human development after decades of progress, rapid and unconstrained development of dual-use (civilian and military) technologies, and the growing pressure of climate change impacts."

The BRI's Don Tapscott is a regular attendee at Davos and upon his return from this year's gathering, he sat down for an interview with me for our [W3B Talks Podcast](#). He also participated in a [Munk Debate](#) where he argued in favour of the resolution "[Be it Resolved, Davos is back and more relevant than ever](#)".

In listening to Don's summary of Davos 2023, several key takeaways became obvious. First, as the Global Risk Report alluded to, after a remarkably long time of peace and prosperity, there are some environmental, geopolitical, and economic factors that make it evident that we are now indeed living in a fragmented world. Climate change is a massive problem that needs immediate and large-scale action to mitigate the worst of its potential impact. The pandemic demonstrated how fragile our supply chains are. The war in Europe is a humanitarian and economic disaster which may bring into sharp relief the contrast and conflict between autocratic and Western Liberal Democracy based social contracts. Finally, the inequitable distribution of the wealth generated from an era of globalization has led to resentment populism and political polarization.

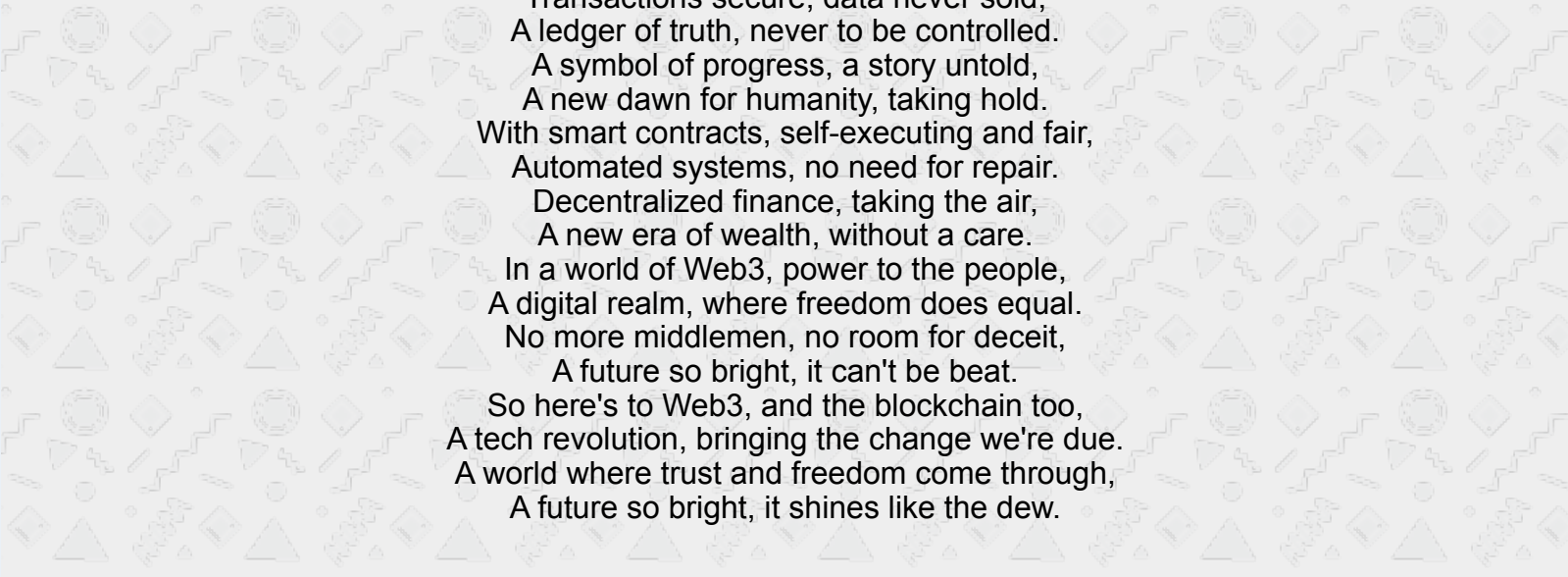
The consensus leaving the conference seemed to be a bit more optimistic. There was a popular belief that the landing out of many of these crises, at least in the financial ones, may be softer than had been feared and that the "cooperation" part of the conference's theme was more important than ever. Cooperation not only alludes to the sharing of ideas and opinions facilitated by events like Davos, but also to the infrastructure upon which the next social contract is based. Macroeconomic policy, ESG initiatives, and financial frameworks are all part of that, but so is, and perhaps even more fundamentally, technology.

The big technology talk was about ChatGPT and more broadly, the pervasive impact that AI will have on business and society. It seems increasingly obvious that the AI component of the Web3 world will be pervasive in almost everything we do. It will help us research and write, it will help us visualize, it will help us drive cars, and it will give us high quality situational decision support. It will be part of the basic fabric of the next generation of the internet. Understanding the impact of AI on the new structure of business, enabled because of Web3 and blockchain, will be an important field of research over the next few years.

Other core Web3 building blocks such as tokenization, and the new governance and equitable value distribution that become possible because of it, will also play an important role in mitigating the risks we face.

For me, the key message out of Davos 2023 was that there is urgent and essential work to be done. There are a lot of risks and opportunities in play. There are not only the first level questions about the impact of disruptive technologies but the second and third level questions about the impact of the introduction of a foundational technology. We need to cooperate and work together to figure out what needs to be done and then go and do it.

For more information on The BRI's new program please contact us at [here](#) or send us a note at [info@blockchainresearchinstitute.org](mailto:info@blockchainresearchinstitute.org)



## Members Announcements and News



A interesting article about [Dimitra's](#) Sponsorship Program titled [Making a difference: The power of AgriTech and blockchain in the fight for the planet's future](#) was featured in Cointelegraph. Cointelegraph also published an article about Dimitra's deforestation solution titled ["Battling deforestation with the help of blockchain and AgTech."](#) Dimitra's new AI capabilities were feature in [this video](#). They also had a nice placement in [this episode of Chico Crypto](#). Dimitra published a nice recap of their 2022 accomplishments [here](#).



Congratulations to Blockchain for Energy's (B4E) Board of Directors, Technical Committees, and Member subject matter participants. They have now have created a foundation to foster a robust ecosystem. They currently have 6 programs and 10 projects under development with Commodity Transport being the first solutions ready for deployment within the B4E environment. The B4E Network Platform is Web3 enabled, and has proven interoperability within the network. They have architected the Commodity Transport to be portable, so as to not be locked into any hosting provider now or in the future. B4E continues to lead the development of the technology and the solutions for its member company's benefit and the industry at large. You can find the press release [here](#).



The author of the BRI's paper on [Self Sovereign Identity](#), Phillip J. Windley, has written a great book titled [Learning Digital Identity, Design, Deploy, and Manage Identity Architectures](#). It is available on Amazon.



Congratulations to the [LACChain ecosystem](#)! They were named the winners of the "Social Innovation" category at the [INATBA - International Association for Trusted Blockchain Applications Awards 2023](#).

7.8 million people in vulnerable situations have benefited from the projects deployed on LACChain networks orchestrated by [LACNet](#).

The INATBA Awards distinguish and celebrate the work, collaboration, and achievements of the community and the blockchain/DLT industry worldwide.

Learn more about LACChain [here](#).



Lucerne University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSLU) is partnering with the University of British Columbia to organize the [2023 Summer Institute in Vancouver](#) which will run from 10 July – 23 July.

This year's Summer Institute will also be open to people outside of UBC and HSLU. Participants can earn an UBC Blockchain Microcertificate.

## BRI Research

### Featured Research



[Decentralized Finance Analysis: How To Identify Value Within The Crypto Ecosystem](#)

In this project, our research leaders develop a method of formal analysis of the value of decentralized finance (DeFi) initiatives. Inspired by Vitalik Buterin's writings on the intrinsic worth of projects in the crypto economy—that they must solve legitimate human problems on a macro scale—our researchers mirror the approach of Benjamin Graham and David Dodd in *Security Analysis*.

[It's Easy To Talk, It's Hard To Build, Don Tapscott Interviews Charles Hoskinson on building the future](#)

At W3B World Don Tapscott and Charles Hoskinson took centre stage to engage in a [profoundly thought contemplation about where we go from here.

[Web 3 and the Music Industry: A Second Wave of Blockchain Innovation](#)

In this project, our research lead reviews what we learned from the music industry's first wave of blockchain innovation and explores the opportunities in its second wave, including innovations such as non-fungible tokens and metaverse experiences.

[What is Web3?](#)

This brief looks at the evolution of the web platforms. Web 1 refers to the read-only Internet (1980s–early 2000s) where most users consumed content like encyclopedia entries, directories, and catalogs. Web 2 refers to the read-write Internet (early 2000s–2020) with many killer apps like Google search and Facebook for finding, collaborating, and transacting with each other online. Web 3 is the read-write-own Internet (2020–today), based on blockchain protocols that support online privacy, self-sovereign identity, and property rights to digital assets.

[Click here to access the research library](#)

## Ecosystem News

A new company dubbed Forkast Labs has been formed from the merger of blockchain data firm CryptoSlam and Forkast.News. You can read about it [here](#).

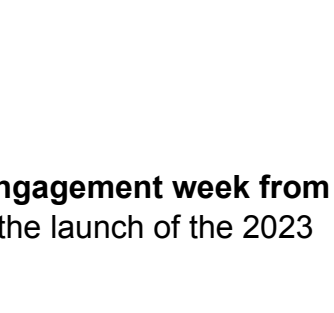
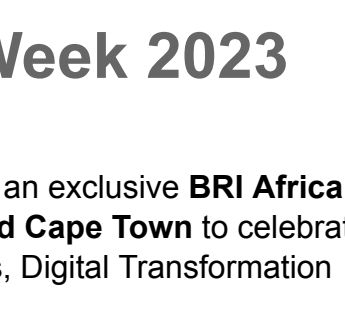
## Industry Headlines

- [Tencent is finally joining the web3 wild west](#)
- [Web3 Domain Alliance expands with 51 new members](#)
- [Hong Kong Backs Web3 With \\$6.4M in New Budget](#)
- [Enterprise blockchain is transforming business operations and reducing costs — Web3 exec](#)
- [Embracing The Web3 Revolution: How Traditional Companies Are Taking The Leap From Web2 To Web3](#)
- [Gamers made up nearly half of all blockchain activity in January, DappRadar Report](#)

## BRI around the World

### BRI Africa

An update on the work being done at BRI-Africa



## BRI Africa Engagement Week 2023

BRI Africa is pleased to announce that we are hosting an exclusive **BRI Africa Engagement week from 27 February - 3rd March 2023 in Johannesburg and Cape Town** to celebrate the launch of the 2023 Ecosystem programme: Towards Web3: Digital Assets, Digital Transformation

This engagement week will contribute to how African countries use and understand blockchain technology and introduce a Web3 community for thought leaders in government and corporate. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear insights directly from some of the most influential people within the field, including one of the world's leading authorities on blockchain technology and Co-founder of the Blockchain Research Institute (BRI), **Don Tapscott**, along with other Co-founder, and globally-recognized writer, speaker, investor, **Alex Tapscott**.

The week consists of engagements in Johannesburg and Cape Town geared at strengthening core relationships and leverage global learnings and networks to drive forward an African blockchain agenda from an experimental, development, commercial and regulatory perspective.

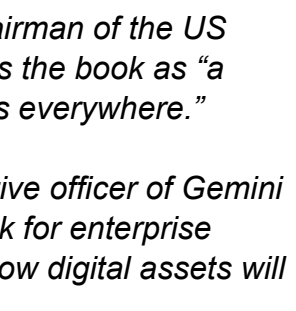
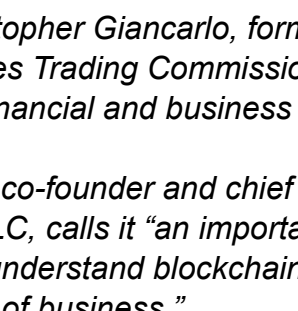
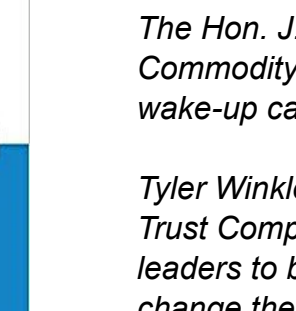
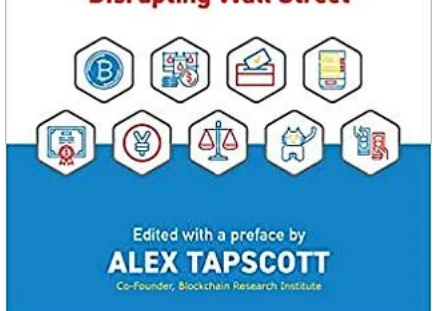
Members can also benefit from the week including internal leaders, board members, key partners and select clients to join the sessions and access exclusive insights from these respected international leaders and engage them on their perspectives.

If you would like to participate, contact us at [connect@briafrica.org](mailto:connect@briafrica.org).

Follow BRI Africa on [LinkedIn](#) to stay in the loop.

## Book Series

Buy our books on [Amazon.com](#) or [Amazon.ca](#)



### Our latest book

**Digital Asset Revolution: How Blockchain Is Decentralizing Finance and Disrupting Wall Street**

*The Hon. J. Christopher Giancarlo, former chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission, sees the book as "a wake-up call for financial and business leaders everywhere."*

*Tyler Winklevoss, co-founder and chief executive officer of Gemini Trust Company LLC, calls it "an important book for enterprise leaders to better understand blockchain and how digital assets will change the future of business."*

[Available on Amazon](#)

## Thoughtful Articles and Interviews

Don Tapscott wrote and interesting article called [What does the World Economic Forum at Davos really do?](#) for the Globe and mail.

Don Tapscott also participated in a [Munk Debate](#) where he argued in favour of the resolution "[Be it Resolved, Davos is back and more relevant than ever](#)".

## Podcasts



You can find "[W3B Talks](#)", our podcast series on Web3 and its impact on business and society [here](#). You can also find it on your favourite podcasting platforms such as [Spotify](#), [Amazon Music](#), [Google Podcasts](#), and [Apple Podcast](#).

Recent episodes include:

- Rethinking Healthcare delivery in a Web3 World with Pradeep Goel
- Lessons learned from Davos 2023 with Don Tapscott
- Thinking about regulation in a Web3 world with Alexander Di Giovanni
- How Web3 is impacting the enterprise with Irving Wladawsky-Berger

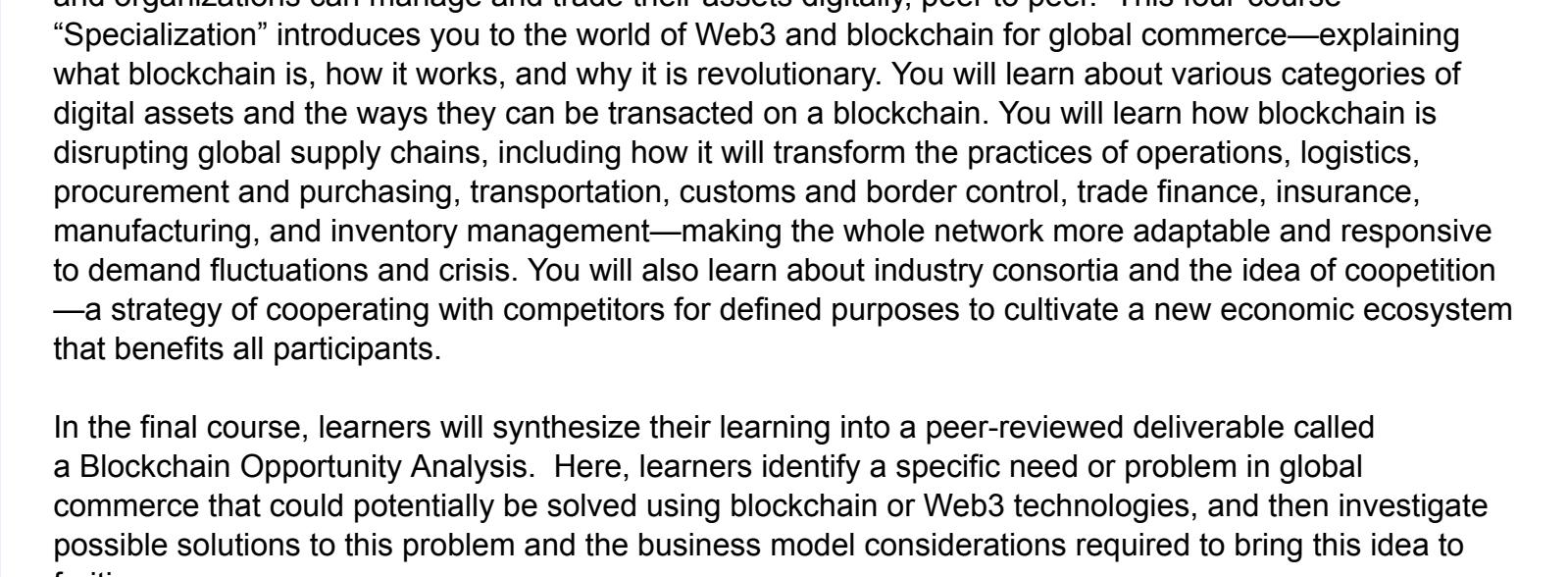


Check out the latest episode of DeFi Decoded with Alex Tapscott and Andrew Young: ["Making Polygon DeFi More Accessible Than Running Water"](#), with Hamzah Khan of Polygon Technologies. You can see other episodes on Youtube [here](#).

## COURSERA Online Courses

Enrol in our online courses produced in partnership with INSEAD Business School and FedEx.

Discover how blockchain is transforming business, government, and society with our suite of online courses hosted on COURSERA. Anyone can enroll in our [Blockchain Revolution Specialization](#), which includes four courses taught by Don Tapscott and Alex Tapscott. Produced in partnership with INSEAD Business School, the [Blockchain Revolution Specialization](#) covers everything you need to know about the disruption, opportunities, and implications of blockchain across industries and business sectors.



Be sure to check out our new course [Web3 & Blockchain in Global Commerce](#)—developed in collaboration with FedEx and INSEAD, and available on Coursera!

Global commerce has grown in complexity and magnitude over millennia, but its processes remain relatively unchanged. Enter Web3—the Internet of Value. For the first time in human history, individuals and organizations can manage and trade their assets digitally, peer to peer. This four-course "Specialization" introduces you to the world of Web3 and blockchain for global commerce—explaining what blockchain is, how it works, and why it is revolutionary. You will learn about various categories of digital assets and the ways they can be transacted on a blockchain. You will learn how blockchain is disrupting global supply chains, including how it will transform the practices of operations, logistics, procurement and purchasing, transportation, customs and border control, trade finance, insurance, manufacturing, and inventory management—making the whole network more adaptable and responsive to demand fluctuations and crisis. You will also learn about industry consortia and the idea of cooptation—a strategy of cooperating with competitors for defined purposes to cultivate a new economic ecosystem that benefits all participants.

In the final course, learners will synthesize their learning into a peer-reviewed deliverable called a "Blockchain Opportunity Analysis." Here, learners identify a specific need or problem in global commerce that could potentially be solved using blockchain or Web3 technologies, and then investigate possible solutions to this problem and the business model considerations required to bring this idea to fruition.

Enroll today! <https://www.coursera.org/specializations/web3-blockchain-global-commerce>

## About the Blockchain Research Institute

Navigate, accelerate, and lead the blockchain revolution.

The [Blockchain Research Institute](#) is a global think-tank exploring the promise of blockchain technology for business, government, and society. Our syndicated program is funded by an international community of Member organizations, including enterprises, governments, and technology start-ups from around the world.

We're always looking for new organizations to collaborate with, through a number of initiatives.

- [BRI Member Program](#)
- [BRI Global Partnership Program](#)
- [Web3 and Blockchain World Conference](#)

For all inquires, please email [douglas@blockchainresearchinstitute.org](mailto:douglas@blockchainresearchinstitute.org)