



Press release
Geneva, 22 January 2019

Great success of the Geneva Annual Blockchain Congress organised by Palexpo SA in close collaboration with the canton of Geneva. More than 550 delegates attended the first congress of this kind and explored the immense potential of blockchain technology applications in view of the remaining challenges to be addressed.

“Blockchain is not about unregulated financial services. It is about inspiring trust and supporting the banking sector build the next-generation capital markets infrastructure.” Patrick Odier

Patrick Odier, a major Swiss figure of finance and philanthropy launched this one day event dedicated to blockchain technology. An opportunity to share experiences but also to promote Switzerland and Geneva visionary approach to such a revolutionary technology.

Geneva, the new hub for blockchain

The signature of an agreement to create additional interconnected Blockchain Centers of Excellence in Geneva and Buenos Aires was announced at the Geneva Annual Blockchain Congress by Don Tapscott and Carlos Moreira, fast-tracking Geneva at the forefront of digital innovation.

Carlos Moreira, WISeKey’s CEO&Founder, noted: *“The creation of Blockchain Centers of Excellence represents an important step to overcome the tremendous trust deficiency we currently live with and represents an unprecedented effort in fostering stronger collaboration between the public, private and academic sectors for the adoption of latest technological blockchain standards in a safe and trusted manner.”*

Don Tapscott, Founder and Executive Chairman of the Blockchain Research Institute, noted: *“Blockchain represents the second era of the Internet – from an Internet of Information to an Internet of Value. We at the BRI are delighted that the Blockchain Centers of Excellence initiative will help the world get access to and take advantage of our work.”*

Aimed at leaders of the private and public sectors and international organisations, the conference was organised into three sessions based on four fields of activity: identity and e-governments, FinTechs, education, and raw material sourcing and the supply chain. The afternoon discussions highlighted the great opportunities but also the challenges in terms of regulatory, budgetary and ethical issues and clearly identified the need for new sets of skills and business models.

It came out that Geneva and Switzerland offer a unique platform thanks to the extent of its economic ecosystem and the quality of work being carried out by academic researchers and start-ups, not to mention the support and involvement of the public authorities. A point view shared by Pierre Maudet, State Counsellor: *"I am convinced that blockchain is much more than a new technology, it is a major issue for our society, our democracy and liberal economy."*

The next year meeting will take place on January 20, 2020.

[Practical info available on the website.](#)

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