

significant influence. Is this a factor to watch out for in 2020 – or should we even care?

Arthur: Yes, we care – a lot. The various adjustments on the legal and regulatory side will be the main thing that enable institutionals to embrace, first opportunistically and then later systematically, the benefits of the crypto asset market.

And despite the prolonged crypto winter, we see a crypto summer of innovations, be it on the technology side (think Ethereum 2) or on the regulatory front (think FATF and Travel Rule). And I am proud to say that we have been very timely in developing a new service offering for ETH2 staking for all our clients and proposed a comprehensive open source solution regarding the missing “Crypto-SWIFT” via the OpenVasp.org initiative. So on several fronts, we see the advancements that will bring more and more interest from institutions.

Two decades after the new millennium, we have seen many monumental changes in society, business and beyond. What part will crypto play in the next decade or two?

Arthur: The price/performance improvement of technology will continue to accelerate. And the world is moving towards the better, contrary to what media would have us believe. The rapidly growing abundance in major areas of our life (energy, water, food) will allow us to fundamentally re-write the social contract between humans and soon, between men and machine as well! But of course, this great journey towards the better will not be without some turbulences in the interim. And as long as humans are cut out of the same mould, it will probably never be different.

When I was born, three billion people lived on this planet. Two billion were living in so-called extreme poverty. Today, we have over seven billion people and the number of people living in extreme poverty is well under one billion. And this trend will not stop. Assuming further progress, extreme poverty can soon be put in the museum, as Professor Yunus (Noble Peace Prize winner from Bangladesh) phrased it. Now, couple that with the ever-increasing connectivity of people and you cannot but assume massive innovation beyond imagination. But to just wait for the better is not an option. Because luck meets the prepared. A constant call to action is required. Our clients and partners can count on us.

Niklas: More than most people think. After centuries of a financial and also societal system built on representatives, internal ledgers and central trusted parties – consensus systems, open ledgers and decentralized systems will have a huge impact on almost everything.

There are many diverse schools of thought on crypto assets – and a good many myths. Are there some main myths that we should be aware of and which should be “debunked?”

Niklas: Yes – crypto assets were not invented, nor propagated for the purpose of dark markets and shady business. Quite the opposite, they are here to replace and improve upon the essentially intransparent, inefficient and flawed system of centralized trust and centralized or delegated control – which tends to benefit the few and not the many.

Arthur: A myth? “Bitcoin has no intrinsic value!” To still hear this from

reasonably well-educated people surprises me quite a bit. Yet another myth? Satoshi Nakamoto.

What has Switzerland done right so far concerning cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology? Where do you feel there is room for improvement?

Arthur: Politics matter. And in Switzerland we are privileged to have a rather decentralized, bottom-up political system. And the icing on the cake: our top executive body, the Federal Council, shines with a very innovative attitude towards the many possibilities of this new technology. This is quite unique in the world and one of the success factors of this small country with such a global reach in many of the most innovative fields.

Niklas: Yes. I have never seen anything, perhaps except the Mona Lisa, which could not be improved upon, and for that reason, I do not feel that it would be appropriate to use this space to list criticism.

When I reviewed various jurisdictions, trying to choose a place for my future Bitcoin company some 9 years ago, Switzerland came out on top. I feel to this day that this was the right decision and I can only praise the Swiss jurisdiction as a place to do business, in crypto or otherwise.