RGC Ref. No.:
UGC/IIDS16/E01/21
(please insert ref. above)

## RESEARCH GRANTS COUNCIL COMPETITIVE RESEARCH FUNDING SCHEMES FOR THE LOCAL SELF-FINANCING DEGREE SECTOR

### INTER-INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT SCHEME (IIDS)

### **Completion Report**

(for completed projects only)

### **Submission Deadlines:**

- 1. The unspent balance, if applicable, and auditor's report: within <u>six</u> months of the approved project completion date.
- 2. Completion report: within <u>12</u> months of the approved project completion date.

### **Part A:** The Project and Investigator(s)

### 1. Project Title

Digital Revolution Blockchain Technology for facilitating trusted data exchange for

Jewellery Industry

# 2. Investigator(s) and Academic Department(s) / Unit(s) Involved

Research Team	Name / Post	Unit / Department / Institution
Principal Investigator	Dr TANG Fanny Wai-fan/ Assistant Professor	Department of Science, School of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Co-Principal Investigator(s)	Dr LI Jimmy Chi-ho/ Assistant Professor	Department of Science, School of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
	Dr HO To-sum/ Associate Professor	Department of Supply Chain and Information Management, School of Decision Sciences, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
Co- Investigator(s)	Dr MAK Shu-lun/ Honorary Assistant Professor	Department of Science, School of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
	Dr. WU Jack Chun-ho/ Assistant Professor	Department of Supply Chain and Information Management, School of Decision Sciences, The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong
	Dr CHIU Winnie Wai-hang/ Lecturer	Department of Science, School of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Metropolitan University

IIDS8 (Oct 2019)

	Ms. KWOK Celia Sze-nga/ Assistant Lecturer	Department of Science, School of Science and Technology, Hong Kong Metropolitan University
Others		

# 3. Project Duration

	Original	Revised	Date of RGC / Institution Approval (must be quoted)
Project Start Date	1 January 2022		
Project Completion Date	31 December 2022	31 March 2023	28 April 2022
Duration (in month)	12 months	15 months	28 April 2022
Deadline for Submission of Completion Report	31 December 2023	31 March 2024	28 April 2022

4.4 Please attach photo(s) of acknowledgement of RGC-funded activities.



Figure 1- First seminar (30 June2022)



Figure 2- Second seminar (30 September 2022)



Figure 3 - Third seminar (11 November 2022)



Figure 4- Fourth seminar (13 January 2023)



Figure 5- International Symposium (3 March 2023)

### **Part B: The Final Report**

# 5. Collaboration with Other Self-Financing Degree-Awarding Institutions

	Name of Institution(s)	% of Participation	Distinctive Element(s) of the Institution in Responsible Project
Applying Institution	Hong Kong Metropolitan University	90%	<ul> <li>Organize and arrange the project events</li> <li>Act as a bridge to link up different collaborative and interested parties</li> <li>Invite students, academics and industrialists to join the events</li> </ul>
Collaborating Institution(s) (If any)#	The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong	10%	<ul> <li>Act as a bridge to link up different collaborative and interested parties</li> <li>Invite students, academics and industrialists to join the events</li> </ul>
Total:		100%	

If no other eligible local self-financing degree-awarding institutions are involved, please input "N/A" in this table.

### 6. Project Objectives

- 6.1 Objectives as per original application
  - 1. To organise research seminars for consumers, scholars, industrial practitioners and professional institutions in order to provide insight and broaden the knowledge on the of blockchain evolution, gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity, evolving supply chain management for the jewellery industry and the transformation to Industry 4.0.
  - 2. To organise an international symposium as a collaboration platform for sharing ideas and knowledge for of blockchain evolution, gemmological science, smart design and visualization, and jewellery authenticity, evolving supply chain management for the jewellery industry and the transformation to Industry 4.0, and publish the selected papers.

### 6.2 Revised objectives

Date of approval from the RGC:	N/A
Reasons for the change:	N/A

6.3 Realisation of the objectives

(Maximum 1 page; please state how and to what extent the project objectives have been achieved; give reasons for under-achievements and outline attempts to overcome problems, if any)

a) The first objective is to provide a learning platform to the relevant stakeholders for enhancing their technical knowledges and gain more knowledge and development skills through seminars. Project team has successfully organised four seminars to invite prominent local and overseas scholars to speak the following major topics.

First seminar: The latest blockchain technology and platform development

Date of event: 30 June 2022

**Second seminar**: Gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity technology

Date of event: 30 September 2022

**Third seminar**: Supply chain management and industry initiatives for jewellery industry Date of event: 11 November 2022

**Fourth seminar**: Machine learning, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0 of jewellery industry

Date of event: 3 January 2023

b) The second objective is to organise an international symposium as a collaboration platform for sharing ideas and knowledge for of blockchain evolution, gemmological science, smart design and visualization, and jewellery authenticity, evolving supply chain management for the jewellery industry and the transformation to Industry 4.0, and publish the selected papers.

Project team has successfully organised an international symposium on 3 March 2023 and the main theme is "Blockchain Technology and Digitization for Industrial and Professional Economy". Oversea and local speakers are invited for sharing the following topics.

- The Application and Future Trends of Technology In Jewellery Industry
- Traceability and Transparency on gemstone Testing
- Building Supply Chain Resiliency with Digitalisation for Practitioners and Policy Makers
- Knowledge Exchange between Academic and Professional Communities
- Blockchain and Artificial Intelligence Solutions for Enterprise and Professional Communities

A conference paper was published in the following conference proceedings.

W.F. Tang\*, C.H. Li, S.L. Mak. (2023). 'Enhancing Data Exchange Trust in the Jewellery Industry with Blockchain Technology'. World Conference on Smart Trends in Systems, Security & Sustainability, Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems book series, Springer

# 6.4 Summary of objectives addressed to date

Objectives			Addressed (please tick)	Percentage Achieved (please estimate)
	1.	To organise research seminars for consumers, scholars, industrial practitioners and professional institutions in order to provide insight and broaden the knowledge on the of blockchain evolution, gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity, evolving supply chain management for the jewellery industry and the transformation to Industry 4.0.	<b>√</b>	100%
	2.	To organise an international symposium as a collaboration platform for sharing ideas and knowledge for of blockchain evolution, gemmological science, smart design and visualization, and jewellery authenticity, evolving supply chain management for the jewellery industry and the transformation to Industry 4.0, and publish the selected papers.	<b>√</b>	100%

# 6.5 Project progress

Original Implementation Schedule	Revised Implementation Schedule (Date of RGC's Approval)	Updated Progress
First seminar: The latest blockchain technology and platform development	N/A	Completed (30 Jun 2022)
Second seminar: Gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity technology	N/A	Completed (30 Sep 2022)

Third seminar: Supply chain management and industry initiatives for jewellery industry	N/A	Completed (11 Nov 2022)
Fourth seminar: Machine learning, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0 of jewellery industry	N/A	Completed (13 Jan 2023)
International Symposium on Blockchain Technology and Digitization for Industrial and Professional Economy	N/A	Completed (3 Mar 2023)

# 6.6 Speaker(s)

Title / Name (Surname in Capital Letters)	Post / Institution	Title / Topic of Presentation / Course	Previous Research Links with Hong Kong Institutions (Nature and Date (Month / Year))
Dr. Lore KIEFERT	Founder, Gemmology Consulting (Germany)	The Impact of Blockchain Technologies on Gemstone Testing	N/A
		Traceability and Transparency on Gemstone Testing	
Professor Kim Hua TAN	Professor, Nottingham University Business School	Case Study on the Enhancement of Transparency and Compliance: Blockchain Adoption to Empower Ugandan Small Holder Hot Pepper Farmers  Building Supply Chain Resiliency with Digitalisation for Practitioners and Policy Makers	N/A

	T	Т	T
Dr. Colin LEE	Founder, Digital Buildrise and Digital Awakens NFT VC. General Partner, Venus Global Opportunities LFP Chairmen, Blockchain Industrial Analysis Association. Founder, Blockchain Industry Analyst Association	A Sharing the Blockchain in Customs and Jewellery Industry	N/A
Dr. Daniel NYFELER	Managing Director of Gübelin Gem Lab	Provenance Proof Blockchain, the industry standard fortracking gemstones from the mine to the final customer	N/A
Dr. Dominic MOK	DBA, MSc, FGA, FGAA, DGA,AGA (Expert) Founder & Laboratory Limited (AGIL) Expert Gemmologist	Brief Review of Advanced Gem Testing Technology in Hong Kong	N/A
Dr. Wafaa AHMED	Assistant Professor in Information Systems Department of Operations Management and Information Systems Nottingham University Business School University of Nottingham	Blockchain Technology Applications for Supply Chain Traceability	N/A
Dr. Harry CHOW	Principal consultant of Vantis Solutions Limited	Application cases sharing of digital twin and metaverse for manufacturing and retailing	N/A

	T	1	T / .
Professor Asim TEWARI	Professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, faculty member of the Center for Machine Intelligence and data Science (C-MlnDS), The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai	The convergence of Engineering and Machine Learning: A new paradigm in jewellery industry	N/A
Mr. Keith KWOK	Senior Project Manager (IT Dept), Ka Shui International Holdings Limited, HKSAR, China	Industry 4.0 and the impacts of IIoT in the manufacturing industry	N/A
Mr. Danny CHAU	Managing Director, Front Top Jewelry Manufacturing Limited	The Application and Future Trends of Technology in Jewellery Industry	N/A
Dr. Anne O' GRADY	Principal Lecturer, Continuing Professional Education,Nottingham Institute of Education	Knowledge Exchange between Academic and Professional Communities	N/A
Dr. Verity AIKEN	Senior Lecturer in Education, Nottingham Trent University	The role of the Professional Doctorate for Professional Communities	N/A
Mr. Kevin KAM	Chief Technology Officer, Pivotal Technologies Limited	The Application of Blockchain and AI in Wine Trading Industry	N/A

6.7 Please provide details of the activities organized, including the theme / objectives of the activities, targeted participants, attendance, analysis of participants, e.g. country of origin, research background, etc., evaluation forms of the activities and a summary of the participants' evaluation. Photos of the activities are preferred.)

A series of four seminars and an international symposium were organized with the main theme of "Digital Revolution Blockchain Technology for facilitating trusted data exchange for Jewellery Industry". The events acted as a platform for the experts to share their experiences and to broaden the knowledge of blockchain technology applied in jewellery industry. There were over 400 participants in the five events. The content shared in the events were great resources to all the participants, including the invited speakers who come from different countries (such as the Switzerland, Germany, United Kingdom, India and Hong Kong). It also benefited other attendees with related academic backgrounds and industrial backgrounds. During the panel discussions at the end of each event, there were noteworthy exchanges of ideas between the experts with different specialties. The following table shows the participants in each event.

Event	Date	Speakers	Number of participants
First seminar: The latest blockchain technology and platform development	30 Jun 2022	Dr Lore KIEFERT  Prof Kim Hua TAN  Dr Colin LEE Chi-Kin	68
Second seminar: Gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity technology	30 Sep 2022	Dr Daniel NYFELER  Dr Dominic MOK	71
Third seminar: Supply chain management and industry initiatives for jewellery industry	11 Nov 2022	Dr Wafaa AHMED Dr Harry CHOW	70
Fourth seminar: Machine learning, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0 of jewellery industry	13 Jan 2023	Mr Keith KWOK Professor Asim TEWARI	47
International Symposium on Blockchain Technology and Digitization for Industrial and Professional Economy	3 Mar 2023	Mr. Danny CHAU  Dr Lore KIEFERT  Prof Kim Hua TAN  Dr Anne O' GRADY	178

	Dr Verity AIKEN	
	Mr. Kevin KAM	

The events received positive feedback from the participants, which was reflected in the results of the evaluation survey. An evaluation questionnaire consisting of 11 questions was distributed to the participants for them to provide feedback on the events. All of the participants stated that they were satisfied or very satisfied with the activities and the performance of the speakers, as well as the overall evaluation. The participants also found the events were well organized with suitable duration while meeting their expectations. The average score of likeliness to meet the expectations was 4.12 out of 5. Besides, the participants considered the events useful or extremely useful as they agreed the activities helped learning new information. They also reckoned that they would recommend the events to their friends or colleagues as reflected in the average score of 4.14 out of 5 for the likeliness to recommend the events. Overall, all of the participants would like to attend more related events with improvements on longer presentation time and more demonstration on gemstone testing. Some photos from the events and the summary of the responses to the questionnaire are shown below.

First seminar – The Latest Blockchain Technology and Platform Development was held on 30 June 2022 at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. There were 68 participants joining this event through online meeting platform.



Speakers



Speakers' biography



Presentation by Dr. Lore Kiefert



Topic: The Impact of Blockchain Technologies on Gemstone Testing



Presentation by Professor Kim Hua TAN

Topic: Case Study on the Enhancement of Transparency and Compliance: Blockchain Adoption to Empower Ugandan Small Holder Hot Pepper Farmers



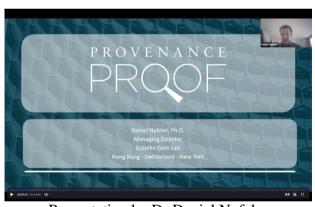


Presentation by Dr. Collin Lee Topic: A Sharing the Blockchain in Customs and Jewellery Industry

Second seminar – Gemmological science, smart design and visualization, jewellery authenticity technology was held on 30 September 2022 at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. There were 71 participants joining this event through online meeting platform.



Speakers



Presentation by Dr Daniel Nyfeler



Presentation by Dr. Dominic Mok



Speakers' biography



Topic: Provenance Proof Blockchain, the Industry Standard for Tracking Gemstones from the Mine to the Final Customers



Topic: Brief Review on Advanced Gem Testing Technology in Hong Kong

Third seminar – Supply chain management and industry initiatives for jewellery industry was held on 11 November 2022 at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. There were 70 participants joining this event through online meeting platform.



Speakers



Presentation by Dr. Wafaa Ahmed



Presentation by Dr. Henry Chow



Speakers' biography



Topic: Blockchain Technology Applications for Supply Chain Traceability



Topic: Application Cases Sharing on Digital Twin and Metaverse for Manufacturing and Retailing

Fourth seminar – Machine learning, artificial intelligence and Industry 4.0 of jewellery industry was held on 13 January 2023 at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. There were 47 participants joining this event through online meeting platform.



Speakers



Speakers' biography



Presentation by Professor Asim Tewarl



Presentation by Mr. Keith Kwok



Topic: The Convergence of Engineering and Machine Learning: A New Paradigm in Jewellery Industry



Topic: Industry 4.0 and the Impacts of IIoT in the Manufacturing Industry

International Symposium – Blockchain Technology and Digitization for Industrial and Professional Economy was held on 3 March 2023 at the Hong Kong Metropolitan University. There were 178 participants in injury this event through foca to foca and online meeting platform.

participants joining this event through face-to-face and online meeting platform



The invited speakers of the symposium



The conference rundown



Presentation by Mr. Danny Chau



Topic: The Application and Future Trends of Technology in Jewellery Industry



Presentation by Dr. Lore Kiefert



Topic: Tracebility and Transparency on Gemstone Testing



Presentation by Professor Kim Hua Tan



Topic: Building Supply Chain Resiliency with Digitalization: Recommendations for Practitioners and Policy Makers



Presentation by Dr. Anne O' Grady



Topic: Knowledge Exchange between Academic and Professional Communities



Presentation by Dr Verity Aiken



Topic: The Role of Professional Doctorate for Professional Communities



Presentation by Mr. Kevin Kam



Topic: The Application of Blockchain and AI in Wine Trading Industry



Group photos with the speakers



Panel Discussion

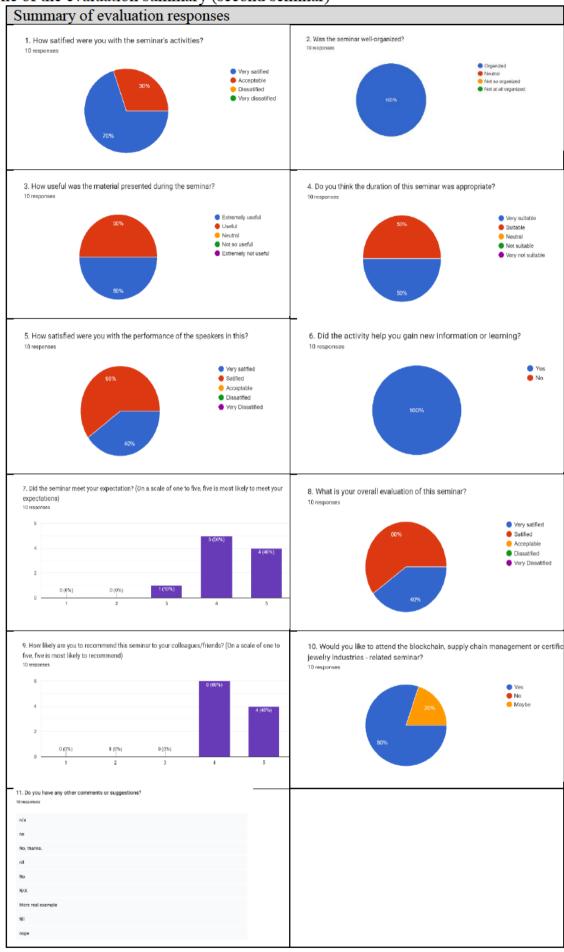


Participants of the symposium



The participants were impressed by the speakers' sharing

One of the evaluation summary (second seminar)



#### 7. Research-Related Outcome

- 7.1 Potential for development into research proposal and the proposed course of action (*Maximum half a page*)
  - (submitted research proposal or proposed action)
    - The advanced gemstone testing techniques learnt from the speakers were included in the course TCS332F Material Characterization and Testing.
    - The project team has also published a conference paper in 2023.
       W.F. Tang\*, C.H. Li, S.L. Mak. (2023). 'Enhancing Data Exchange Trust in the Jewellery Industry with Blockchain Technology'. World Conference on Smart Trends in Systems, Security & Sustainability, Lecture Notes in Networks and Systems book series, Springer
- 7.2 Research collaboration achieved

(Please give details on the achievement and its relevant impact)

The events attracted participants of different background including the experts from academia and the professional practitioners in the industry. The events have also drawn attention and encouragement from the supporting organizations including:

- The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Control, Automation & Instrumentation Division
- The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Manufacturing, Industrial & Systems (MIS) Division (HKIE-MIS)
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) Hong Kong
- The Institute of Measurement and Control (InstMC) (Hong Kong Branch)
- The Institution of Engineering and Technology
- The Hong Kong Institution of Measurement and Automation
- Measurement Control Technology and Equipment Application Promotion Association of Guangdong Province
- HKIE Control, Automation & Instrumentation Division;
- HKIE Manufacturing, Industrial & Systems Division; and
- Institute of Measurement and Control
- Asia Pacific Gemmologist Society;
- Asian Gemmological Institute & Laboratory Limited;
- 7.3 Any new development and/or challenging research topic(s) has / have been identified and any new initiative(s) for future research has / have been inspired.

(new initiatives for future research)

There were several speakers share the importance of digital twin technology in gemstone industry. The project team was inspired by the digital twin technology which can reduce waste, carbon emissions, and makes things more energy efficient in construction industry. Digital twin technology offers a three-dimensional virtual clone of a data centre, allowing for the simulation of its functioning under various settings or conditions. It can be used to verify that the installed equipment meets the necessary storage capacity and that cooling systems operate with optimal efficiency. Engineers may use a digital twin, together with real-time data on power usage and temperature, to compare and analyse the anticipated and observed performance of a data centre. This may not only aid in decreasing energy usage, but it can also forecast the consequences of any suggested modifications on power distribution and space utilisation. It assists facility managers in extracting data from

separate information repositories to get a comprehensive view, which includes the tangible effects on performance resulting from integrated alterations. Currently, our project team is conducting research works on energy efficiency and residential plumbing systems for building property management. The project team will conduct a thorough investigation to determine the viability of using this innovative technology in order to improve energy efficiency and decrease carbon emissions in the property management and construction industry.

### 8. The Layman's Summary

(Describe <u>in layman's language</u> the nature, significance and value of the research activities, in no more than 200 words)

The project aimed to establish and enhance collaboration among institutions in Hong Kong regarding the development of blockchain technology for jewellery industry in order to improve the competitiveness of the jewellery industry in Hong Kong. The collaborating institutions, Hong Kong Metropolitan University and The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, invited experts to share their experiences, innovative techniques, and perspectives on the potential of blockchain and digital twin technology for the jewellery industry.

Four seminars and an international symposium were organised, focusing on the topic of "Digital Revolution Blockchain Technology for facilitating trusted data exchange for the Jewellery Industry." The events served as a forum for specialists to exchange their experiences and expand their understanding of the use of blockchain technology in the jewellery industry. The events included speakers from a diverse variety of backgrounds, including local and international speakers from Switzerland, Germany, the United Kingdom, India, and Hong Kong. In addition to academic specialists, professionals from the industry were also invited to explain the current practices of blockchain technology and supply chain management. The events presented novel concepts backed by empirical evidence, which the attendees found enlightening and valuable for their future work.

### **Part C: Research Output**

# 9. Recognized Conference(s) Paper(s) Related To This Project Was / Were Delivered (As Applicable)

(Please attach a copy of each conference abstract)

Month / Year / Place	Title	Conference Name	Submitted to RGC (indicate the year ending of the relevant progress report)	Attached to this Report (Yes or No)	Acknowledged the Support of RGC (Yes or No)
July 2023	Enhancing Data Exchange Trust in the Jewellery Industry with Blockchain Technology	World Conference on Smart Trends in Systems, Security & Sustainability	No	Yes [Attachment]	Yes

### 10. Research Personnel Trained (As Applicable)

Name	Capacity

### 11. Other Impact (As Applicable)

(e.g. prizes, collaboration with other research institutions, technology transfer, etc.)

The project team has successfully collaborated with The Hang Seng University of Hong Kong to submit a new IIDS proposal (2024/2025) proposing the use of digital twins in structures and construction, which introduces a novel concept. The project is titled "Navigating Applied Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the Digital Era: How Smart Buildings Become the Key to Sustainability."

### 12. Statistics on Research Outputs

	Peer-reviewed Journal Publications	Conference Papers	Scholarly Books, Monographs and Chapters	Patents Awarded	Other Rese Output (please spe	S
No. of outputs arising directly from this project	N/A	1	N/A	N/A	Type	No.

### 13. Public Access Of Completion Report

(Please specify the information, if any, that cannot be provided for public access and give the reasons.)

Information that Cannot Be Provided for Public Access	Reasons
N/A	N/A