

2019 Global Supertrends Conference Post Event Summary



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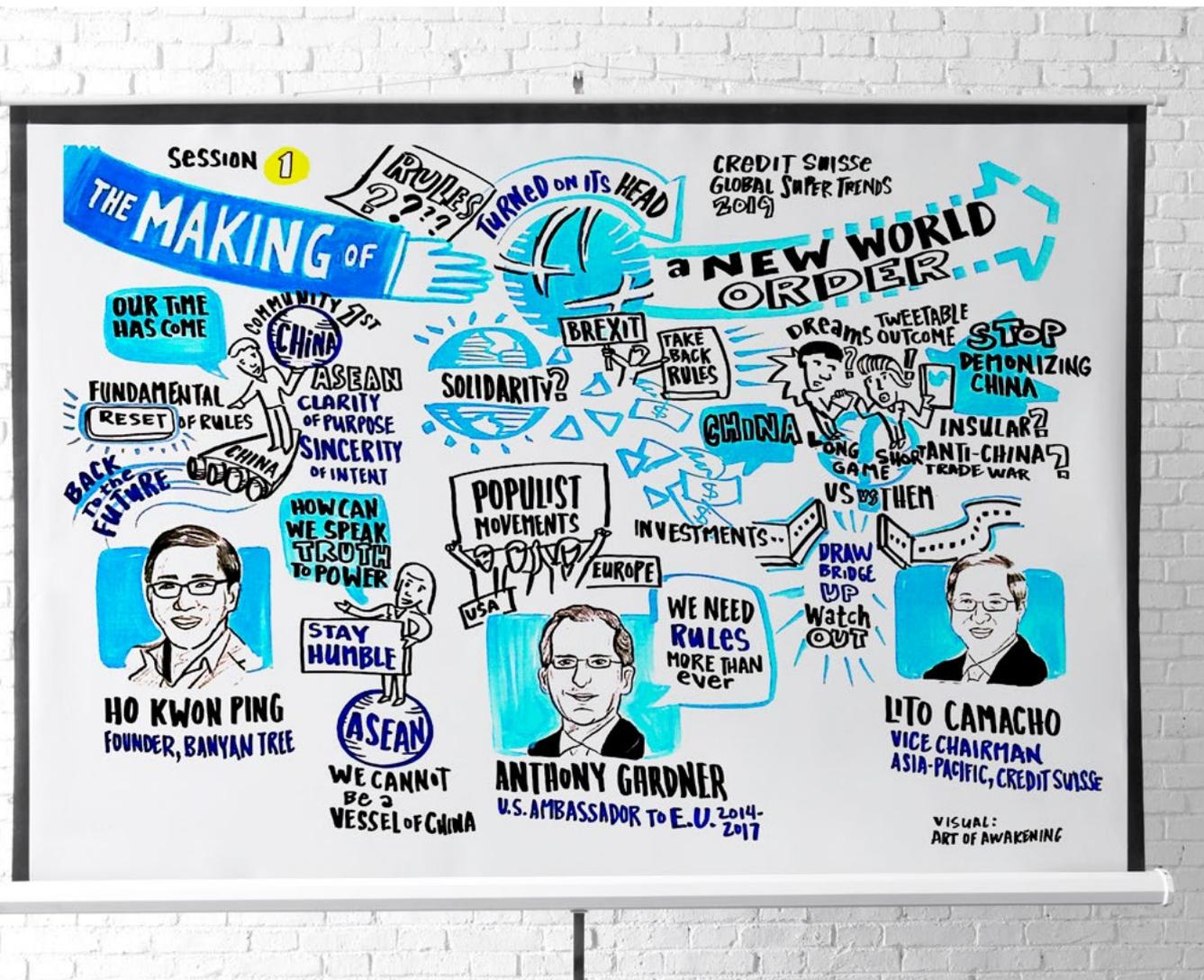
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Closing keynote

CNBC's Managing Asia
@ Global Supertrends Conference

The making of a new world order

Ho Kwon Ping, Executive Chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings and Laguna Resorts and Hotels and Anthony Gardner, former United States Ambassador to the European Union, try to make sense of a changing world order.



Many established conventions of geopolitics have been upended in recent years due to the emergence of societies around the world that are angry at being left behind by globalization and technological progress. The election of American President Donald Trump and the Brexit vote in the United Kingdom (UK) are just two high-profile symptoms of this dynamic.

Bringing two very different perspectives to this supertrend in the opening keynote session were Ho Kwon Ping, Executive Chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings and Anthony Gardner, former United States Ambassador to the European Union.

In a passionate address, Mr. Ho said that the current tensions between the US and China are not only about trade or even geopolitical rivalry, but rather an entire paradigm shift in civilizational relationships that has not happened in the last 300 years since the ascendancy of Western civilization.

“China wants to be a player in the game and does not accept the rules of the game as set by the Western world,” he said. Although many politicians in the United States view China as an existential threat to American dominance, he believed that this clash of civilizations does not have to be a winner-take-all situation.

“The world should accept the ascendancy of China, embrace it, make sure we minimize some of its more outrageous behavior, but at the same time integrate China into a new world order in which it plays a great role,” said Mr. Ho.

As for how the rest of the region should view China’s rise, he argued that it would be very dangerous for rest of Asia to demonize China, or, at the other end of the spectrum, become one of its “vassal” states.

Ambassador Gardner said that in dealing with China, rules are needed more than ever before. “We should be able to manage our differences properly. We need rules, not military power, to help manage the rise of China, and to manage the inevitable decline of the United States,” said the former U.S. Ambassador to the European Union.

Rise of Populism in Europe

Ambassador Gardner also discussed the rise of populism in Europe as exemplified by Brexit and the success of far-right political parties on the continent. “Populist movements have moved from margins to mainstream. Globalization is going in reverse. Trade tensions have flared up and these have serious consequences for investors,” he said.

One new feature of today’s populism is the increasing number of democracies that are choosing nationalist leaders. “Mainstream political parties in Europe are fraying. It will be hard to maintain solidarity among EU members because of populism,” said Ambassador Gardner.

On Brexit, he said that the decision by the UK to leave the European Union (EU) has had a negative impact on the British economy over the past three years. In particular, foreign direct investments have been declining, and companies are not committing to more investments in Britain, or have been shifting investments to the continent.

Significantly, he said that US has started treating the EU like a foe, which is a departure from 60 years of American foreign policy. Looking ahead, he believed that some deal will be struck between the UK and the EU over Brexit that will involve some form of customs arrangement.

From left to right

Ho Kwon Ping

Founder and Executive Chairman, Banyan Tree Holdings and Laguna Resorts and Hotels

Anthony Gardner

United States Ambassador to the European Union (2014-2017)

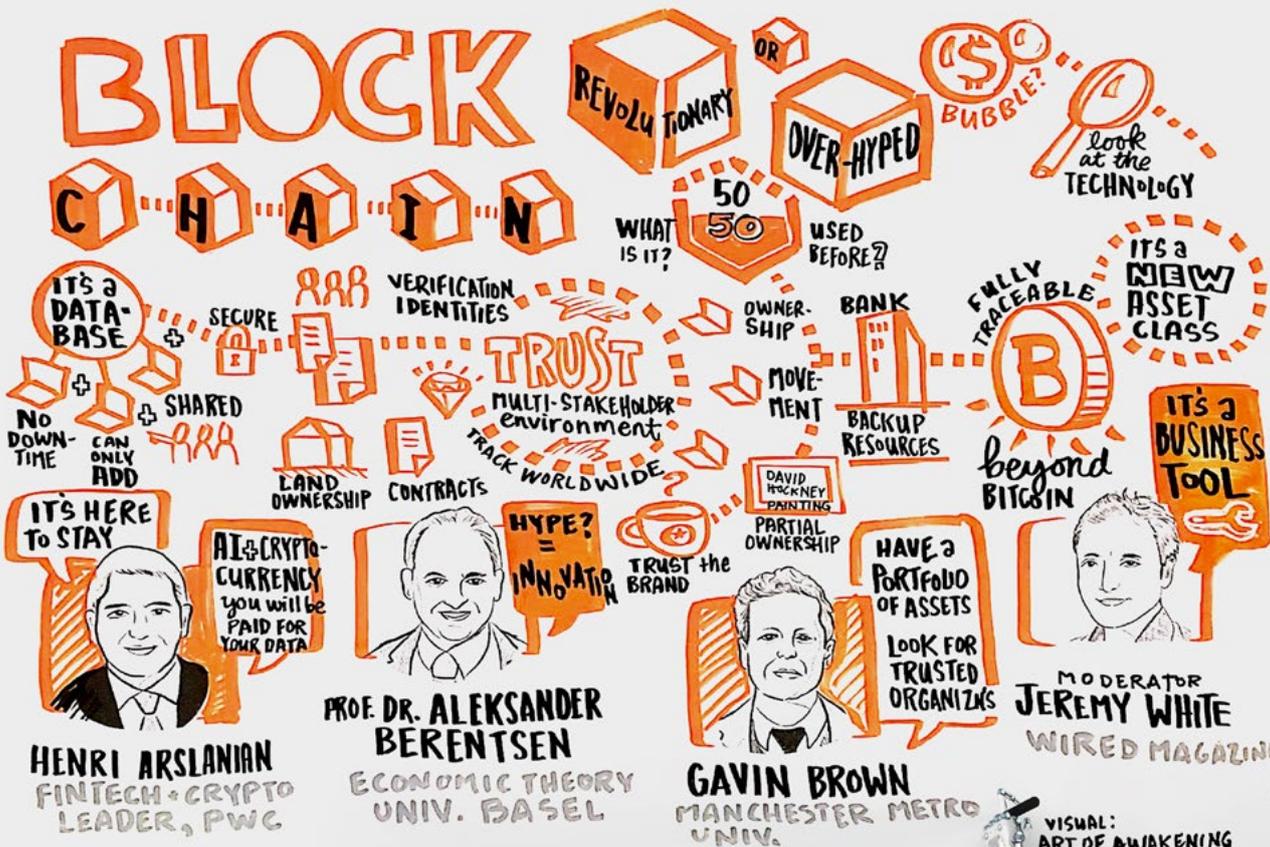
Moderator: Lito Camacho

Vice Chairman, Asia Pacific, Credit Suisse



Blockchain – Revolutionary or over-hyped?

Three experts argue that blockchain is a fundamental technological innovation that will have a significant impact on a wide range of sectors.



From left to right

Henri Arslanian

FinTech & Crypto Leader, Asia,
PricewaterhouseCoopers

Prof. Dr. Aleksander Berentsen

Professor, Economic Theory, and
Dean, Faculty of Business and
Economics, University of Basel

Gavin Brown

Associate Professor, Manchester
Metropolitan University; Co-Founder &
Director, Blockchain Capital Limited

Moderator: Jeremy White

Executive Editor, Wired Magazine



Within the technology supertrend, blockchain has been touted as a revolutionary innovation likened to the advent of the Internet 25 years ago. Yet, there are some who doubt blockchain's ability to live up to its hype. In this panel session, three experts on the subject argued that blockchain is a fundamental technological innovation that will have a significant impact on a wide range of sectors.

Professor Aleksander Berentsen said that blockchain applications have grown beyond their initial use instancing cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin, and are now being applied in industries such as shipping and logistics.

"In shipping there are many parties and they all need to trust each other. For example, whether a shipment of diamonds is really from South Africa. With blockchain, you can share the database and all the parties will have the same copy to track where that diamond came from and where it is going," he said.

The technology is also being used in the "tokenization" of assets, which will allow for a wide variety of assets – from buildings to art works – to be traded in small portions, making it more accessible to investors. However, he noted that blockchain is still at a very early stage of its development, and that public interest in the technology was sparked prematurely because of the hype over bitcoin.

Mr. Arslanian, an expert on cryptocurrencies, was bullish about blockchain's impact on financial services, and is seeing its use most recently in interbank transfers. He also sees applications for blockchain technology in the

legal sector, where smart contracts could be used to settle disputes. "This will be useful in countries where there is no rule of law or independent judiciary," he said.

When combined with other digital tools such as artificial intelligence (AI), blockchain would become exponentially more powerful, Mr. Arslanian added. In the future, users could be compensated for the data they share with companies online, with payments made using cryptocurrency and AI determining how much a person's data is worth.

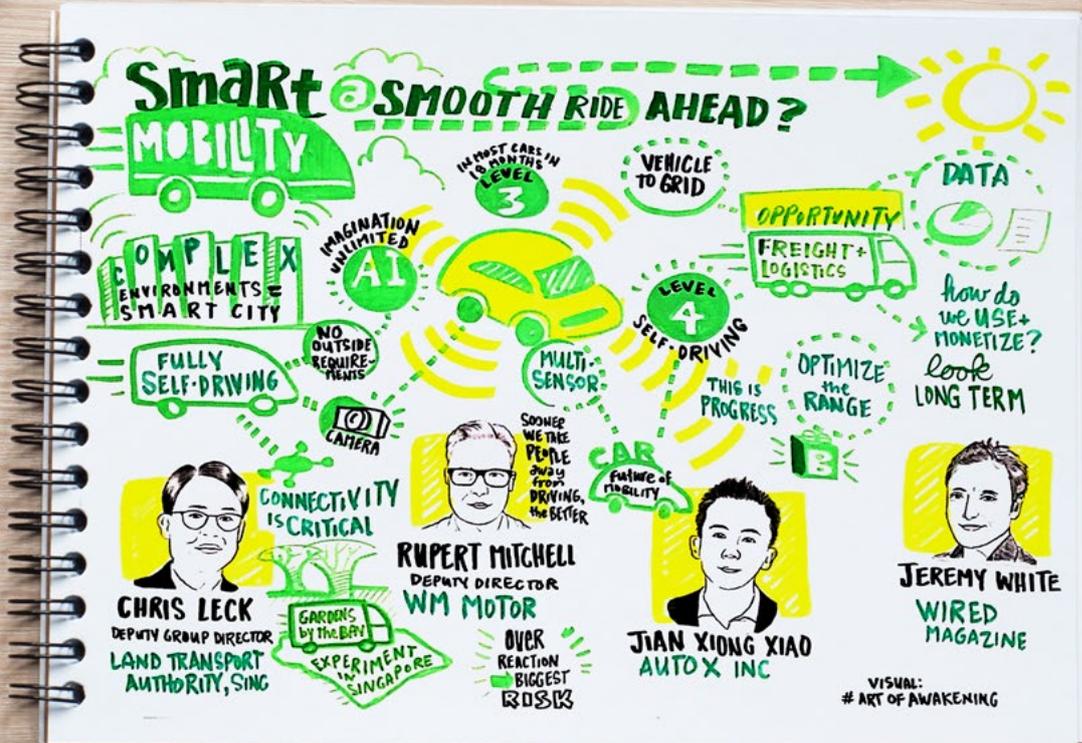
The third panelist, Associate Professor Brown, raised the prospect of multinational corporations (MNCs) with strong brands and loyal customer bases creating and transacting their own cryptocurrencies. The possibility that MNCs may do this is not "unreasonable" in the medium-term, especially at a time when global companies such as McDonald's have a higher credit rating than countries such as Ireland.

He noted that consumers would use a company's cryptocurrency only if they trusted the brand and the product. Starbucks, for instance, has over a billion dollars worth of assets on their balance sheet from customers who have purchased pre-paid cards because they trust the brand and are confident that they will be around for them to spend it.

One possible corporate cryptocurrency could come from social media giant Facebook, said Associate Professor Brown, who is reportedly developing its own digital currency, according to media reports.

Smart mobility – A smooth ride ahead?

The inevitable advent of self-driving cars and electric vehicles is explored in-depth at this panel session.



From left to right

Chris Leck

Deputy Group Director, Technology & Industry Development Group, Land Transport Authority of Singapore

Rupert Mitchell

Chief Strategy Officer, WM Motor

Jianxiong Xiao

Founder and CEO, AutoX Inc.

Moderator: Jeremy White

Executive Editor, Wired Magazine



Smart mobility solutions such as autonomous vehicles (AVs) and electric vehicles (EVs) are moving into the mainstream quickly and presenting new opportunities for long-term investors. On the AV front, the development of fully self-driving cars is in full-swing and should be on the roads in a matter of years.

Professor Xiao's company, AutoX, aims to democratize autonomy by making self-driving cars accessible across a range of applications in areas such as logistics and transportation. For instance, AutoX launched a grocery delivery pilot program in San Jose, California last year. Users can place orders using the company's mobile app on their mobile phones and have their purchases delivered to them by an AV.

"This kind of door-to-door package delivery within a city by self-driving cars is big application, could be bigger than trucking," he said. AutoX is also developing an artificial intelligence (AI) platform for AVs. He advised investors who wanted exposure to the AV sector to first look at the technology providers who are developing such core artificial intelligence platforms.

For EVs, Mr. Mitchell said that one interesting investment would be in companies working on grid and advanced battery technologies that are being used in such vehicles.

He noted that concerns over the range of EVs is not an issue in places like China, where such vehicles are designed to be used within a city.

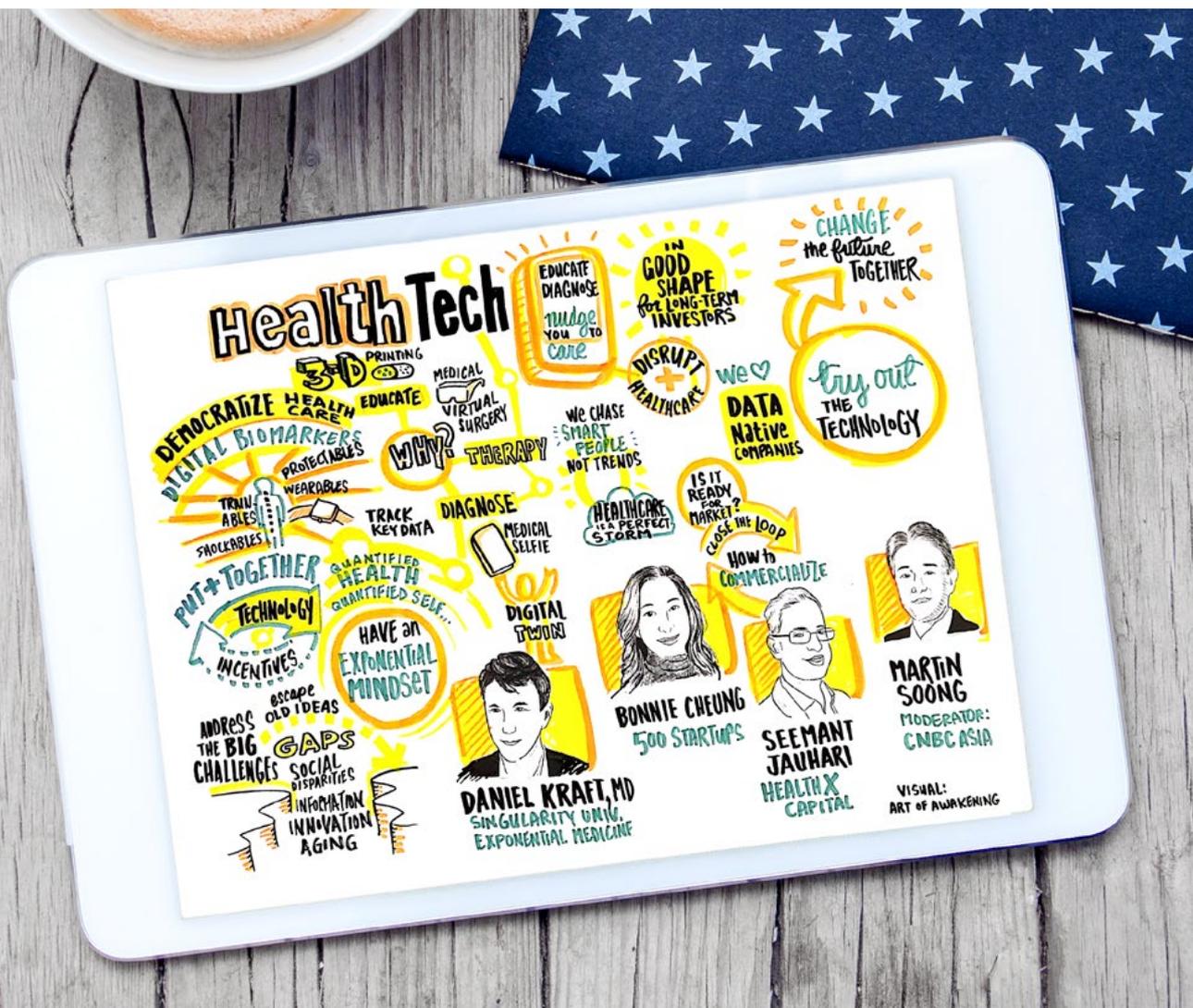
"In China, everyone is comfortable with EV's role as urban transportation. City-to-city transport is being solved by the high-speed rail network. So range anxiety is not a thing in China like it is in the US and Europe," he said.

As a regulator, Mr. Leck gave his perspective on implementing the infrastructure required to have AVs and EVs running on city roads. He pointed out that building charging stations for EVs for passenger cars is a challenge in a mature city like Singapore, where residential car parks are not designed to accommodate such infrastructure. Rather, the Singapore government is focusing on electrifying commercial fleets, such as buses, taxis and trucks.

For AVs, Singapore has been trialing self-driving cars in certain areas on the island for the past few years. However, he said that self-driving cars should not depend on external connectivity, such as sensors, to operate. "AVs should be able to operate safely based on their on-board systems. If connectivity is cut we can't have the vehicle going haywire," he said.

Healthtech – In good shape for long-term investors

Healthcare will never be the same again as tech-start-ups disrupt an entire industry. Medical and investment professionals dissect the healthtech sector.



The robust growth of the health technology (healthtech) market is disrupting the healthcare industry and presenting a host of opportunities for long-term investors. Dr. Kraft kicked off the showcase with an insightful presentation on the multitude of solutions and devices that were making an impact across the healthcare value chain – from prevention and diagnosis to therapy and treatment.

The growth of healthtech is being driven by more powerful mobile devices and wireless connectivity such as 5G technology. This is allowing for the development of applications in the area of patient data, telehealth and wellness, as well as consultation via smartphones and interconnected healthcare devices. “Smart devices are generating a lot of healthcare data and the opportunity is to connect data to make it actionable,” he said, highlighting Internet of Things (IoT) and 5G solutions as an exciting space for healthtech investments.

Some leading-edge solutions in the healthtech market today include “weighing scales” that use sensors to also measure body shape and fat mass, contact lenses that can track blood sugar, and “neural dust” that can track brain health. As these products are able to provide data in real-time, therapies can also be adjusted on a timely basis.

Investment Opportunities

Bringing in the investment aspect of healthtech, Ms. Cheung, venture partner of 500 Startups said that healthcare demand will outstrip GDP in Asia, with providers unable to keep up. As such the healthtech sector is poised for growth based on the current demand and supply dynamics in the region.

“The gadgets are ready, the internet connectivity is ready, and blockchain is going to revolutionize the ownership of data. So this is the perfect moment to leverage all the tools to disrupt the industry,” she said.

Mr. Jauhari added that there is growing innovation in the healthcare sector, but the challenge now is in attracting investors. “There is a lot of great innovation out there, but now it’s about closing the loop when it comes to addressing a need. How do we take these solutions to the people and create an impact? The trick lies in making it more investor-friendly and attractive.”

From left to right

Bonnie Cheung
Venture Partner, 500 Startups

Seemant Jauhari
Managing Partner, HealthXCapital

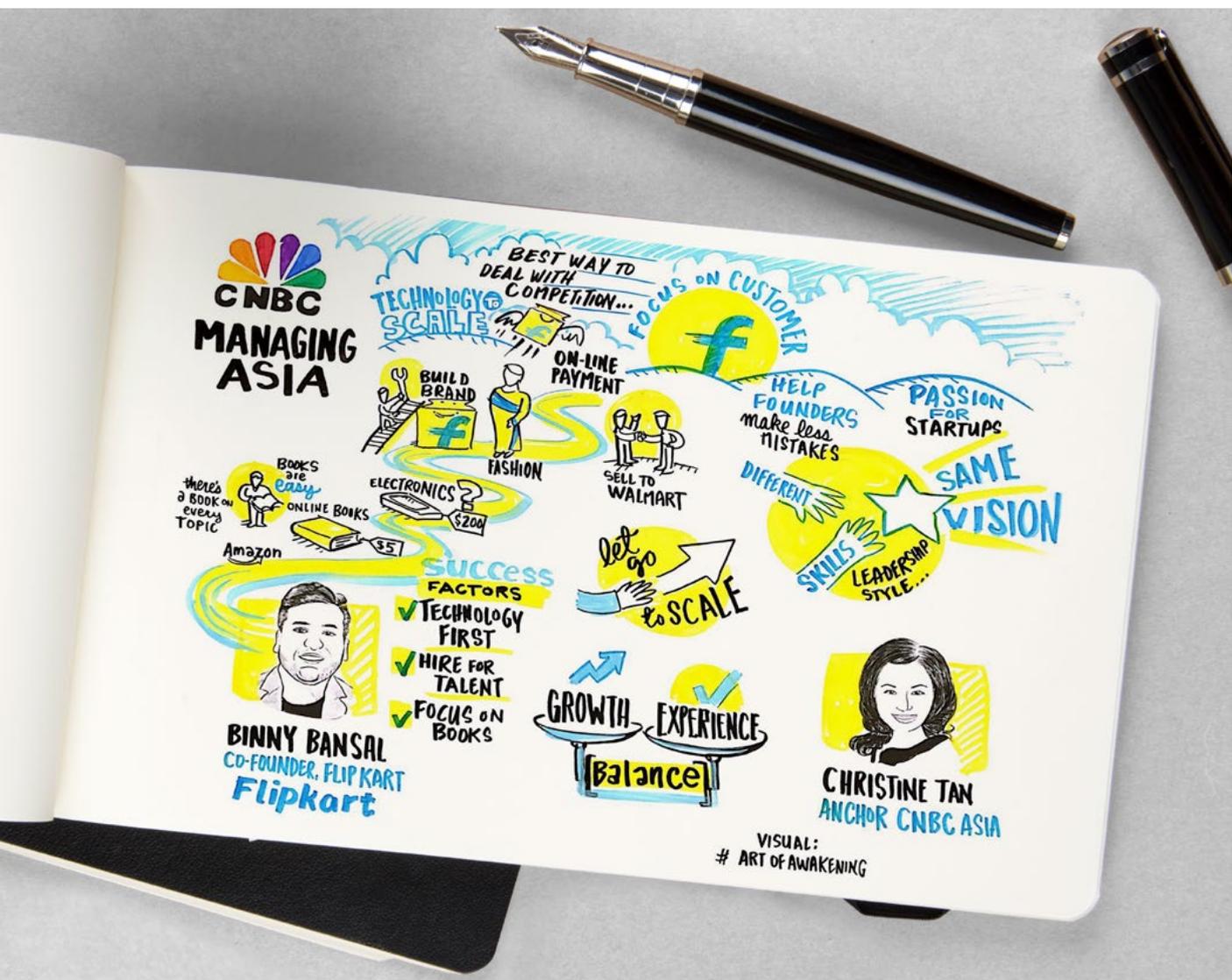
Dr. Daniel Kraft
MD, Physician-Scientist; Chair for
Medicine, Singularity University,
Founder & Chair, Exponential Medicine

Moderator: Martin Soong
Anchor, CNBC Asia



CNBC's Managing Asia @Global Supertrends Conference

Binny Bansal, Co-Founder of Flipkart, India's largest ecommerce group, talks about his secrets to success and his passion for helping other entrepreneurs.



In a live video interview for CNBC's Managing Asia program, CNBC anchor Christine Tan spoke with celebrated Indian entrepreneur Binny Bansal, Co-Founder of Flipkart, India's largest ecommerce group for the conference's closing keynote.

Together with Co-Founder Sachin, Mr. Bansal started Flipkart as an online bookstore in 2007, helping to lay the foundation for the ecommerce market in India. In May 2018, Walmart Inc. acquired a majority stake in Flipkart for US\$20 Billion.

In a wide ranging interview, Mr. Bansal touched on the success of Flipkart as well as the future of online retail in India, one of the world's fastest growing ecommerce markets. He attributed the success of Flipkart to three factors: Its initial focus on a single category (books); taking a technology-first approach in all aspects of the company's operations; and setting a high bar for talent. "You cannot scale if you don't have the right people," he said.

However, Flipkart has faced its share of setbacks, such as its initial efforts to sell electronics products on its ecommerce platform. "Our mistake was that we thought selling electronics would be like selling books. When it's

a book, it's cheap and people know exactly what they are getting, so they don't mind paying for it online," he explained. "But when it's an electronics product that can cost \$200 to \$300, then it becomes a challenge."

To overcome obstacles, Flipkart introduced a 30-day money back guarantee and allowed customers to pay on a cash-on-delivery basis. Sales of their electronics products surged by over 10 times following these moves, revealed Mr. Bansal.

He advised other start-up entrepreneurs to keep their focus on their customers even during times of high growth when other challenges may emerge. Today, Mr. Bansal's passion is to help other entrepreneurs and start-ups grow and succeed through his venture, xto10x Technologies. He said: "My vision is to help thousands of start-ups make less mistakes."

From left to right

Binny Bansal
Co-Founder, Flipkart

Moderator: Christine Tan
Anchor, CNBC Asia



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