GLOBAL STRATALOGUES

Venice Biennale Edition

Palazzo Pisani, Venice – May 16 - 18, 2025

Health & Longevity   **Blockchain & AI Policy**

Impact Finance   **Technology & Entertainment**

Hosted by Saudi Ministry of Culture at Venice Biennale

Partners:

Executive Summary

In the shadow of Venice's historic canals and palazzos, a remarkable delegation of global thinkers convened for the Global Stratalogues event at the Biennale Architettura. Over three days, policymakers, innovators, artists, and academics from the Gulf, Europe, Asia, and the Americas engaged in a series of four high-level roundtables. Their mission: to reimagine how technology, finance, culture, and design can converge to build a more inclusive and sustainable future. Each roundtable tackled a grand challenge of our time – from impact finance and entertainment to health & longevity and blockchain & AI – through a reflective, human-centered lens.

Across these dialogues, a unifying narrative emerged. Participants called for a paradigm shift in how we define progress: inclusion must become the default in design and policy, culture and technology must co-evolve, and innovation must serve humanity's deepest needs. The Venice gathering emphasized that solutions to global problems are as much cultural and philosophical as they are technical. As Giselle Alers, Chair of GESDC, noted, *"Venice reminded us that inclusion is not only technical—it is cultural.*

Just as AI must reflect our values, cities must reflect our shared humanity." This ethos of putting humanity first resonated through every discussion.

Key outcomes from the event included a recognition that profit and purpose can align in finance, that culture (as seen in the Korean entertainment wave) can be strategically globalized without losing its soul, that health innovations must be accessible to all, and that emerging technologies like blockchain and AI need careful stewardship to ensure they *augment* human welfare rather than replace it. The dialogues were not about finding easy answers but about asking the right questions together. From the Saudi architects designing inclusive future cities to the technologists safeguarding digital assets, all voices underscored a common strategic takeaway: the future of innovation depends on bridging divides – between past and future, between sectors, and most importantly, between people. As Oscar Wendel, the summit's chairman, reflected, *"The future of cities depends not only on how we build, but on how we connect across time, geography, and imagination."*

This report details the insights and stories from Venice in four thematic sections, each beginning with a brief summary. It distills emerging themes and strategic takeaways, presents profiles of the speakers, and acknowledges those who made the gathering possible. The setting of Venice – a city where timeless heritage meets modern innovation – served as more than a backdrop; it became a metaphor for the event's core message that by learning from our collective past and leveraging our shared innovations, we can design a future that is inclusive, sustainable, and profoundly human.

Health, Longevity & Accessibility

Jacqueline Winstanley (UK) – Founder & CEO, Universal Inclusion; Secretariat, UK Parliament's APPG for Disability. Jacqueline is a globally recognized advocate for disability rights and inclusive entrepreneurship. She co-moderated this roundtable, bringing deep expertise on how policy and business can remove barriers for persons with disabilities. Her work in the UK and internationally focuses on making workplaces, events, and innovation ecosystems accessible to all.

Dr. Talal Alharbi (Saudi Arabia) – Head of Accessibility, Saudi Giga Projects. Dr. Alharbi is at the forefront of integrating accessibility in Saudi Arabia's largest urban development projects (including those for the 2030 Expo and World Cup). He provided a visionary outlook on building cities for the future. His emphasis on flexibility, dignity, and participation in design offered a compelling blueprint for how large-scale projects can set new standards for inclusive urban living.

Dr. Tomasz George (UK/Poland) – CEO, Freyr Health; Digital Health & Longevity Innovator. A technologist and medical researcher, Tomasz works on AI-driven healthcare solutions and longevity research. He brought cutting-edge ideas such as patient-owned health data economies and AI tools for preventive care. With experience in multiple health tech ventures, he injected both optimism and pragmatism about what emerging science can do to improve healthspan.

Giovanni Fontana Antonelli (Italy) – Architect, Urban Planner & Cultural Heritage Expert. Giovanni has worked with UNESCO and other bodies on integrating cultural heritage preservation with modern urban planning. At the roundtable, he highlighted how cultural context and well-designed public spaces contribute to well-being. His perspective reminded the group that social cohesion and heritage are pillars of community health, bridging the conversation between physical health, mental health, and cultural identity.

Ilya Churakov (UAE) – Founder & CEO, AI World Alliance. (Also listed under Impact Finance.) Ilya's contributions spanned multiple sessions. In the health and accessibility context, he stressed the role of entrepreneurs in developing inclusive tech solutions and argued for ecosystems that support innovation benefiting the many, not just the few. His dual involvement underscored the interconnectedness of impact finance, health, and technology.

Murat Seitnepesov (Switzerland) – President, Greater Caspian Association. (Also listed under Impact Finance.) Murat participated here to address the macro-level implications of health and accessibility investments. He emphasized international collaboration and how investing in health infrastructure (from hospitals to digital networks) in emerging markets is both a moral imperative and an economic opportunity, linking his points about bridging global investment divides to health outcomes.

Health, Longevity & Accessibility
– Innovating Global Health and Inclusive Access

Executive Summary:

The Health, Longevity & Accessibility roundtable delved into one of humanity's most enduring pursuits – a healthier, longer life for all – through the twin lenses of technology and inclusive design. Co-led by Jacqueline Winstanley, a global disability inclusion advocate, and Dr. Talal Alharbi, Saudi Arabia's head of accessibility for Giga projects, this session united experts in healthcare, policy, urban planning, and artificial intelligence. They grappled with profound questions: How can we harness innovations in AI, biotech, and urban design to extend healthy lifespans without deepening inequality? What does it mean to build cities and systems that are "accessible by default" for every individual, regardless of ability or age? From futuristic discussions on AI-driven healthcare to practical case studies of inclusive architecture, the dialogue balanced optimism about new tools with cautionary notes about ethics and equity. The philosophical heartbeat of this conversation was the idea that the true measure of progress is how we care for our most vulnerable. Health and accessibility, they argued, are civilizational issues that demand global collaboration and cultural change as much as technological breakthroughs.

Designing for Inclusive Futures:

Dr. Talal Alharbi set the stage by describing Saudi Arabia's massive new city projects and the once-in-a-generation opportunity they represent. "We are building for future generations that will demand flexibility, dignity, and participation at every level," Dr. Alharbi asserted. His words underscored a core theme: inclusion must be proactive, not reactive. Whether in city planning or software design, accessibility should not be an afterthought or a special add-on – it should be ingrained from the start. Participants discussed examples of inclusive design: public spaces built with universal access principles, digital services that cater to users of all abilities, and policies like Accessibility Impact Assessments (AIAIs) to evaluate new technologies for inclusivity before they're deployed. This idea of AIAIs – formal reviews to ensure innovations serve people with disabilities and the aging population – was highlighted as a forward-thinking policy tool emerging from Global Stratalogues' own collaborations. Such mechanisms, the group noted, could guide tech development in AI, IoT, or biotech so that "do no harm" extends to "do maximum good" for marginalized communities.

Designing for Inclusive Futures:

The conversation naturally ventured into the realm of longevity science – from AI-assisted drug discovery to personalized medicine – and its promise to extend healthy human lifespans. Dr. Tomasz George, wearing his hat as a longevity tech entrepreneur, spoke about AI-powered systems that could predict and prevent diseases before they strike. Yet, with these tantalizing prospects came tough questions. If we do unlock extra decades of life, will those benefits be equitably distributed? Or will they be, as one participant put it, "for the wealthy few who can afford bio-hacking and gene therapies?" The roundtable emphasized the need for global frameworks to share health innovations widely, especially with low-income countries and underprivileged populations. The COVID-19 pandemic's lessons loomed large – breakthroughs mean little if they don't reach everyone. In a reflective turn, participants agreed that longevity must not become a mere commercial race; it should ignite a broader societal conversation about the quality and purpose of those extra years of life. What good is living to 120, they mused, if society is not inclusive and livable? Thus, longevity science was tied back to holistic well-being – the goal is not just longer life, but a more just and compassionate life course for all.

Empowering Through Data and AI:

A unifying thread in this session was the role of data and artificial intelligence in empowering patients and persons with disabilities. Building on the Impact Finance discussion, Dr. Tomasz George reprised his idea of patients monetizing their health data, but here the focus was on health outcomes. By aggregating personal medical histories and real-time biometric data, AI could spot patterns to improve care, and if individuals control that data, they could directly benefit from its value. For example, a patient collective might license their anonymized data to a pharmaceutical company searching for new cures, splitting the revenue – thereby funding their own care. While intriguing, this raised ethical concerns about privacy and consent. The group concurred that trust and transparency are paramount if such models are to gain public acceptance. Meanwhile, Jacqueline Winstanley highlighted how technology can open doors for people with disabilities: remote work platforms, AI-driven accessibility tools (like real-time sign language translators or smart prosthetics), and inclusive fintech can enable full participation in society. Here too, a memorable quote captured the spirit: "The future belongs to entrepreneurs who can build AI solutions that work for everyone, not just the privileged few," observed Ilya Churakov, pointing out that truly inclusive innovation requires intentional support from day one. This sentiment, coming from a tech CEO, reinforced the roundtable's call for aligning business incentives with universal design principles.

Culture, Health, and Well-Being:

Uniquely, this roundtable also bridged cultural heritage with well-being, befitting the Venice setting. Giovanni Fontana Antonelli, an architect and cultural heritage expert, reminded the group that environments profoundly affect health – not just physically (clean air, walkability) but mentally and socially. He cited how preserving cultural identity and community cohesion can reduce stress and improve quality of life. Thus, accessibility wasn't discussed only in terms of ramps and apps, but also in terms of preserving the cultural fabric that gives people a sense of belonging. Venice itself, a city that has adapted old structures for modern accessibility, became a case study – a metaphor for how we might retrofit the world for longevity. The philosophical crux was that health is holistic: technology can prolong life, but it's our cultural and social choices that make life worth living longer. By the session's end, participants circled back to Dr. Alharbi's guiding idea of "inclusive by default." They envisioned a future in which any innovation – whether an AI algorithm, a building design, or a healthcare policy – is automatically evaluated for its impact on all segments of society. In reflecting on the dialogue, Giselle Alers summed it up eloquently: "Inclusion cannot only be technical; it has to be cultural." The group left with a renewed conviction that a truly advanced society is one that designs its systems to uplift everyone, ensuring that the gifts of longevity and technology enhance our shared humanity.

Impact Finance – Driving Sustainable Growth through Innovation and Connectivity

1 Executive Summary: The Impact Finance roundtable, led by Giselle M. Alers of the Global Economic Sustainable Development Commission, challenged the old dichotomy of profit versus philanthropy. In this conversation, capital met conscience as global financiers, entrepreneurs, and policymakers explored how financial innovation can drive sustainable development. Participants argued that making money and making a positive impact need not be separate goals. They shared successes in funding small enterprises and climate action, highlighting that the true measure of investment is its contribution to human and environmental well-being. The discussion emphasized practical models – from small business revolutions to data-driven incentives – showing that impact-driven models can be both profitable and transformative. The core insight was philosophical: finance is ultimately a statement of what we value as a society.

2 The Small Business Revolution: A recurring theme was the untapped power of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in driving inclusive growth. Anis Khan, founder of the Global SME Hub, shared a personal story: with proceeds from his ventures, he built a school in his mother's village, educating hundreds of children. "Finance is a statement of values. Where we invest is what we value," Khan explained, underlining that capital allocation is a moral choice. Yet, as participants noted, traditional finance often overlooks SMEs – especially in developing regions – despite these businesses creating the majority of jobs worldwide. This mismatch between capital and opportunity sparked discussions on new financing platforms and policy changes to channel investment to grassroots innovators. The roundtable highlighted examples of entrepreneurs turning local problems into bankable solutions, illustrating how impact finance can unlock the potential of communities that mainstream investors miss.

3 Your Data as Your Paycheck: Bridging finance with technology, the group explored visionary ideas where impact finance meets personal empowerment. Dr. Tomasz George, a digital health pioneer, introduced an intriguing proposal: enabling individuals to own and monetize their personal health data as a source of income. "Right now, health data is fragmented and underutilized," Dr. George noted. In his model, a person's medical and wellness data could be securely aggregated and sold (with consent) to researchers or companies, turning personal data into an asset. Such a system could especially benefit refugees, people with disabilities, or others excluded from traditional labor markets, providing them new revenue streams. It's a bold idea at the intersection of impact finance and digital rights – one that raises both opportunity and ethical considerations. Participants reflected philosophically on this: in a world where data is the "new oil," perhaps those who generate data – ordinary people – should directly share in its value.

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5   Bridging Global Divides: Discussions inevitably scaled up to the global level, examining how impact capital could flow to where it's needed most. Murat Seitnepesov, President of the Greater Caspian Association, highlighted a striking statistic: only a tiny fraction (about 4%) of global investment reaches emerging markets, even though nearly half of investors express interest in those regions. "The problem isn't will—it's infrastructure," Murat observed, pointing out that the desire to invest in underserved markets is there, but the mechanisms and trust often are not. The roundtable debated solutions to bridge this gap – from leveraging fintech and blockchain for transparent cross-border funding, to establishing institutional "sandboxes" that encourage experimenting with impact-focused investments. There was optimism that technologies (like AI for better credit risk assessment or blockchain for tracking funds) could help unlock the vast potential of emerging economies. Indeed, examples were cited where redirecting even a small portion of dormant capital (such as bank deposits in wealthy countries) into developing-world projects could transform entire regions.

6   Throughout the Impact Finance dialogue, the tone was hopeful yet pragmatic. Speakers acknowledged challenges – entrenched interests, regulatory hurdles, risk perceptions – but remained focused on actionable ideas. The philosophical undercurrent was clear: a reimagining of the purpose of finance is underway. Instead of viewing impact as a niche or a sacrifice, the next generation of investors and policymakers are positioning it as central to growth and innovation. By the session's end, the group coalesced around the notion that capital, when directed by conscience and enabled by smart policy, can be one of the most powerful forces for positive change. Impact finance thus emerges not as charity in disguise, but as a strategy to build the future we want – aligning profit with purpose at a global scale.


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Entertainment – Technology & Entertainment as a Cultural Force

Executive Summary: The Entertainment roundtable, moderated by Oscar Wendel and featuring a high-level delegation from South Korea's MBC media group, examined how technology and innovation are reshaping cultural narratives across the globe. Set against the backdrop of Venice's artistic heritage, this session explored the rise of Korean pop culture as a deliberate, tech-enabled phenomenon and pondered the future of storytelling in the digital age. Participants from broadcasting, film, music, and gaming reflected on the formula behind Korea's cultural "soft power" revolution – from government policies to studio systems – and whether such models can thrive amid YouTube, TikTok, AI, and NFTs. The discussion struck a reflective tone on the balance between traditional structures (like studios and training academies) and new decentralized platforms. Ultimately, the session affirmed that while technologies evolve, human creativity and connection remain paramount. Culture, they noted, is a powerful force for bridging divides, and its global success requires both embracing innovation and preserving authenticity.
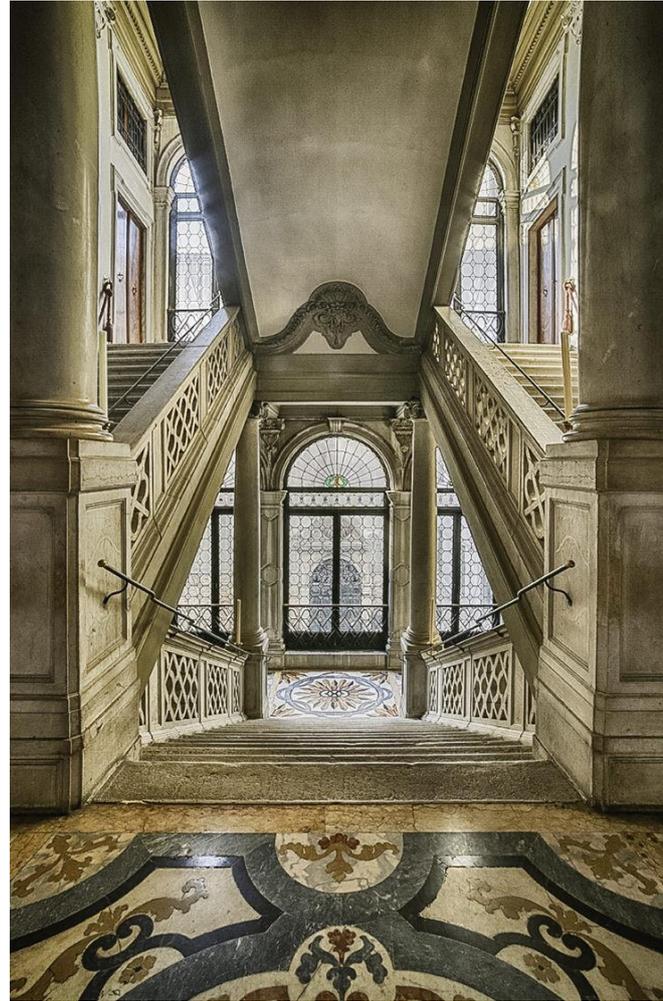
The Korean Wave: When Culture Meets Code: In recent decades, South Korea's entertainment industry has transformed from a local curiosity into a global phenomenon. The roundtable dug into how this "Korean Wave" (Hallyu) achieved such worldwide resonance. Representatives from MBC Global Media, including Director Hyungmoon Choi, Deputy Director Rim Ha, and Deputy Director Kyungtae Kim, revealed that none of it was accidental – it was strategic. "In the early 1990s, nobody in the U.S. even recognized Korea beyond the Korean War. Today, K-pop and K-dramas are global currency. That didn't happen by chance—it happened because of competitiveness," noted Kyungtae Kim. That competitiveness is not merely about artists trying hard; it's baked into an ecosystem of state support, cutting-edge technology, and an almost industrial approach to talent development.
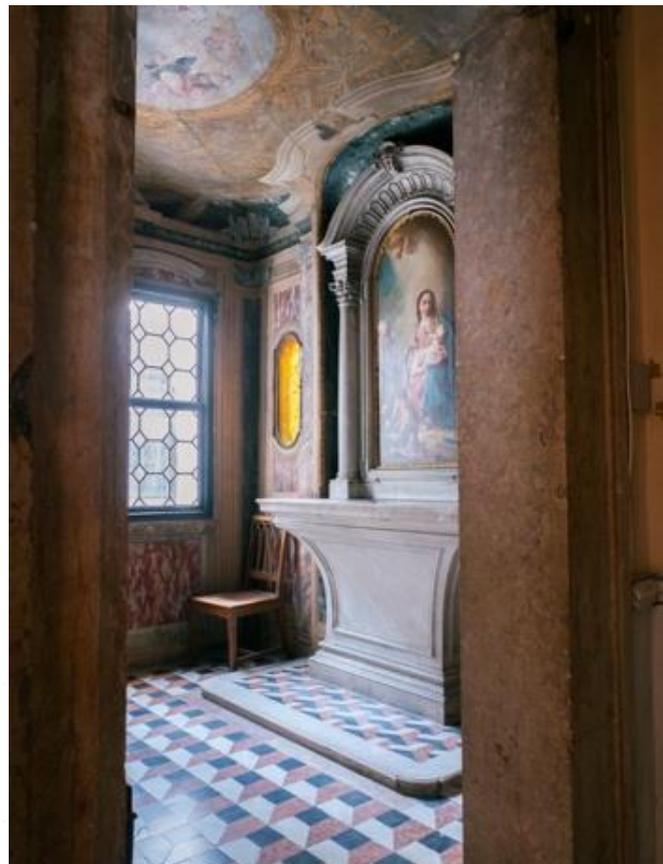
Participants reflected on the deliberate design behind Korea's cultural export machine. Government investment in digital infrastructure meant that by 2017, over 90% of Koreans had access to fast LTE broadband – creating a nation of always-connected content consumers and creators. "Most of our population had LTE coverage by 2017. Everyone is online, and our public broadcasters adapted early," explained Kyungtae, adding that "MBC is now one of Google's most active content partners in Korea." This synergy of public infrastructure and private innovation laid the groundwork for K-pop and K-dramas to leap across borders via YouTube and streaming platforms. In essence, Korea treated culture as a high-tech product, scaling it just as Silicon Valley scales software.

Studios, Talent and the Human Factor: A lively point of discussion was the role of traditional studios and training in an era of user-generated content and AI. Western media often idolizes the garage startup or the indie artist, but Korea's experience tells a different story – one of rigorous preparation and centralized coordination. Korean entertainment companies recruit and groom young talent through trainee programs that can last years. "Trainees can spend up to eight years preparing before their debut," Kyungtae Kim shared. "Once they launch, they've already had thousands of hours of experience." This discipline behind the glamour ensures a baseline of quality and a consistency of output that has helped Korean acts stand out globally. Roundtable participants weighed the ethical and creative implications of this model – acknowledging criticisms of its intensity, yet also its success in producing performers who can captivate worldwide audiences.

The studio system, far from obsolete, still plays a pivotal role. One insight was that even as content creation democratizes, scale and coordination still matter for global impact. The MBC team described how studios and networks provide resources to polish production values and marketing reach that individual creators often lack. Paradoxically, in an age of decentralization, the meeting concluded that certain centralized structures (studios, labels, broadcasters) remain crucial – not to stifle creativity, but to amplify it. The story of K-entertainment suggests that tradition (in the form of studios and structured training) can co-exist with tech-driven innovation (such as virtual idols or AI-assisted music production). When done right, they reinforce each other: technology opens new frontiers for content, while human guidance and mentorship ensure cultural richness and emotional depth aren't lost.

Global Storytelling in a Digital Era: The entertainment leaders and experts in Venice also peered into the future. How will emerging technologies like immersive VR, artificial intelligence, and blockchain (for NFTs) shape storytelling and cultural exchange? A philosophical strain ran through the conversation: even as algorithms personalize and globalize our media consumption, storytelling remains fundamentally about the human condition. One film producer, David Stybr, noted that despite advances in virtual production (like LED walls that now create entire worlds behind actors), "it's all about story… You have more tools than ever, but still, money rules the world and someone has to pay for quality content", highlighting that economics and art must find a balance. Others observed that new platforms allow more voices to be heard (a young filmmaker can now find an audience on YouTube), yet the deluge of content makes trusted curators and brands even more valuable.

The case of Korea's success sparked optimism that intentional cultural strategy can yield global understanding. At the same time, participants from Europe and the Middle East brought up their own regional experiences – how local content can gain international traction when it tells authentic stories with universal themes. Technology was seen as an enabler for this cross-pollination of cultures. For instance, advances in real-time translation and subtitling mean a hit Turkish series or a Nigerian music video can quickly find fans on the other side of the world. The group mused on the idea that the next cultural phenomenon could emerge from anywhere, thanks to digital platforms. However, one cautionary note was sounded: as AI begins to generate music or scripts, will it augment human creativity or attempt to replace it? The consensus was that human creativity – with its imperfections, emotions, and cultural context – cannot be fully automated. The roundtable concluded on a hopeful, almost philosophical note: in a hyper-connected era, entertainment holds unique power to bridge divides and foster empathy across borders. By combining innovative tech with respect for cultural nuance and human talent, we can ensure the global village tells stories that enrich rather than homogenize our world.

Blockchain & AI – The Battle for Decentralized Progress

Executive Summary: The Blockchain & AI roundtable convened an eclectic mix of legislators, technologists, economists, and entrepreneurs to tackle a defining question of the digital age: How do we ensure that revolutionary technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence serve humanity rather than replace it? Moderated by Kristina Lucrezia Corner (a blockchain media leader) and Bartolomeo Poggi (a European tech policy advisor), the discussion at once celebrated the potential of decentralized technologies and confronted the paradoxes they present. Key themes included the geopolitical power plays around central bank digital currencies (CBDCs), the unstable trust dynamics of stablecoins, the promise of asset tokenization, and the ethical quandaries of AI in finance. What emerged was not a simple endorsement of tech utopianism, but a candid reckoning with complexities and contradictions. Participants agreed that blockchain and AI could fundamentally modernize global finance and governance, but they urged a "humanity first" approach – embedding values like transparency, equity, and freedom into these systems by design. The tone was both hopeful and cautious, with strategic takeaways centered on the need for global cooperation in setting rules for this frontier, and on retaining human oversight as machines take on bigger roles.

Geopolitics of Digital Money: The roundtable began by examining how digital currencies are reshaping power between nations. Dr. Lisa Cameron, drawing on her experience as a UK Parliamentarian, noted that what started as fintech experiments have become instruments of statecraft. "We're seeing CBDCs framed as counterweights to China's digital yuan and the BRICS monetary bloc," she observed, highlighting that digital currency projects are now entwined with geopolitical strategy. Yet, Dr. Cameron issued a sobering question: Are these government-backed digital monies actually solving problems like financial inclusion, or merely replicating old inequities with new technology? The group weighed the pros and cons of countries launching their own cryptocurrencies. On one hand, CBDCs could democratize access to banking; on the other, they might enable new forms of surveillance or control over citizens. This led to a philosophical point: money is not just a financial tool, but a social contract. If that contract turns digital, the values encoded in its design (privacy vs. control, open access vs. gatekeeping) will shape societies in profound ways. Paolo Tasca, an economist who advises central banks, warned of a scenario if tokenization runs rampant: "If everything becomes liquid, then everything is cash. And if everything is cash, central banks lose visibility and control." His proposed solution was intriguing – a future where Treasury departments and central banks collaborate closely via blockchain, to maintain stability in a fully tokenized economy. The irony noted by several participants was rich: technologies originally meant to decentralize power (like cryptocurrency) are now being explored by the very central institutions they aimed to bypass.

The Stablecoin Trust Paradox: Nothing captured the tension between decentralization and traditional systems better than the story of stablecoins during a recent crisis. The collapse of Silicon Valley Bank (a key reserve holder for some stablecoins) provided a real-world stress test. Participants recounted how USDC, a stablecoin lauded for transparency and full reserves, temporarily lost its peg, causing panic – while Tether (USDT), often criticized for opaque reserves, actually gained market trust during the same period. "Sometimes transparency creates vulnerability, while mystery preserves confidence," mused Paolo Tasca, noting the counterintuitive market psychology at play. The group dissected this paradox: does too much information (instant proof of reserves showing a bank exposure, for example) trigger overreaction, whereas a lack of information forces a kind of blind faith? The insight wasn't that opacity is good – rather, it was a humbling reminder that trust is a psychological and social phenomenon not easily engineered with code alone. In response, tech entrepreneurs in the room presented ideas to strengthen trust in decentralized finance. Scott Page, a serial Web3 entrepreneur (and notably also a rock musician), described an "AI-driven index fund for tokenized liquidity" that could automatically spread risk across multiple stablecoins and DeFi platforms. "Think of it like an AI managing a basket of stablecoins, diversifying in real-time to protect value," he explained, illustrating how smart algorithms might steady the ship in volatile waters. Others suggested that algorithmic transparency (open-source code and real-time audits) combined with decentralized governance could help stablecoins maintain trust without needing to hide information. The debate ended with an acknowledgement that technology alone can't guarantee stability – it must be paired with sound governance and perhaps even new international regulations to prevent digital runs and cascades.

Tokenization and the Future of Assets: A portion of the roundtable was devoted to the broader vision of tokenization – turning real-world assets from art to real estate into digital tokens tradable on-chain. Enthusiasts in the group painted a future where "anything of value can be owned by anyone, anywhere, in tiny fractions", unlocking liquidity and democratizing wealth creation. Nena Dokuzov, Slovenia's blockchain lead, shared how her government is exploring tokenized infrastructure projects to attract international co-investment in a fair way. Meanwhile, traditional finance experts raised eyebrows: would this really bring inclusion, or would it invite speculation and new systemic risks? Kristina Corner pointed out the cultural shift needed for tokenization to work: people and regulators must trust code-based contracts as much as legal contracts. Here the philosophical dimension surfaced again – it's about trust in new institutions. Blockchain technologists argued that smart contracts can be more transparent and enforceable than traditional legal systems, but the counterargument was that they lack the flexibility and compassion of human judgment (a code is unforgiving of mistakes). One compelling case study discussed was a pilot where land ownership in a developing country was tokenized to give villagers collateral for loans – showing how it could empower those historically excluded from property rights. Yet, even that raised issues of digital literacy and governance: who maintains the token ledger, and what if disputes arise? The collective takeaway was cautiously optimistic – tokenization will likely march on, but it must be accompanied by education, legal reforms, and hybrid models that blend the best of new and old systems.

Humanity in the Loop: Throughout the blockchain & AI session, a refrain echoed: keep humans in the loop. Whether it was AI algorithms in finance or blockchain governance, participants stressed the need for ethical guardrails and human oversight. Nikhil Vadgama, an AI expert, noted that AI in banking could help eliminate bias in lending – but only if the training data and objectives are carefully curated to avoid baking in discrimination. The roundtable cited instances of AI gone wrong (like biased credit scoring algorithms) as cautionary tales, underscoring that technology reflects the values of its creators. Thus, a strategic recommendation emerged: involve diverse stakeholders – ethicists, sociologists, disability advocates – in the design of fintech AI systems and blockchain platforms from the outset. The Venice dialogue itself was an example of this approach, bringing unlikely combinations of people to the same table. A vivid exchange occurred between a Bitcoin advocate and a central banker on stage – initially at odds, by the end they conceded that each sector has checks and balances the other could learn from. The philosophical crux was captured by a simple idea: decentralization is not an end in itself, but a means to human-centric outcomes. If distributing power and data more widely leads to greater freedom, equity, and creativity, then it's a path worth pursuing; if it merely creates new concentrations of power (as AI might, if a few companies control it), then the promise fails. By conclusion, there was a shared sense that frameworks for global cooperation are urgently needed – be it global standards for AI ethics or international accords for blockchain-based finance. In an echo of the Impact Finance session's tone, the group here also championed moving from hype to substance: real-world pilot projects, regulatory sandboxes, and open dialogues like this very roundtable are the way forward to ensure these technologies truly benefit society. The final note was one of guarded optimism – a belief that with inclusive dialogue and principled action, blockchain and AI can be harnessed to create a more transparent, innovative, and fair global system, rather than a more chaotic or unjust one.

Key Emerging Themes from Venice

Across the four roundtables, several emerging themes consistently wove through the discussions, revealing a shared vision despite the diverse topics:

Inclusion as Imperative: Perhaps the strongest thread was the insistence that inclusion – of people, regions, and perspectives – must be a foundational design principle. Whether in finance (bringing capital to underserved entrepreneurs), health (ensuring accessibility and global access to care), culture (amplifying diverse voices through technology), or tech governance (involving all stakeholders in blockchain/AI frameworks), the message was clear. True progress is measured by how many people benefit, not just by the sophistication of our innovations. Inclusion was seen not as charity, but as smart strategy for sustainable success.

Human-Centered Technology: The Venice dialogues emphasized putting humanity at the core of technological advancement. Participants championed a vision of AI, blockchain, and other emerging tech that augments human capabilities instead of replacing human judgment. From AI-driven healthcare to decentralized finance, the call was to embed ethics, cultural values, and human oversight into algorithms and digital infrastructure. This theme reflects a pushback against tech fatalism – the future is not something that happens to us, but something we actively shape around human needs.

Heritage Meets Innovation: A unique nuance of holding this event in Venice (amid an architectural biennale) was the theme of bridging tradition and modernity. Frequently, analogies were drawn between the city's timeless heritage and the need to retain our cultural touchstones even as we innovate. In entertainment, this meant blending old studio systems with new media; in finance, combining traditional trust frameworks with fintech; in city design, preserving cultural heritage while building smart cities. The broader theme is that honoring the past's wisdom can guide more holistic innovation. As one takeaway: innovation should not equate to erasing legacy, but rather updating it in service of present and future needs.

Collaboration Across Borders and Sectors: Another recurring theme was the importance of breaking silos. Many global challenges discussed – climate change, digital asset regulation, pandemic response, cultural exchange – cannot be solved by one nation or sector alone. The roundtables themselves were microcosms of collaboration: public and private sector, East and West, tech experts with artists, policymakers with entrepreneurs. This highlighted the need for multi-stakeholder coalitions. Global Stratalogues in Venice served as a platform demonstrating how cross-border, cross-discipline dialogue can generate fresh insights and partnerships. Participants advocated for more such forums to continue knitting together a global network of problem-solvers who might normally never meet.

Intentionality in Policy and Design: A subtle but powerful theme was intentionality – that good outcomes in society require conscious planning and choice. The success of Korean entertainment was intentional industrial policy; scaling impact finance requires intentional shifts in investment criteria; ensuring AI is inclusive demands intentional regulatory tools like AIAIs. In other words, positive change will not come just from market forces or technology alone; it must be guided by thoughtful policies and designs that reflect our values. This theme tied back to the philosophical tone: participants often asked not just "Can we do this?" but "How should we do this, and why?" – urging leaders to infuse purpose and foresight into innovation efforts.

These themes collectively sketch a picture of where global thought leaders see us heading: toward a world that is more interconnected and technologically advanced, yes, but also a world that must consciously strive to be more inclusive, ethical, and collaborative. The Venice event's multi-faceted conversations all, in their own way, circled around this nexus of technology, humanity, and global unity.

Participant Profiles

Impact Finance Roundtable

Giselle M. Alers (USA) – Chairwoman, Global Economic Sustainable Development Commission (GESDC). A finance and sustainability leader working closely with UN initiatives, Giselle Alers champions the integration of impact metrics into global investment strategies. She served as moderator for the Impact Finance session, guiding discussions on aligning capital with sustainable development.

Murat Seitnepesov (Switzerland) – President, Greater Caspian Association. A global connectivity advocate and founder of the Caspian Week Forum, Murat focuses on linking emerging Eurasian markets with international investors. At the roundtable, he highlighted infrastructure gaps and opportunities to channel investments into underfunded regions.

Miroslav Polzer (Austria) – Strategic Director, Climate Chain Coalition. A pioneer in using blockchain for climate action, Miroslav (Miro) Polzer works on systemic innovation in climate finance. He brought insights into how distributed ledger technology and new economic models can accelerate funding for climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Enrico Fiore (Italy) – Secretary General, WBAF Ethical Governance Committee. Enrico is involved with the World Business Angels Investment Forum, specializing in standards of excellence and ethical governance in finance. He contributed perspectives on establishing trust and standards in impact investing, drawing on his experience with international angel investor networks.

Ilya Churakov (UAE) – Founder & CEO, AI World Alliance. A serial entrepreneur in fintech and AI, Ilya leads a fund in Dubai focused on transformative technologies. He added an entrepreneurial viewpoint on how AI and blockchain innovations can drive inclusive finance, and advocated for supporting startups that serve broad societal needs.

Anis Khan (UK/Bangladesh) – Founder & CEO, Intrapass & Global SME Business Hub. An aviation security professional turned social impact leader, Anis Khan has spearheaded projects to empower small businesses and youth in developing countries. He shared real-world stories of grassroots entrepreneurship and emphasized aligning investments with personal and community values.

Entertainment & Culture

Oscar Wendel (Sweden/UAE) – Executive Director, GESDC Middle East & Summit Chair. With a background in media and events, Oscar orchestrated the entertainment roundtable, bringing together voices from East and West. He has been instrumental in global dialogues on culture and innovation, and co-authored research on AI and

Hyungmoon Choi (South Korea) – Director, MBC Global Media. A senior executive with over 20 years at MBC (Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation), Hyungmoon Choi has led initiatives in digital strategy and international partnerships for one of Korea's top broadcasters. He provided insights into how public broadcasters like MBC adapted to the digital era and expanded Korean content globally.

Rim Ha (South Korea) – Deputy Director & Cinematographer, MBC. Rim Ha is a technical director and cinematographer known for his role in high-profile projects, including World Cup multimedia and Netflix collaborations. At the roundtable, he shared perspectives on the cutting-edge production techniques and immersive media content that Korean studios are leveraging to captivate global audiences.

Kyungtae Kim (South Korea) – Deputy Director, MBC Global & K-Pop Strategist. Kyungtae Kim is a key figure behind MBC's global content strategy and Project K international partnerships. He passionately detailed the factors behind K-Pop's worldwide success – from early broadband adoption in Korea to rigorous talent development – emphasizing competitiveness and adaptation.

Stewart Bell (UK) – Founder, MicroProse UK. A legend of the video game industry, Stewart Bell brought a historical dimension to the discussion. As the publisher behind iconic games (Civilization, F1 Grand Prix, etc.) and inventor of the first PC sound card, he has seen the evolution of interactive entertainment. He spoke to how gaming and technology have always co-evolved, and how today's VR/AR trends echo past innovations.

David Stybr (Czech Republic) – CEO, Livento Group & Film Producer. David Stybr leads an international film production and finance company with studios in Los Angeles and Prague. He shared insights on modern film financing and virtual production, discussing how globalization and new technology (like LED wall stages) are changing the economics of filmmaking. His perspective bridged the creative and financial challenges in bringing stories to the screen.

(Additional contributors in this session included creative directors like Marco Tricomi, and other film/TV producers, who enriched the dialogue on immersive media and global audience engagement.)

Blockchain & AI

Paolo Tasca (Italy) – Executive Chairman, Exponential Science & Professor of Economics. A leading expert on blockchain and digital currencies, Dr. Tasca has advised central banks and governments worldwide. He illuminated the roundtable with high-level insights on tokenization and monetary policy, including the double-edged nature of liquidity in a tokenized economy. His academic rigor and on-the-ground experience in crypto finance provided a balanced view of innovation and risk.

Nikhil Vadgama (UK) – Co-Founder & Director, Exponential Science. Nikhil is an AI specialist and educator, working on applying artificial intelligence in financial services and other sectors. He contributed knowledge on how AI can be harnessed in blockchain systems and the importance of ensuring these technologies are developed responsibly. His perspective bridged technical details with policy, especially regarding AI governance and ethics.

Kristina Lucrezia Corner (Italy) – Strategy & Communications, Exponential Science; former Editor-in-Chief, Cointelegraph. Kristina co-moderated the session and is well-known in the blockchain community as a thought leader. She has a background in journalism and communications within the crypto and Web3 space. Her role in the roundtable was to tease out the human stories behind the tech jargon, emphasizing societal implications of blockchain/AI developments. She ensured the conversation remained accessible and tied to real-world impacts.

Bartolomeo Poggi (Italy) – Policy Advisor, Blockchain for Europe. As an expert in tech regulation and financial innovation, Bartolomeo brought a policymaker's lens to the discussion. He has been involved in crafting regulatory approaches for blockchain in the EU. In Venice, he highlighted the need for international alignment on digital asset policies and shared experiences from European legislative debates. His moderation helped ground futuristic ideas in the practical realities of law and governance.

Nena Dokuzov (Slovenia) – Head of Blockchain Policy, Government of Slovenia. Nena leads digital transformation initiatives and represents Slovenia in international blockchain dialogues (including at the UN/UNECE). She contributed examples of how a small nation is leveraging blockchain for public good, such as transparent supply chains and digital identity. Her input demonstrated how government can be an innovator, not just a regulator, in the blockchain space.

Dr. Lisa Cameron (UK) – Former Member of Parliament & Founder, Digital Assets Parliamentary Group. Dr. Cameron recently served as an MP and was a pioneering voice in UK politics on fintech and crypto assets. She provided a legislative and oversight perspective, recounting her work establishing the Digital Assets All-Party Parliamentary Group. In the roundtable, she was a voice of public accountability – urging that issues like inclusion and consumer protection stay front and center amid the push for innovation. Her questions about who benefits from digital currencies helped frame the ethical context of the discussion.

Acknowledgments

The Global Stratalogues team would like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to all those who made the Venice roundtable series possible and impactful:

01 — **Host and Venue:** The Ministry of Culture of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its Architecture and Design Commission, for generously hosting the delegation at the Saudi Pavilion in the Biennale Architettura. The stunning exhibition at the Pavilion, showcasing the fusion of heritage and innovation in Najdi architecture, provided an ideal setting that enriched our discussions. We also thank the city of Venice and the Biennale organizers for welcoming this global dialogue amid its halls of culture and design.

02 — **Event Partners:** Venice Tech Hub and other local partners who facilitated logistics and outreach. Your support ensured that the forum ran smoothly in the Floating City, and that our international participants felt at home. We acknowledge the behind-the-scenes teams that coordinated venues, technology, and hospitality with seamless professionalism

03 — **Global Stratalogues Leadership:** Special thanks to Oscar Wendel, Chairman of the summit and Executive Director of GESDC (Middle East), whose vision and dedication were instrumental in convening this diverse group of minds. His commitment to bridging disciplines and geographies set the tone for an open and insightful exchange. We also thank Giselle M. Alers, Chair of GESDC, for her leadership in shaping the agenda and for steering key conversations, particularly in impact finance and inclusion. Their collaborative leadership embodied the very principles of the event.

04 — **Moderators and Facilitators:** We are grateful to our roundtable moderators – Giselle Alers, Oscar Wendel, Jacqueline Winstanley, Dr. Kristina L. Corner, and Bartolomeo Poggi – who expertly guided discussions, ensuring every voice was heard and every session stayed focused on actionable insights. Their expertise and empathetic facilitation brought out the best in our participants.

05 — **Distinguished Speakers and Participants:** A sincere thank you to all the speakers, panelists, and delegates (profiled in the next section) who traveled from around the world to share their knowledge and passion. Your contributions – be it through an enlightening case study, a challenging question, or an inspiring quote – were the lifeblood of this forum. The diversity of perspectives, from former ministers and CEOs to academics and artists, made the dialogue truly global and interdisciplinary. We also appreciate the representatives of MBC Global Media (South Korea) for sharing the fascinating story of Korea's cultural ascent, adding a rich real-world context to our entertainment roundtable.

06 — **Contributors to Policy Outcomes:** We acknowledge Dr. Rukiya Deetjen-Ruiz of Zayed University, whose scholarly collaboration with Global Stratalogues (through the policy briefing on AI and Accessibility) provided intellectual backbone to parts of our discussions. Additionally, we thank those who are continuing the work post-Venice – drafting white papers, formulating recommendations, and planning pilot initiatives inspired by the ideas raised. This includes members of the GESDC and the Global Blockchain Business Council who are translating the Venice insights into guidance for decision-makers.

GLOBAL STRATALOGUES

Scott Page (USA) – Web3 Entrepreneur & Musician (Pink Floyd). Though primarily known as a legendary saxophonist, Scott Page is also deeply involved in Web3 technology and startups. He injected an entrepreneurial energy into the session, advocating for decentralized platforms and creative uses of AI in finance. Scott shared visionary ideas like AI-managed liquidity pools to stabilize crypto markets and often reminded the table of the end-user – the everyday person – who should gain from these innovations. His dual identity as an artist and technologist enriched the dialogue around the cultural dimensions of tech.

(Together, these profiles showcase a tapestry of expertise. The participants ranged from high-ranking officials and seasoned CEOs to innovators on the bleeding edge of tech and champions of social causes. This diversity was the strength of Global Stratalogues Venice – each brought a piece of the puzzle, and only by integrating these perspectives can we approach the complex challenges of our modern world.)

Rooftop Concert on the Highest Terrace in Venice

A special nod to Scott Page and Marco Furio Forieri for the unforgettable rooftop jazz performance that closed our event. The music embodied the spirit of Global Stratalogues by fusing different genres and generations, leaving participants with a resonant memory of why cultural experiences matter in policy discourse.

In conclusion, the Venice edition of Global Stratalogues was a collective achievement. It demonstrated how much can be accomplished when institutions, governments, and individuals come together with a shared purpose. We extend our gratitude to everyone involved and look forward to building on these partnerships as the Global Stratalogues journey continues to its next chapter.

Hosted by Saudi Ministry of Culture at Venice Biennale

Global Stratalogues was prominently hosted by the Saudi Pavilion at the Venice Biennale Architettura, under the patronage of the Saudi Ministry of Culture, underscoring the Kingdom's growing role in shaping global cultural and architectural discourse. The collaboration positioned Global Stratalogues at the intersection of architecture, policy, and strategic infrastructure, demonstrating how the built environment can act as a catalyst for broader socio-economic transformation. Through curated high-level dialogues convened within the Pavilion, the initiative advanced critical conversations on sustainability, urban futures, and cultural diplomacy, while highlighting Saudi Arabia's commitment to engaging international audiences through thoughtful, future-oriented cultural platforms. Hosted within one of the world's most prestigious architectural forums, the partnership reinforced the Ministry's vision of culture as a strategic instrument for global engagement and long-term impact.

Rooftop Concert on the Highest Terrace in Venice

The finale of the event echoed this sentiment in a moment of pure resonance: a rooftop concert by Scott Page, legendary saxophonist of Pink Floyd, joined by Venice's own Marco Forieri. Performing on the rooftop of Palazzo Pisani, overlooking the Venetian skyline, Page returned to the city for the first time since playing with Pink Floyd at the mythic 1989 floating concert in front of a small, spellbound audience of 300,000 spectators on St. Mark's Square. This time it was to an intimate audience of 40 people where Scott improvised with a fusion of jazz, rock, and local folk music, closing the circle between legacy and reinvention—a sonic metaphor for the discussions unfolding below.