

Feature Articles

This month's focus: The Near Future of Crypto Assets and Digital Assets

Trends in the Blockchain-Based Economic Sphere and the Search for New Mechanisms of Value Exchange

Junichiro Hatogai

Bitcoin, proposed and implemented by Satoshi Nakamoto, has had a broad impact on society as a novel mechanism for value exchange that operates without a centralized administrator. The blockchain technology underlying Bitcoin has been combined with concepts such as smart contracts and programmability, forming the foundation for new assets and services, including crypto-assets, stablecoins, decentralized finance, and tokenized assets. This paper surveys developments within this “blockchain-based economic sphere” and aims to offer a starting point for considering the future of payments and value exchange.

Stablecoin Regulation in 2025: A Comparative Analysis of the U.S. Genius Act, Hong Kong's Stablecoins Ordinance, and Japan's Payment Services Act

Ryosuke Ushida / Masashi Yanase

Amid the rapid expansion of stablecoin use—from crypto trading to payments—this article compares three regulatory frameworks: the United States' GENIUS Act, Hong Kong's Stablecoins Ordinance, and Japan's Payment Services Act governing “electronic payment instruments.” Specifically, it examines (i) statutory definitions, (ii) activities that trigger licensing or registration for issuers and intermediaries, (iii) rules on solicitation and marketing, (iv) reserve requirements, and (v) the treatment of foreign-issued stablecoins. Situated within international debates, the analysis notes intensified work by the G20, FSB, BCBS, and FATF; fragmented requirements across jurisdictions risk stress transmission and AML/CFT vulnerabilities. The FSB's 2023 high-level recommendations urge “same activity, same risk, same regulation,” yet uneven implementation calls for coordinated, risk-based convergence. The article concludes by tracking near-term developments—Japan's planned flexibility for Type-3 reserves and U.S. debates over secondary trading—underscoring the importance of convergent, risk-based regulation.

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The Anatomy of the Crypto Asset Business: A Lifecycle Approach

Hideaki Kudoh, CMA / Sho Shiroto, CMA

Despite repeated market turmoil, crypto assets and their ecosystems continue to expand. Recent developments—including the adoption of ETFs and stablecoins—have strengthened the bridge to traditional finance, making crypto assets an increasingly important area of focus for financial institutions. Yet the sector's complexity often obscures a clear strategic perspective. This article aims to clarify the market structure by categorizing the lifecycle of crypto projects and analyzing the distinct business opportunities within each phase. Furthermore, by addressing persistent challenges such as regulatory uncertainty and security, this paper provides a structural framework for identifying both opportunities and risks, offering a perspective for the robust valuation of the crypto asset business.

Network Analysis of Crypto Asset Independence and Bitcoin's Portfolio Diversification Effect

Yoshiyuki Suimon, CMA

This research examines the independence of Bitcoin's return characteristics and its portfolio diversification effects by comparing it with traditional asset classes such as equities, bonds, commodities, and foreign exchange. Network analysis based on the correlation matrix of weekly returns visualizes the relationships among these assets, revealing that Bitcoin occupies an independent position within the network and exhibits lower centrality relative to other asset classes. Furthermore, portfolio analysis using Monte Carlo simulations confirms that the inclusion of Bitcoin can enhance risk-adjusted performance measures—such as the Sharpe ratio and Sortino ratio—under certain conditions.
