Session Summary

The growing impact of the shared economy is beginning to show beyond the best known cases such as Uber and Airbnb, and this was the theme of the first session of the forum. **Eugene Tay**, President of the Sharing Economy Association, offered a comprehensive overview covering the different categories of sharing economy companies, product service systems, redistribution markers and collaborative lifestyles, and the different business models and the start-ups in Singapore. Prof **Lynette Cheah**, Assistant Professor at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), examined the idea of the sharing economy from the perspective of their underlying principles based upon environmental engineering and economics, and outlined the research programme of SUTD on sharing economy themes. The business model of Airbnb was examined in detail by **Mike Orgill**, Director of Public policy, APAC, Airbnb, including the interface between the business model and the concerns of regulators, with a focus on the economic benefits that accommodation sharing can bring to a community as a complement to, rather than a substitute for, hotel accommodation.

The theme of the business model also opened the second session when **Kristofferson Gonzales** from iCarsclub outlined their model, explaining the precautions undertaken to minimize risk. These companies are all start-ups and a ‘sharing economy’ way to raise funds was outlined by **Leo Shimada**, CEO and Founder of Crowdonomic. Crowdfunding is restricted by securities laws to non-equity investment, but Leo explored ways in which this picture could change in coming years. **Antony Lewis**, Business Development Director of itBit and President of the Association of Crypto-Currency Enterprises and Start-ups (ACCESS) rounded off the presentations with a discussion of the role of crypto-currencies in general and of Bitcoin in particular, providing a fascinating explanatory live demonstration of the creation of tokens that could be exchange for bitcoins as a means of raising funds.

To read the briefing paper and detailed program of the session, please visit [http://trpc.biz/the-sharing-economy/](http://trpc.biz/the-sharing-economy/)

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