GLOBAL ICO TRANSPARENCY ALLIANCE - GITA

What is GITA

GITA or Global ICO Transparency Alliance is a global network organisation based on principles of self-governance, transparency, and democracy. It was formed by a group of industry experts on May 6, 2018 in Hong Kong to support the nascent ICO industry, protect investors and help entrepreneurs raising funds via token sales succeed in their efforts of value creation.

Transparency Platform and Industry Standard

GITA will provide an open source Transparency Platform for token issuers and investors, which is currently under development. Beta version is available, and we invite new members to actively help to build and co-create the platform. Along with the Transparency Platform is the creation of a global industry standard for minimum self-disclosure for ICOs.

Purpose of GITA

Our purpose is to:

• protect investors by providing access to information about crowdfunding campaigns on blockchain and their progress after the crowdsale,

• help blockchain and distributed ledger based businesses succeed in their valuation creation efforts,

• create an industry standard for self-disclosure, and

• become a forum for knowledge-sharing and industry improvement.

The Problem

We identified 2 major problems facing the crypto industry:

1. **Unfair Practices**
   ● Many ICO projects see crowdfunding on blockchain as a quick money grab, while others fork existing blockchains for self serving purposes and benefits. As a result of such behavior:
      ○ market manipulation becomes a risk to consider,
      ○ investors risk their funds with little information or support from experienced industry participants, and
      ○ legitimate projects that strive to provide real value-creation are often undervalued and passed over.

2. **Uncertain Legal Landscape**

- Regulations and guidance vary considerably country by country;

- Existing laws are outdated and are often at odds with innovation; and

- Startups and investors face challenges from being misinformed to being prosecuted.

The Solution

Here are the two solutions we aim to provide on a global scale.

Transparency Platform

At the core of GITA is its Transparency Platform, which bridges the information gap between investors and issuers by providing participants of the ICO ecosystem with a platform which consolidates information self-reported by issuers about their projects, their progress post-ICO, finances, team and advisor changes, and other data points that could impact the risk profile of investing in an ICO project or token sale. From the investor side, the purpose of the platform is to level the playing field for professional and individual investors by giving them public access to information regarding the ICOs from the beginning of crowdfunding to post-ICO progress, including information regarding the team/management background, roadmap delivery, financial performance, etc.
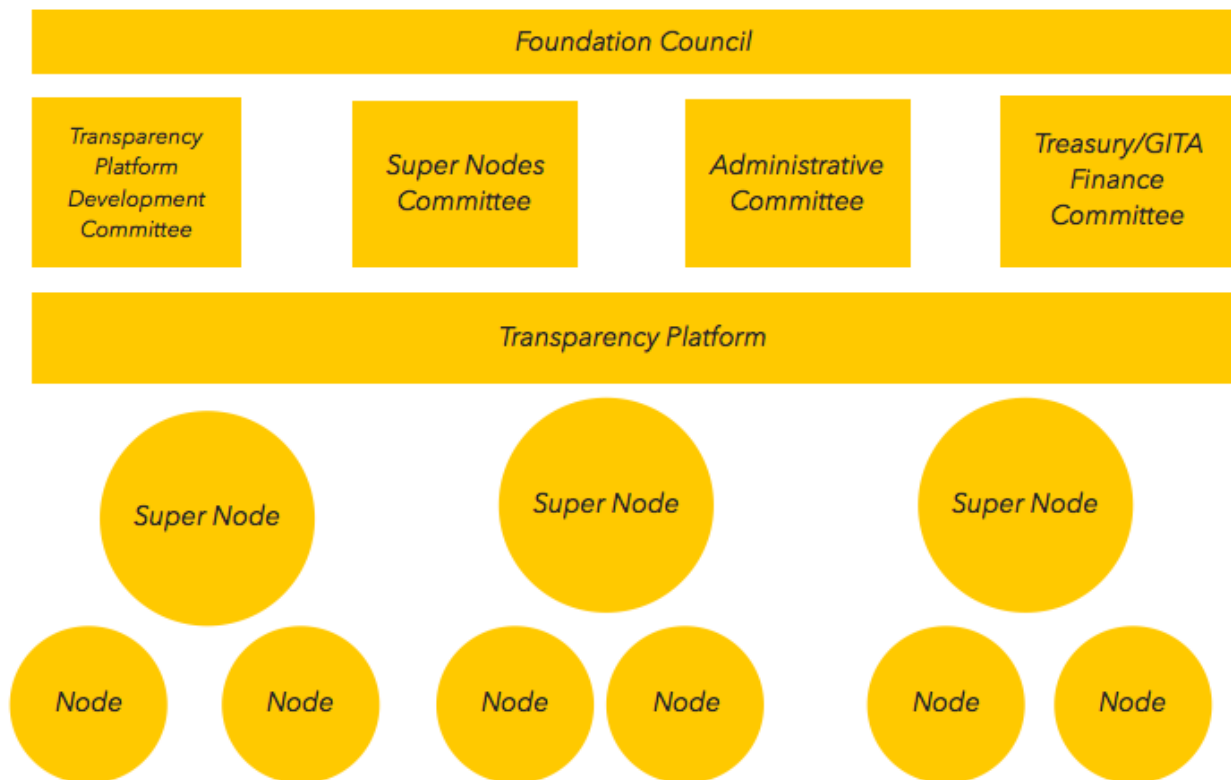
From the entrepreneur side, the platform will help startups navigate various regulations and simplify information disclosure that are needed for a successful ICO launch. Commercial players like crypto funds and exchanges are encouraged to contribute to this platform development setting examples of transparency and best practices to support individual investors to navigate global ICO landscape.

Self-Regulatory Organisation

GITA, as a global decentralized network organisation, will become an open forum for knowledge sharing and exchange with the major objective to self-regulate fundraising campaigns on blockchain.

Proposed Organisational Structure

Contrary to traditional hierarchical organizations, the architecture of GITA is inspired by blockchain technology - it is decentralized and transparent with various stakeholders taking part in its co-creation and development. We invite governance institutions, industry associations, technology community, crypto funds, crypto exchanges, non-governmental organizations and academia, from every corner of the world to get involved, share knowledge and lead the industry transformation.

Founding Council maintain platform and high-level organization structure and guidelines and principles. The actual operations and promotion of GITA will be by the Supernodes and Nodes.

Committees. There will be four committees, i.e., Transparency Platform Development Committee, Treasury/GITA Finance Committee, Administrative Committee, and Supernodes Committee, to help organize the operations of GITA.

Supernodes act as community leaders and organizers and will drive the adoption of the Transparency Platform. The specific roles and responsibilities of the Supernodes will be decided among the Supernodes led by the Supernode committees. It is currently proposed that each Supernode will introduce 20 issuers annually to the platform and create their own community, namely the Nodes and members, and develop and nurture it. It is proposed that each Supernode within each jurisdiction will contribute by taking ownership of tasks that are critical to GITA's development in their jurisdiction, e.g., development of minimum disclosure requirements in their jurisdiction, translation of the platform and GITA materials into the local/national language, updating members about legal and ICO developments in their jurisdiction, and hosting GITA conferences. It is anticipated that the Supernodes will also share in the funding of GITA by paying a registration or annual membership fee. The currently proposed annual membership fee for Super Nodes who represent non-commercial organisations (Blockchain Association or Society) is USD 1,000; for Super Nodes who represent commercial organisations, the membership fee is set at USD 5,000.

It is expected that Supernodes will publicly announce their GITA status on their websites and provide GITA with a link to repost.

Supernodes are encouraged to involve their Nodes and members in contributing to the availability of information on the Transparency Platform about local rules and regulations, research material about the industry trends and technology and any other relevant information.

Nodes will act as GITA platform promoters, referring issuers to the platform, and are to attend Supernode meetings and actively participate in Supernode community life. Definitions of Nodes are to be further developed by Super Nodes and the Founding Council.