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RECTOR'S MESSAGE



I would like to extend my gratitude for your visit to FBM Insights Volume 8, a publication brought forth by the esteemed Faculty of Business and Management, UiTM Kedah Branch. This bulletin endeavours to present a concise and beneficial collection of important insights and research findings derived from the domain of social sciences.

FBM Insights aims to simplify complex social science concepts into easily digestible bullet points, making valuable knowledge more accessible to a wider audience. In this bulletin, each article provides a glimpse into the diverse and dynamic world of social sciences, including psychology, sociology, economics, finance, and other pertinent fields. Through concise and informative summaries, the intention is to promote a deeper understanding of human behaviour, societal trends and the multifarious factors that shape our world.

My heartfelt appreciation is proffered to the dedicated researchers and scholars whose works form the foundation of this bulletin, contributing significantly to the ever-changing landscape of knowledge in social sciences. In navigating the modern era's challenges and opportunities, the intrinsic value of social science research in guiding policy decisions and fostering social cohesion cannot be overstated.

I sincerely hope that this bulletin will spark readers' curiosity and inspire them to delve deeper into the myriad facets of human society and behaviour. Irrespective of whether you are a student, educator, or policymaker, I firmly believe that this publication will serve as an invaluable resource in your quest for knowledge.

Once again, thank you for embarking on this journey of discovery with us. Together, let us explore the captivating world of social sciences and its profound impact on our lives.

Thank you.

Prof. Dr. Roshima Haji Said

Rector Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Cawangan Kedah

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CRYPTOCURRENCY: A NEW FINANCIAL PARADIGM

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As we reach into a more advanced financial technology, the word cryptocurrency is not new to some of us. It is often mentioned in the news platform, either it is in a form of printed or online news. The first ever cryptocurrency offered to the financial market is Bitcoin (BTC). When it was first introduced, many people were sceptical about it. Majority of the public think that BTC is a scam and bogus investment scheme. Bank Negara Malaysia, initially did not recognize it as a legal tender and did not regulate its operation in Malaysia. BNM even issues warnings to the public not to engage in any cryptocurrency activities. As BTC's performance escalated from a very minimal price of less than USD1 in 2009 to a time high price of over USD65,000 in November 2021 (De Best, 2023), it gained a lot of attention from the public. Pushing away BNM's warnings, many think that cryptocurrency can replace the conventional financial system. Nowadays, cryptocurrency is money of the future, where most acknowledge it as an important digital ownership. Even BNM now allows BTC activities through its approved platform, such as LUNO, TOKENIZE and SINEGI. This article serves as an eye opener to the public by getting into cryptocurrency's definition, how it works and its benefits.

Cryptocurrency is an independent digital payment system that does not deal with financial intermediaries, such as banks, to validate transactions; meaning it is applying a decentralized system. No government or central authority can manipulate and interfere in its activities, which makes cryptocurrencies a new paradigm of the financial system. Most interestingly, cryptocurrency is a digital entry that will diminish the usage of physical money. Its peer-to-peer system allows the sending and receiving of payments anywhere in the world. Cryptocurrency transactions are recorded in a public ledger known as a block chain, a form of distributed ledger involving a network of computers or nodes (Hyson & Ancrum, 2023). Whereas, investors store their cryptocurrencies in a wallet called crypto wallet.

A crypto wallet is defined as a software or hardware that allows individuals to have a visual check of how many cryptocurrencies they are holding. For fiat currency, bank accounts are the place for individuals to keep their physical money and do transactions. But for cryptocurrencies, the crypto wallet is a platform for sending and receiving cryptocurrency transactions (What is cryptocurrency and how does it work?, 2023). To prove ownership and access to the crypto wallet, private keys are required. If individuals lost their private keys, there will be no way the data in the crypto wallet can be retrieved. As such, it is important to keep the private keys safe. There are three common crypto wallets; hot, cold and custodial wallets, as depicted in Table 1.

| Table 1: Features of different common crypto walle | ts |
|--|----|
|--|----|

| Storage Types | Hot Wallet | Cold Wallet | Custodial wallet |
|---------------|-------------------------|--|---|
| Mechanism | Always connected to | Not connected to | Your crypto is |
| | the internet and crypto | the internet and | stored by a third |
| | network | crypto network | party |
| Location of | Online | Offline | Online or offline |
| Private Key | | | |
| Pros | Easy to use | High security level | Most convenient and simple choice |
| Cons | Open to online attacks | Device is costly and inconvenience for daily transactions | Chances that the third party is not trustworthy |

Source: How to store your cryptocurrency safely (2022)

Cryptocurrency is considered safe online transactions with no involvement from any intermediaries. It is secured by a cryptographic system where algorithm encryption safeguard transactions of the cryptocurrency. Most attractive to investors, it is a private digital currency where the government has no control over it. On top of this, there are several advantages that make it gaining popularity among investors. These advantages include its ability to protect against inflation, speed of transactions, almost zero or minimal fees, its decentralized nature eliminates monopoly of paper money, a form diversification and give more lucrative income, easily accessible (can use a computer or smartphone), a safe platform that are protected by private keys, and use a transparent system (Tambe & Jain, 2023).

To conclude, cryptocurrency is a new financial option for the public. It gives investors an option to diversify their investment portfolio. Those who are new to cryptocurrency need to have proper knowledge and comprehension of it. As mentioned earlier, cryptocurrency investment comes with benefits, but investors need also be exposed to its risk. The key thing to remember is not to put all investment in one platform. Investors need to diversify their investment to minimize risk and to achieve maximum return out of their investment buckets.

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