UNCHAINED ETHIOPIA

6 TO 9 PM
TUESDAY, MAY 27, 2025
MAGNOLIA HOTEL
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

Birr Bitcoin

International Trade Centre

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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Unchained Ethiopia - Addis Ababa, 2025

The Event

Introduction to May 27th, 2025 event

Ethiopia stands at a pivotal moment in its digital transformation journey, with emerging technologies such as Web3 and blockchain offering unprecedented opportunities to accelerate economic growth, expand financial inclusion, and foster homegrown technological innovation. **The Unchained Ethiopia Summit, organized by BitcoinBirr, is poised to become a landmark event that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders ranging from policymakers and regulators to entrepreneurs, investors, developers, and academia to explore the transformative potential of decentralized technologies in the Ethiopian context.**

The summit will serve as a platform to unpack the broader Web3 ecosystem, which includes decentralized finance (DeFi), digital identity, smart contracts, tokenization, and the underlying blockchain infrastructure that powers these innovations. While Bitcoin, as the pioneering use case of blockchain technology, will be acknowledged and discussed, the primary focus will go beyond cryptocurrency. The event will emphasize Ethiopia's unique potential to position itself as a continental leader in Africa's Web3 revolution, leveraging its young tech-savvy population, growing innovation ecosystem, and strategic interest in digital public infrastructure.

Key thematic areas will include how decentralized technologies can reshape financial services by making transactions faster, cheaper, and more transparent; how blockchain can support clean energy initiatives through tokenized incentives and grid optimization; and how smart contracts and digital identities can streamline public service delivery and enhance trust in governance systems. Moreover, the summit will provide space to explore the implications of Web3 for sectors such as agriculture, remittances, digital trade, and intellectual property, opening the door for entirely new models of participation and value creation within Ethiopia's digital economy.

Ultimately, the Unchained Ethiopia Summit is not only a forum for conversation it is a launchpad for action. It will help galvanize interest, shape a collaborative policy agenda, and in-spire new coalitions aimed at building an inclusive, forward-looking Web3 ecosystem rooted in Ethiopian values and priorities.

The Opportunity

Digital Innovation and Web3

Africa has emerged as one of the fastest-growing regions for blockchain adoption, with countries like Nigeria, Kenya, and South Africa leading in cryptocurrency usage and fintech innovation. Ethiopia, with its abundant renewable energy resources, young and tech-savvy population, and progressive digital policies, is uniquely positioned to capitalize on this trend. The country's renewable energy capacity, estimated at over 5,200 megawatts, presents a compelling opportunity for blockchain infrastructure, particularly Bitcoin mining, which can help monetize excess energy and stabilize the national grid.

Additionally, Ethiopia's rapid digitization efforts, including the rollout of digital ID systems and mo-bile money platforms, create a fertile ground for Web3 applications. Decentralized finance (DeFi) could expand access to financial services for the unbanked, while blockchain-based solutions could improve transparency in supply chains, land registries, and public administration. However, despite this potential, significant challenges remain, including limited awareness among policymakers, regulatory uncertainty, and a shortage of local technical expertise in blockchain development.

The Unchained Ethiopia Summit aims to bridge these gaps by fostering dialogue, education, and collaboration among stakeholders. Key objectives include raising awareness about Web3 technologies and their practical applications for Ethiopia's economy, facilitating discussions on regulatory frameworks that balance innovation with consumer protection, and creating networking opportunities for local entrepreneurs and global Web3 leaders.

The summit will also highlight Ethiopia's competitive advantages in the Web3 space, such as its renewable energy potential, growing tech talent pool, and strategic geographic location. By convening experts from government, industry, and academia, the event will explore actionable strategies to position Ethiopia as a hub for blockchain innovation in East Africa.

The Outcomes

Expected outcomes

The summit is expected to catalyze the formation of a public-private working group focused on Web3 policy development. This group will serve as a platform for sustained dialogue and collaboration between key stakeholders, including government regulators, private sector leaders, legal experts, startups, and civil society actors. The working group will aim to identify key policy gaps, propose practical regulatory frameworks, and align national priorities with regional and global trends in Web3 and decentralized technologies.

In addition, the summit will host an indepth discussion on existing regulations and emerging challenges, bringing forward suggestions for legal and institutional reforms. This deep dive will explore the implications of blockchain, digital assets, smart contracts, and decentralized platforms on sectors such as finance, digital identity, intellectual property, and data governance. The insights generated from this session will inform the working group's agenda and guide future policy-making efforts to ensure an enabling environment for innovation while safeguarding public interest.

EVENT STRUCTURE

The summit will feature a keynote presentation, panel discussions, and networking sessions. The first sessions will focus on foundational topics, such as blockchain basics for policymakers and the economic potential of Web3 technologies.

The second will delve into practical applications, including case studies of successful Web3 projects in Africa and roundtable discussions on regulatory approaches.

The third session will provide opportunities for networking and collaboration. The goal is to create a dynamic environment where participants can exchange ideas, form partnerships, and develop concrete plans to advance Ethiopia's Web3 ecosystem.

SPEAKERS

Kal Kassa, Founder of BitcoinBirr
Mohammad Khalifa, CEO of BitCity

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About Organizers

BitcoinBirr

BitcoinBirr is a legally registered Limited Liability Company (LLC) based in the great State of Texas with file number 804588676.

Since April 2021, BitcoinBirr has successfully held dozens of bitcoin events with thousands of attendees. Learn more about our events at bitcoinbirr.org/events

Polished Events

Polished will be providing event management support for Unchained Ethiopia.

Traditional Media

News on Bitcoin in Ethiopia

The Economist

March 7, 2024

economist.com/middle-east-and-africa/2024/03/07/why-africa-is-cryptos-next-frontier

Bloomberg

May 3, 2024

youtube.com/watch?v=h5MyvgqArO8

RFI

June 21, 2024

rfi.fr/fr/podcasts/afrique-%C3%A9conomie/20240620-en-%C3%A9thiopie-les-d%C3%A9buts-de-l-industrie-du-bitcoin

BBC

November 28, 2024

youtube.com/watch?v=Z-Cw5cLPKGA

Forbes

December 31, 2024

forbes.com/sites/digital-assets/2024/12/31/africa-produces-3-of-global-bitcoin-mining-hashrate-via-renewables/

Voice of America

February 25, 2025

amharic.voanews.com/a/voa-amharic-can-ethiopia-provid-the-electric-need-for-bitcoinminig/7987868.html

Digital Media

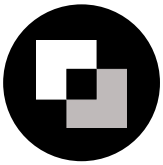
Social media and information groups

LinkedIn
554 followers
linkedin.com/company/bitcoinbirr/

Twitter
1,634 followers
x.com/BitcoinBirr

GitHub
136 followers
github.com/BitcoinBirr

YouTube
902 subscribers
youtube.com/@kalkassa



Website
55 visitors per week
bitcoinbirr.org

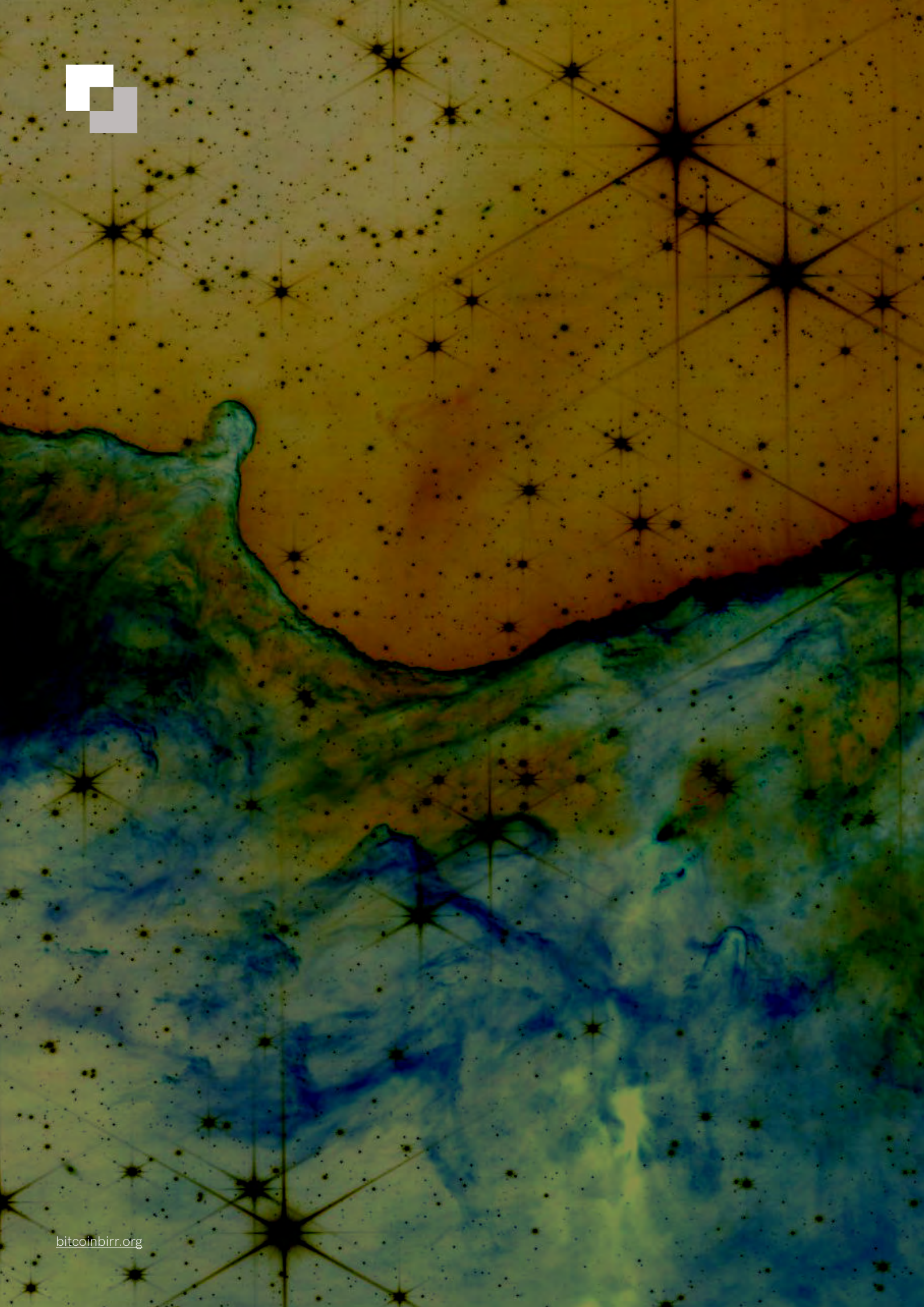
Telegram
1,279 members
t.me/bitcoinbirr

Contact

How to reach us

The Unchained Ethiopia Summit represents a critical step toward realizing Ethiopia's potential in the Web3 era. By bringing together diverse stakeholders and fostering collaboration, the event will lay the groundwork for a thriving blockchain ecosystem that drives economic growth, innovation, and financial inclusion.

For information on participation please contact BitcoinBirr at bitcoinbirr.org/unchained.html or kalkassa@gmail.com.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