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Comparative Study of Cryptocurrency Digital Investment Based on Currency Laws and Global Economic Regulations: A Case Study of the Big Four ASEAN Countries

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ABSTRACT

The development of cryptocurrency as a digital investment instrument has become a global phenomenon, but its implementation is heavily influenced by domestic regulations and global economic dynamics. This study aims to analyze the influence of clarity in the Currency Law and global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investment, as well as the role of investor confidence as a mediator, through a comparative study of four key ASEAN countries: Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand. The research method used combines a quantitative approach through analysis of investment and regulatory data, and a qualitative approach through interviews and case studies with investors. The results show that clarity of the Currency Law has a significant influence on investment in Singapore and Indonesia, while global economic regulations are more dominant in the Philippines. Investor confidence has been shown to play a significant role as a mediator, particularly in Singapore and Thailand, in strengthening the relationship between regulation and investment decisions. This research confirms that synergy between domestic and global regulations, as well as investor confidence, is a key factor in maximizing cryptocurrency market growth in ASEAN. These findings provide implications for policymakers to clarify regulations and adopt international standards, and for investors to more comprehensively assess investment risks and opportunities.

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Introduction

The development of digital technology has spurred innovation in the global financial system, one of which is cryptocurrency. As a digital investment instrument, cryptocurrency offers the potential for high returns, but also carries the risk of price volatility and regulatory uncertainty. This phenomenon is increasingly relevant for countries in the ASEAN region, which are striving to strengthen economic stability and increase investment attractiveness. One crucial issue in the development of cryptocurrency investment is the regulatory aspect. On the one hand, the legal status of cryptocurrency as a means of payment and investment instrument remains debated in various countries. On the other hand, the dynamics of global economic regulation also significantly impact investor confidence. A clear legal framework, both through the Currency Law and macroeconomic policies, will determine the direction of cryptocurrency market development in a country.

In the ASEAN context, there are four major countries with the largest economies, often referred to as the ASEAN Big Four: Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. These four countries exhibit diverse attitudes toward cryptocurrency regulation. For example, Singapore tends to be more progressive with a legal framework that supports digital financial innovation, while Indonesia still restricts cryptocurrency to a commodity, not legal tender. These regulatory differences reflect varying strategies for maintaining monetary stability while attracting global investors. These differences in regulatory approaches raise academic questions about how the clarity of Currency Laws and global economic regulations influence the cryptocurrency investment climate in each country. This is also closely related to the level of investor confidence, which ultimately influences investment decisions. Without a clear and consistent regulatory

framework, cryptocurrency's potential as an alternative investment instrument risks being suboptimal and even posing a risk to the stability of the national financial system.

Table 1.1 Case Study of the Big Four ASEAN Countries

Country / Region	Key Data / Facts
Indonesia	The total number of crypto investors in Indonesia will reach 22.11 million people (2025).Compass Money) The value of crypto asset transactions in Indonesia as of January 2025 was IDR 44.07 trillion, up ~104.3% year-on-year compared to January 2024 (IDR 21.57 trillion).Bisnis.com) OJK has approved 22 entities in the crypto asset trading ecosystem. (Antara News) The government is increasing the tax rate on crypto transactions: domestic transactions from 0.1% to 0.21%, and transactions from overseas platforms to 1%. Miners will also be subject to a VAT increase to 2.2% starting in August 2025.Reuters)
Malaysia	Cryptocurrencies are regulated by the Securities Commission (SC) under the Capital Markets and Services Order 2019. Crypto assets that are considered securities must comply with SC regulations. (portalcripto.com.br) Bank Negara Malaysia (central bank) does not recognize crypto as legal tender. (portalcripto.com.br) There is no specific capital gains tax for regular crypto investors. However, if digital asset activity becomes a core business, it may be subject to income tax.portalcripto.com.br)
Singapore	Singapore has a more mature regulatory framework: the Payment Services Act (PSA), the Securities and Futures Act (SFA), and other related regulations. (World Stock Market) Crypto-service providers (digital asset-related service providers) must comply with security, consumer protection, and AML/CFT regulations.Incfine) Digital asset adoption is quite high in ASEAN; Singapore is a key country in terms of regulation and funding for blockchain/crypto startups.Fintech Singapore)
Thailand	Thailand has imposed a 15% tax on profits from crypto trading since around 2022. (Cointelegraph) All digital asset service providers must be licensed by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) of Thailand and comply with regulations such as KYC (Know Your Customer).Cointelegraph) The Thai government is taking firm action against illegal digital asset providers, including blocking internet access for unlicensed overseas operators. (Tilleke & Gibbins)
ASEAN (general/regional)	The Digital Asset Market in ASEAN is estimated to reach US$10.8 billion by 2025. (Statista) Annual growth rate (CAGR) for the digital asset market in ASEAN between 2025-2026 ≈ 7.44% human estimate. (Statista) Crypto ownership in Asia (including ASEAN) rose by ~21.8% in 2024 compared to 2023, with a total of over 326.8 million crypto owners in Asia. (Door) Malaysia and Thailand are ASEAN countries with significant crypto mining activity.Fintech Singapore)

The development of digital assets in Southeast Asia is showing an increasingly significant trend, particularly in ASEAN's largest economies, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Recent data indicates that the number of crypto investors in Indonesia will reach more than 22 million by 2025, making it one of the countries with the highest crypto adoption in the world. Transaction value also recorded a significant surge, reaching IDR 44.07 trillion in January 2025, more than doubling compared to the same period the previous year. This surge indicates that Indonesia has the potential to become a crypto hub in Asia, although legally, cryptocurrencies are still treated as investment commodities, not legal tender. The Indonesian government has also implemented a progressive tax policy, with a domestic transaction rate of 0.21% and 1% for foreign platforms, as well as a mining VAT of 2.2% starting in August 2025.

Unlike Indonesia, Malaysia, through the Securities Commission (SC), has placed cryptocurrency under the Capital Markets and Services Order 2019, which regulates digital assets as capital market instruments if they meet certain criteria. Although Bank Negara Malaysia does not recognize crypto as legal tender, capital market regulations provide legal certainty for investors. Furthermore, Malaysia has not imposed a specific capital gains tax on individual crypto investors, unless the activity is a core part of a business, providing relatively flexible investment contexts. Singapore is known for having the most progressive crypto regulations in the ASEAN region. The country regulates cryptocurrency through the Payment Services Act (PSA) and the Securities and Futures Act (SFA), which cover aspects of security, consumer protection, and compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorism financing (CFT). This clear legal framework makes Singapore a hub for the blockchain and digital asset investment ecosystem in Southeast Asia, as well as a leading destination for global fintech companies.

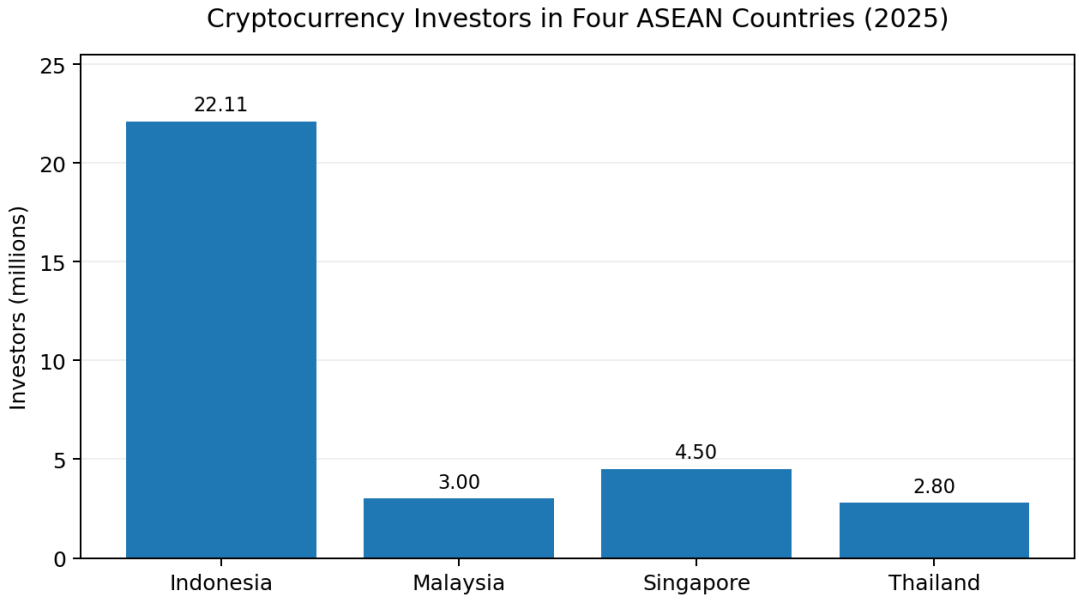


Figure 1.1 Number of Crypto Investors in the ASEAN Big Four (2025)

The first figure shows the number of crypto investors in the Big Four ASEAN countries by 2025. Indonesia dominates with 22.11 million investors, significantly higher than Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand, which have between 2 and 5 million investors. This fact confirms Indonesia's significant potential to become a hub for crypto development in Southeast Asia. However, this dominant investor base does not necessarily guarantee investment stability, as regulatory certainty and the legality of digital assets remain limited. Meanwhile, Thailand has taken relatively strict measures by imposing a 15% tax on profits from crypto trading and requiring all digital asset service providers to obtain a license from the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC). The Thai government has even taken strict action against illegal digital asset operators, including blocking access to unlicensed overseas platforms. This policy aims to maintain the stability of the national financial system while protecting consumers, although it may limit investment flexibility. Regionally, the digital asset market in ASEAN is expected to reach US$10.8 billion by 2025, with a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of around 7.44%. This growth aligns with global trends, with crypto

ownership in Asia increasing by nearly 21.8% by 2024, with the number of owners reaching over 326 million.

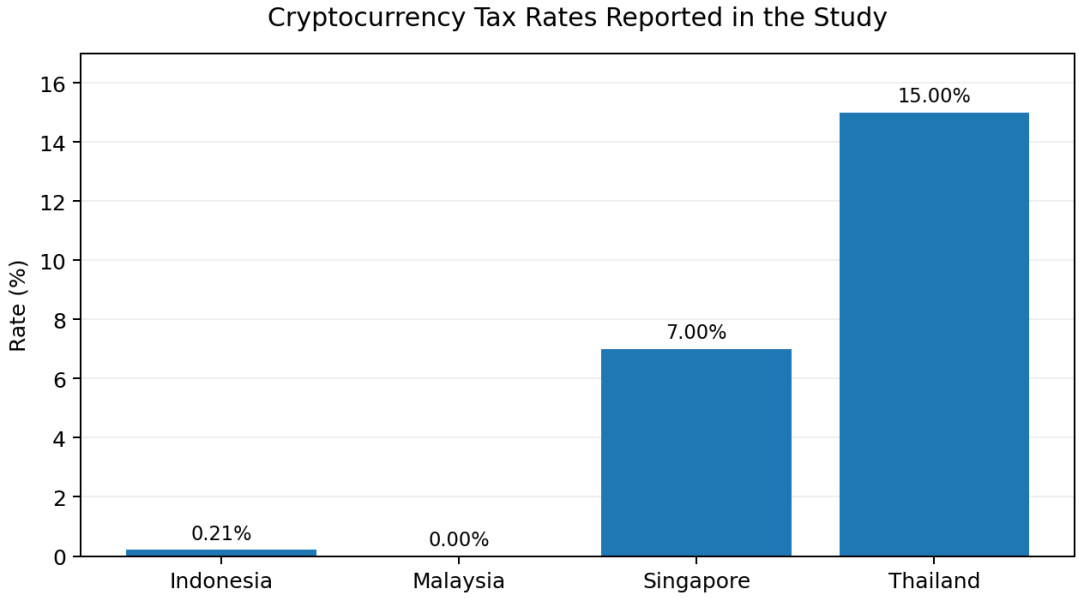


Figure 1.2 Comparison of Crypto Investment Tax Rates

The second figure compares crypto investment tax rates across four countries. Thailand has the highest tax rate at 15%, followed by Singapore with around 7%. Meanwhile, Indonesia sets a relatively low rate of 0.21% for domestic transactions, while Malaysia does not impose a specific capital gains tax on individual investors. This variation in tax policies demonstrates the differing strategies countries employ in regulating the crypto ecosystem. Countries with high tax rates, such as Thailand, tend to prioritize oversight and state revenue, while Indonesia and Malaysia focus more on accessibility and market growth. This fact demonstrates that cryptocurrency investment is increasingly becoming an unavoidable part of the digital economic system. The description above shows that the four major ASEAN countries have different approaches to the cryptocurrency phenomenon. Singapore tends to be open and supportive of innovation, Malaysia prioritizes capital market aspects, Indonesia takes a cautious stance by emphasizing tax oversight, while Thailand is stricter with licensing regulations and high taxes. These regulatory differences create interesting dynamics that merit further study, particularly regarding how clarity in the Currency Law and global economic regulations can influence investor confidence and the development direction of the digital investment ecosystem in the ASEAN region.

The third figure shows the projected trend in the digital asset market value in ASEAN for the 2023–2025 period. The data shows a consistent increase, from USD 8.9 billion in 2023 to USD 10.8 billion in 2025, with an average annual growth rate of around 7.44%. This trend indicates that the digital asset market in the ASEAN region continues to grow rapidly and has the potential to become a driving force in the digital economy. This growth is driven by increasing investor interest, advances in blockchain technology, and regulatory support in several countries, such as Singapore.

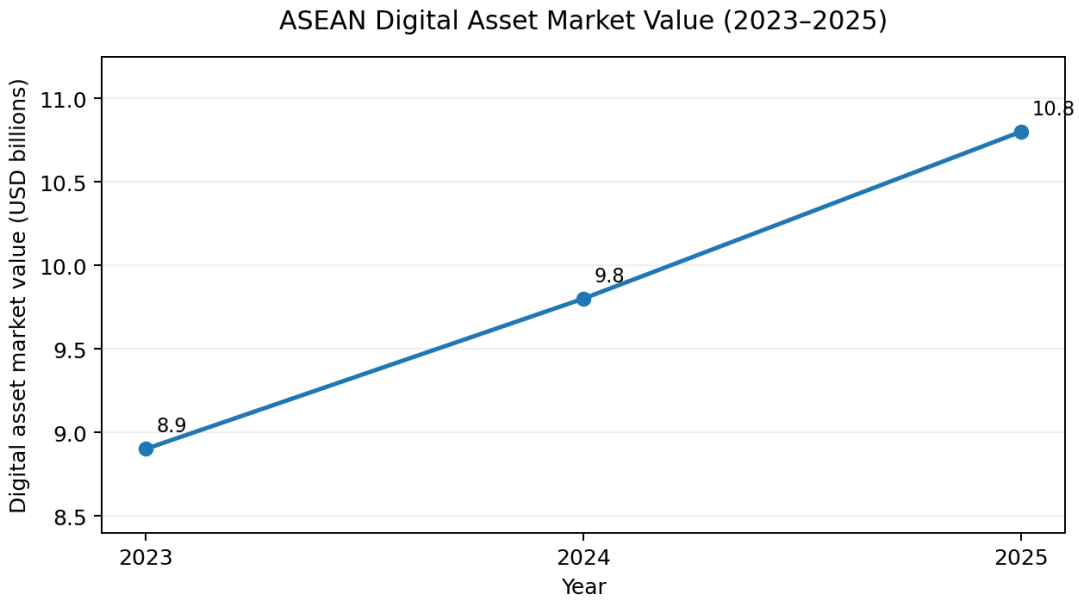


Figure 1.3 Projection of ASEAN Digital Asset Market Value (2023–2025)

Overall, the three graphs illustrate the close relationship between regulation, taxation, investor numbers, and digital asset market growth. Indonesia excels in terms of investor numbers, Singapore is strong in regulatory certainty, Malaysia is flexible in taxation, and Thailand is strict in oversight. These differences are important to examine more closely in the context of comparing Currency Law regulations with global economic regulations to understand their impact on investor confidence and the direction of cryptocurrency investment in ASEAN.

A phenomenon that has emerged in recent years is the increasing popularity of cryptocurrency as an alternative investment instrument in Southeast Asia. Cryptocurrency is viewed not only as a financial technology innovation but also as a speculative instrument offering the potential for high returns with equally significant risks. In Indonesia, the number of crypto investors is growing rapidly. Data shows that by 2025, the number of crypto investors will reach over 22 million, with monthly transaction values exceeding IDR 44 trillion. This surge makes Indonesia one of the largest crypto markets in the world. However, the legal status of cryptocurrency in Indonesia remains limited to that of an investment commodity, not legal tender. This situation indicates an imbalance between massive market growth and a clear regulatory framework.

A different phenomenon is seen in Singapore, where the government is more proactive in developing a healthy crypto ecosystem. With the enactment of the Payment Services Act (PSA), Singapore has successfully created legal certainty that encourages the entry of global companies and institutional investors. This has made Singapore one of Asia's digital financial hubs. Meanwhile, Malaysia has placed crypto within the capital markets realm, with strict oversight by the Securities Commission (SC). This regulation is relatively more flexible than Thailand, as Malaysia does not impose capital gains tax on individual investors, thus providing room for the digital asset market to grow.

On the other hand, Thailand has chosen a stricter approach, imposing a 15% profit tax and requiring all crypto service providers to be licensed. This approach aims to maintain financial system stability and protect investors from the risk of fraud. However, this policy also poses challenges in the form of investor migration to overseas platforms perceived as more flexible. An interesting phenomenon across these four countries is the differing strategies for regulating cryptocurrencies, which directly impacts investor confidence. Clear regulations, such as those in Singapore, encourage the growth of the crypto ecosystem, while legal uncertainty, such as in Indonesia, potentially poses long-term risks. At the same time, global economic regulations, such as G20 policies on digital taxes and international anti-money laundering standards, are increasingly pressuring ASEAN countries to adjust their domestic policies.

Thus, an interesting dualism emerges: on the one hand, the ASEAN cryptocurrency market continues to grow rapidly with significant economic potential; on the other, differing regulatory frameworks create disparities and uncertainty in cross-border investment. This phenomenon underscores the importance of conducting a comparative study across the Big Four ASEAN countries to determine the extent to which global currency and economic regulations influence cryptocurrency investment.

Identification of problems

- The rapid growth of crypto investors in Indonesia (over 22 million people by 2025) has not been matched by clear regulations, as cryptocurrencies are still positioned as commodities, not legal tender. This creates legal uncertainty for investors.
- Regulatory differences between the Big Four ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand) create disparities in the investment climate. Singapore is more progressive with its Payment Services Act (PSA), while Thailand has strict regulations with a 15% tax rate. Indonesia and Malaysia are more lenient but with legal limitations.
- Diverse tax policies across countries create uncertainty for cross-border investors. For example, Indonesia imposes a domestic transaction tax of 0.21%, Singapore around 7%, Malaysia imposes no capital gains tax on individuals, and Thailand imposes a 15% capital gains tax.
- The lack of harmonization with global economic regulations, such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards on anti-money laundering (AML) and G20 regulations on digital taxation, has weakened ASEAN's position in crypto investment in the global market.
- The risk of market volatility and investor confidence are increasingly influenced by regulatory factors. Countries with clear regulations (such as Singapore) tend to be more trusted, while countries with unstable regulations (such as Indonesia) face the risk of losing potential investment.
- The gap between economic potential and legal readiness. The ASEAN digital asset market is projected to reach USD 10.8 billion by 2025, but not all countries have a regulatory framework capable of keeping pace with this growth.

Literature Review

Legal Clarity / Legal Certainty

Legal Certainty / Legal Clarity refers to the extent to which legal regulations are clear, consistent, and predictable. According to Sitorus & Sakti's (2025) study, "Legal Certainty of the Use of Cryptocurrency as an Investment Instrument in Companies in Indonesia," although cryptocurrency is not yet recognized as an official means of payment, as a commodity and an instrument traded on the stock exchange, this unique legal status requires legal clarity to ensure investor protection.

The article "Crypto Assets and Regulation: Taxonomy and Regulatory Framework of Crypto Assets in Indonesia" (Noor, Arifin & Astuti, 2022) states that to create sound regulations, a clear classification or taxonomy of crypto assets is essential to ensure legal protection and certainty for investors. Without a precise definition, regulatory uncertainty arises. Theories from the legal and economic literature suggest that legal certainty helps reduce transaction costs, increase trust, and facilitate investment planning. This is addressed in the theory of "Law and Finance," where effective regulation and law are considered prerequisites for the development of capital markets and investment.

World Economic Regulation & Global Standards

Global regulations such as the Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation (MiCA) in the European Union provide a more structured legal framework for crypto-asset adoption, aiming to create legal certainty and encourage crypto-asset adoption in the financial sector. The study, "Markets in Crypto-Assets Regulation: Does It Provide Legal Certainty and Increase Adoption of Crypto-Assets?" (2022), found that regulatory uncertainty is one of the main reasons why financial sector players are hesitant to adopt crypto-assets. Other international initiatives, such as the OECD Crypto-Asset Reporting Framework (CARF) and the FATF standards on anti-money laundering/counter-terrorism financing (AML/CFT), also influence how countries align domestic regulations with global standards. These global standards help provide confidence to international and local investors that crypto investments are monitored and protected from illegal practices.

Investor Confidence (Trust)

The study, "Cryptocurrency Investments: The Role of Advisory Sources, Investor Confidence, and Risk Perception in Shaping Behaviors and Intentions" (2025), shows that investor confidence is significantly positively correlated with investment intentions and behavior in crypto assets. If investors perceive that regulations and available information are clear and reliable, they are more likely to invest their funds. Investor confidence is influenced by perceptions of regulations: how clear they are, how secure legal protections are, transaction security, and certainty of rights and responsibilities. If regulations are perceived as ambiguous or changing, trust declines, which can hinder investment growth. An EU study on MiCA found that many stakeholders are holding back due to the unstable legal status of crypto assets and insufficient regulatory clarity.

Cryptocurrency Investment

Investment in cryptocurrency is driven not only by potential financial returns, but also by psychological factors such as risk perception and confidence, as well as a supportive or unfavorable regulatory environment. A study from Cryptocurrency Investments (2025) highlighted that, in addition to trust, risk perception significantly influences investment decisions. Tax policies, regulatory transparency, clarity of legal status, and compliance with international standards influence investors' decisions in selecting a safe market. For example, capital market regulations, digital asset service provider licensing, and clarity of AML/CFT oversight are all empirically proven to influence the investment size and adoption rate of crypto assets in a number of countries.

Theoretical Framework that Connects Variables

Based on the theories above, the relationship between variables can be structured as follows:

- X_1: Clarity of Currency Law

→ ensure that domestic regulations clearly define legal status, classification, licensing, rights, and responsibilities. This reduces uncertainty and legal risk.

- X_2: World Economic Regulation / Global Standards

→ International standards such as MiCA, FATF, and OECD CARF provide benchmarks for countries to develop domestic regulations; facilitate regulatory harmonization across countries; and also increase global/international investor confidence.

Z: Investor Confidence

→ influenced by the clarity of domestic regulations and global standards. If these two factors are strong, investors feel that regulations protect them, transactions are secure, and risks are clear, thus increasing confidence.

Y: Cryptocurrency Investment Rate

→ investor confidence drives investment decisions, investment volume increases, market adoption increases.

Method

Research Approach

This research uses a mixed methods approach, combining qualitative and quantitative methods in a single study. This approach was chosen because the research problem involves two dimensions:

- Qualitative dimensions: in-depth understanding of regulations, clarity of currency laws, and investor perceptions of domestic and global regulations.
- Quantitative dimension: measurement of the relationship between variables (X1, X2, Z, Y) through statistical data, surveys, or secondary data (e.g., number of crypto investors, transaction value, and level of trust).

According to Creswell & Plano Clark (2018, in the 2021 revised edition), mixed methods enable researchers to obtain more comprehensive results because they are able to answer research questions from both exploratory and confirmatory perspectives.

Research Design

The research design used is a sequential explanatory design, namely the research begins with the collection and analysis of quantitative data, then continues with the collection of qualitative data to strengthen, explain, and interpret the quantitative results.

The stages of sequential explanatory design according to Fetters & Molina-Azorín (2020) are:

- Quantitative Stage → collection of numerical data, statistical analysis, and testing of relationships between variables.
- Qualitative Stage → in-depth interviews with legal experts, regulators, and investors to provide context and interpretation.
- Data Integration → combining quantitative and qualitative results to gain a comprehensive understanding.

Population and Sample

- Quantitative population: all cryptocurrency investors in four ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand).
- Quantitative sample: taken using purposive sampling techniques, with the criteria being active investors in the last two years. A minimum target of 100 respondents per country.
- Qualitative informants: financial law experts, digital asset regulators, academics, and representatives of blockchain associations in each country.

Data Collection Techniques

Quantitative Data:

- Online survey via questionnaire (Likert scale 1–5) related to variables X1, X2, Z, and Y.
- Secondary data: reports from Bappebti, MAS (Monetary Authority of Singapore), Bank Negara Malaysia, and SEC Thailand.

Qualitative Data:

- Semi-structured interviews with regulatory experts and investors.
- Document studies: currency laws, crypto tax policies, and global regulatory reports (OECD, FATF, MiCA).

Data Analysis Techniques

Quantitative Analysis:

Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modeling (PLS-SEM) was used to test the relationship between variables (X1, X2, Z, Y). According to Hair et al. (2021), PLS-SEM is suitable for exploratory research models with latent indicators.

Qualitative Analysis:

Using thematic analysis (Braun & Clarke, 2019) to identify patterns of findings from interviews and regulatory documents.

Data Integration:

Quantitative results are compared with qualitative findings to determine consistency, confirmation, or extension. Integration occurs during the discussion stage.

Validity and Reliability

Quantitative:

- Construct validity test (convergent & discriminant validity).
- Reliability test using Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability.

Qualitative:

- Source triangulation: comparing interview data, documents, and secondary data.
- Member check: confirm the interpretation results to the source.

Results and Discussion

The following are the results of research in Indonesia:

Evaluation of Measurement Model (Outer Model)

The measurement model (outer model) is a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) that tests the validity and reliability of the latent constructs. The following are the results of the outer model evaluation in this study.

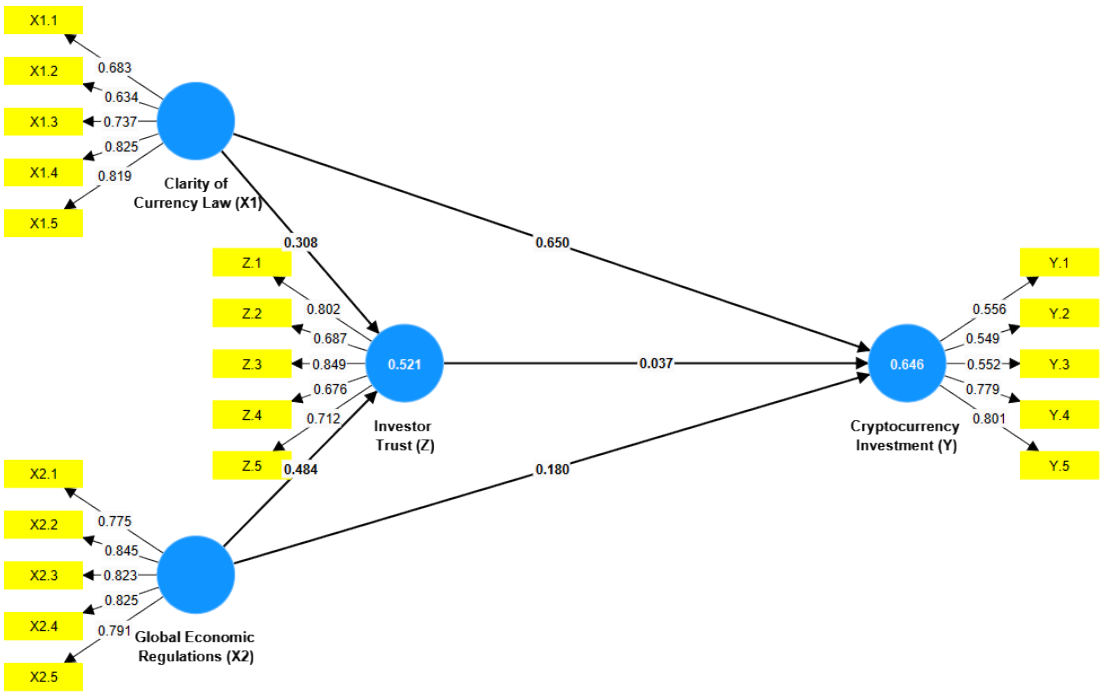


Figure 4.1. Measurement Model (Outer Model)

Table 4.1. Cross-Loading Results

	Clarity of Currency Law (X1)	Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	Global Economic Regulation (X2)	Investor Trust (Z)
X1.1	0.683	0.597	0.435	0.353
X1.2	0.634	0.515	0.391	0.376
X1.3	0.737	0.533	0.557	0.514
X1.4	0.825	0.657	0.496	0.504
X1.5	0.819	0.624	0.504	0.534
X2.1	0.536	0.501	0.775	0.513
X2.2	0.569	0.564	0.845	0.545
X2.3	0.508	0.524	0.823	0.552
X2.4	0.485	0.476	0.825	0.596
X2.5	0.517	0.467	0.791	0.563
Y.1	0.422	0.556	0.370	0.358
Y.2	0.422	0.549	0.357	0.339
Y.3	0.419	0.552	0.373	0.343
Y.4	0.622	0.779	0.480	0.415
Y.5	0.656	0.801	0.460	0.400
Z.1	0.473	0.459	0.555	0.802

	Clarity of Currency Law (X1)	Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	Global Economic Regulation (X2)	Investor Trust (Z)
Z.2	0.396	0.372	0.503	0.687
Z.3	0.531	0.492	0.562	0.849
Z.4	0.446	0.407	0.417	0.676
Z.5	0.465	0.365	0.507	0.712

Source: Primary data processed (2025)
This table presents the cross-loading values for the indicators of Clarity of Currency Law, Cryptocurrency Investment, Global Economic Regulation, and Investor Trust. These values are used to assess the relationships between each indicator and its intended construct.

Convergent Validity
The convergent validity of the measurement model with the reflective indicator model is assessed based on the correlation between the item score/component score and the construct score calculated using PLS. The following are the results of the convergent validity measurement model test using loading factors:

Table 4.2. Results of Instrument Validity Test Using Loading Factor

	Clarity of Currency Law (X1)	Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	Global Economic Regulation (X2)	Investor Trust (Z)
X1.1	0.683			
X1.2	0.634			
X1.3	0.737			
X1.4	0.825			
X1.5	0.819			
X2.1			0.775	
X2.2			0.845	
X2.3			0.823	
X2.4			0.825	
X2.5			0.791	
Y.1		0.556		
Y.2		0.549		
Y.3		0.552		
Y.4		0.779		
Y.5		0.801		
Z.1				0.802
Z.2				0.687

	Clarity of Currency Law (X1)	Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	Global Economic Regulation (X2)	Investor Trust (Z)
Z.3				0.849
Z.4				0.676
Z.5				0.712

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on Table 4.2, several indicators have loading factors below 0.70, while others exceed the commonly used threshold. Therefore, convergent validity should be interpreted together with the AVE and construct reliability results, and indicators with lower loadings should be evaluated carefully.

Reliability Test

An instrument can be considered reliable if its Average Variance Extracted value is greater than 0.5, Cronbach's Alpha value is greater than 0.6, and Composite Reliability value is greater than 0.7. The following table shows the results of the reliability calculations using Average Variance Extracted (AVE), Cronbach's Alpha, and Composite Reliability:

Table 4.3. Calculation of AVE, Cronbach Alpha, and Composite Reliability

	Cronbach's alpha	Composite reliability (rho_a)	Composite reliability (rho_c)	Average variance extracted (AVE)
Clarity of Currency Law (X1)	0.861	0.867	0.859	0.553
Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.792	0.809	0.787	0.433
Global Economic Regulation (X2)	0.906	0.907	0.906	0.660
Investor Trust (Z)	0.862	0.869	0.863	0.560

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the reliability and construct validity tests, the value obtained was Cronbach's Alpha, Composite Reliability (rho_a and rho_c), and Average Variance Extracted (AVE) for each research variable are as follows:

The Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability values were all above 0.70, indicating good construct reliability. An AVE value of 0.553 > 0.50 also indicates that the indicators are able to explain more than 50% of the construct's variance, thus meeting convergent validity. Although the Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability values showed fairly good reliability (≥ 0.70), the AVE value of 0.433 < 0.50 indicates limitations in convergent validity. This indicates that some indicators are still suboptimal in explaining cryptocurrency investment variables. Therefore, future indicator evaluation is needed to improve construct validity.

All reliability values are well above the minimum threshold of 0.70, and AVE > 0.50. This indicates that the global economic regulation construct is highly reliable and valid in measuring the indicators used. Thus, X2 can be considered a statistically very robust construct. The Cronbach's Alpha and Composite Reliability values were above 0.70, and the AVE value was above 0.50. This indicates that the investor trust construct is reliable and convergently valid, making it suitable for further analysis.

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

Evaluation of the inner model can be seen from several indicators, including the coefficient of determination (R2), Predictive Relevance (Q2), and Goodness of Fit Index (GoF) (Hussein, 2015). The results of the structural model displayed by Smart PLS 3.0 in this study are as follows:

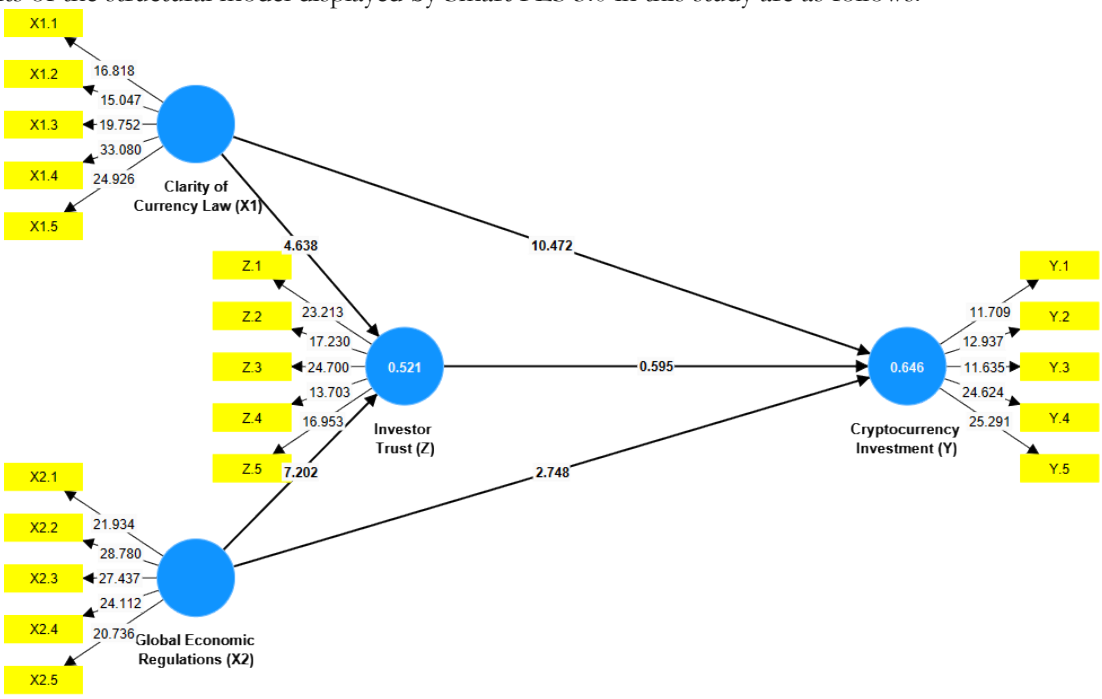


Figure 4.2 Structural Model (Inner Model)

R2 (R-square) Results

In assessing a model using PLS, we begin by looking at the R-square for each dependent latent variable. The results of the r2 calculation in this study are as follows:

Table 4.4 Correlation Value (r2)

	R-square	R-square adjusted
Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.646	0.644
Investor Trust (Z)	0.521	0.519

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

This value indicates that the variables Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) and World Economic Regulation (X2) mediated by Investor Confidence (Z) are able to explain variations in Cryptocurrency Investment (Y) by 64.6%, while the remaining 35.4% is influenced by other factors outside the research model. The R-square value of 0.646 can be categorized as strong (Chin, 1998; Hair et al., 2021), so the model has good predictive ability for variable Y. This means that the variables Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) and Global Economic Regulation (X2) can explain 52.1% of the variation in Investor Confidence (Z), while 47.9% is influenced by other variables not examined in this study, such as investor psychological factors, personal experience, or media influence. This value is included in the moderate category according to the criteria of Chin (1998) and Hair et al. (2021).

Hypothesis Testing

Based on the results of the outer model, all tested hypotheses met the requirements and can therefore be used as analysis models in this study. Hypothesis testing in this study used a 5% alpha, meaning that if the t-statistic value is ≥ 2.048 or the probability value is ≤ the level of significance (α = 5%).

Table 4.5 Partial T-Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.662	0.663	0.056	11,853	0,000
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.012	0.010	0.020	0.583	0.560
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.198	0.198	0.061	3,239	0.001
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.484	0.485	0.067	7,202	0,000
Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.037	0.035	0.063	0.595	0.552

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

- Clarity of Currency Law (X1) → Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

A t-value of 11.853 with p = 0.000 (<0.05) indicates that the clarity of currency laws (X1) has a very significant effect on cryptocurrency investment (Y). This means that the clearer the legal regulations governing cryptocurrency, the greater the interest and realized investment in this digital asset.

- Clarity of Currency Law (X1) → Investor Trust (Z)

A t-value of 0.583 with p = 0.560 (> 0.05) indicates that the clarity of currency law (X1) does not significantly influence investor confidence (Z). In other words, even though legal regulations exist, they are not strong enough to build investor confidence. Investors may consider other factors (e.g., fund protection, global market stability, or authority transparency) more important in determining their level of trust.

- Global Economic Regulations (X2) → Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

A t-value of 3.239 with p = 0.001 (<0.05) proves that global economic regulations (X2) have a significant influence on cryptocurrency investment (Y). This means that developments in international regulations (e.g., OECD policies, FATF policies, or global tax regulations) can encourage investors to invest because they provide a sense of security and predictability in transactions.

- Global Economic Regulations (X2) → Investor Trust (Z)

A t-value of 7.202 with p = 0.000 (<0.05) indicates that global economic regulations (X2) have a very significant effect on investor confidence (Z). This indicates that international regulatory standards are more trusted by investors than domestic legal regulations alone. Alignment with global regulations makes investors feel more protected, thus increasing their level of trust.

- Investor Trust (Z) → Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

A t-value of 0.595 with p = 0.552 (>0.05) indicates that investor trust (Z) does not significantly influence cryptocurrency investment (Y). This means that, although investor trust exists, it is not a direct determinant of investment decisions. This could be because crypto investment decisions are more influenced by formal regulations (X1, X2), profit opportunities, and market dynamics than simply trust.

Table 4.6 Indirect Effect Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor	0.308	0.307	0.066	4,638	0,000
Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.308	0.307	0.066	4,638	0,000
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.018	0.017	0.031	0.582	0.561

Based on the results of the T-test analysis on the mediation model, it can be explained as follows:

- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Investor Confidence (Z) and Its Impact on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results showed a T-value of 4.638 with a p-value of 0.000. This significant T-value indicates that clarity of currency laws has a positive and significant effect on investor confidence, which in turn influences investment decisions in cryptocurrencies. In other words, the clearer the regulations regarding currencies, the higher the level of investor confidence, thus encouraging increased cryptocurrency investment.

- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Investor Confidence (Z) and Its Impact on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results for this path showed a T-value of 0.582 with a p-value of 0.561. This value was not statistically significant ($p > 0.05$), indicating that global economic regulations did not significantly influence investor confidence or investment decisions in cryptocurrency in the context of this study. This means that investors place more emphasis on local factors, such as clarity of currency laws, than global regulations when making cryptocurrency investment decisions.

The following are the results of research in Thailand:

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

Evaluation of the inner model can be seen from several indicators, including the coefficient of determination (R2), Predictive Relevance (Q2), and Goodness of Fit Index (GoF) (Hussein, 2015). The results of the structural model displayed by Smart PLS 3.0 in this study are as follows:

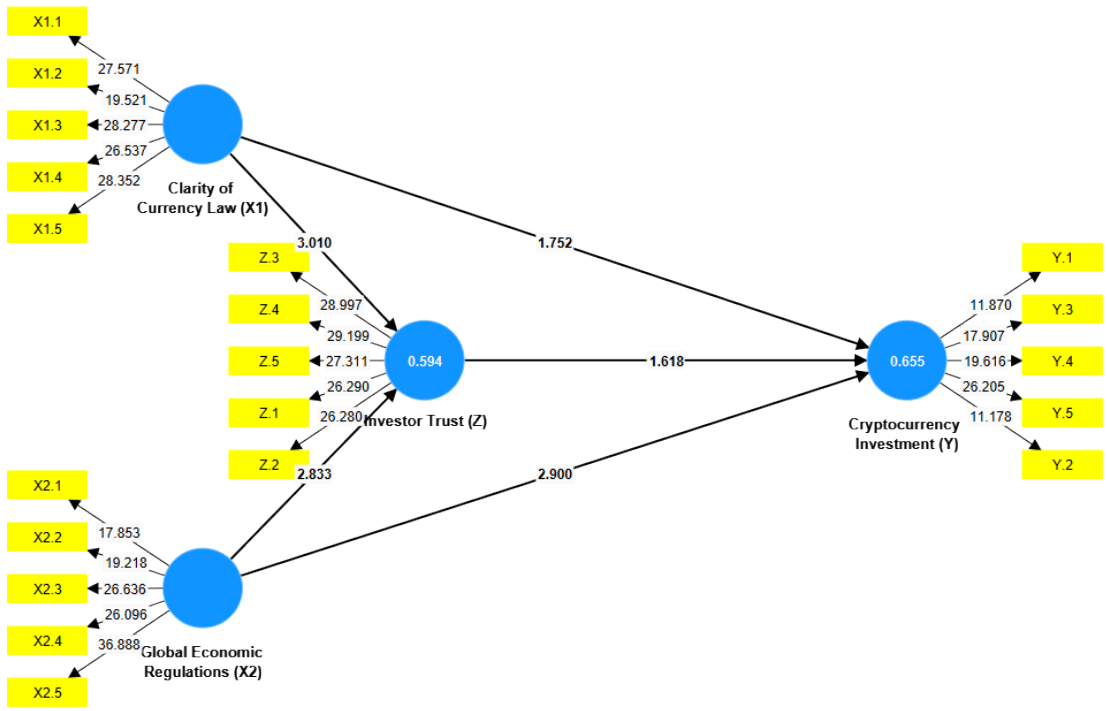


Figure 4.1 Structural Model (Inner Model)

R2 (R-square) Results

In assessing a model using PLS, we begin by looking at the R-square for each dependent latent variable. The results of the r2 calculation in this study are as follows:

Table 4.1 Correlation Value (r2)

	R-square	R-square adjusted
Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.655	0.653
Investor Trust (Z)	0.594	0.593

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

The R-square value of 0.655 and adjusted R-square of 0.653 indicate that 65.5% of the variation in cryptocurrency investment can be explained by the independent variables in the model, namely the clarity of currency laws (X1), global economic regulation (X2), and investor confidence (Z). The adjusted R-square value, which is close to the R-square, indicates that this model is quite good at explaining data variability, with little correction for the number of predictors. The R-square value of 0.594 and adjusted R-square of 0.593 indicate that 59.4% of the variation in investor confidence can be explained by the independent variables, namely the clarity of currency laws (X1) and global economic regulations (X2). This value indicates that these factors have a fairly strong contribution in shaping investor confidence.

Hypothesis Testing

Based on the results of the outer model, all tested hypotheses met the requirements and can therefore be used as analysis models in this study. Hypothesis testing in this study used a 5% alpha, meaning that if the t-statistic value is ≥ 2.048 or the probability value is ≤ the level of significance (α = 5%).

Table 4.2 Partial T-Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.273	0.277	0.156	1,752	0.080
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.414	0.420	0.137	3,010	0.003
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.453	0.453	0.156	2,900	0.004
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.376	0.370	0.133	2,833	0.005
Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.124	0.121	0.077	1,618	0.106

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the T-test analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investments (Y) The T-value of 1.752 with a p-value of 0.080 indicates that the direct effect of clarity of currency laws on cryptocurrency investments is not significant at the 5% significance level ($p > 0.05$). This indicates that this factor has not directly driven cryptocurrency investment decisions.
- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Investor Confidence (Z) The T-value of 3.010 with a p-value of 0.003 indicates that clarity of currency laws has a positive and significant effect on investor confidence. This means that the clearer the currency regulations, the higher investor confidence in the cryptocurrency market.
- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investments

(Y) The T-value of 2.900 with a p-value of 0.004 indicates a positive and significant influence of global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investment decisions. This indicates that global economic conditions and regulations also influence investment behavior.

- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Investor Confidence (Z)The T-value of 2.833 with a p-value of 0.005 indicates that global economic regulations also have a positive and significant influence on investor confidence. In other words, investors pay attention to global economic conditions in forming their perceptions of confidence.
- The Effect of Investor Trust (Z) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y) The T-value of 1.618 with a p-value of 0.106 indicates that the effect of investor trust on cryptocurrency investment is not significant at the 5% significance level. This means that although investor trust is important, in the context of this study, this factor does not directly drive increased cryptocurrency investment.

Table 4.3 Indirect Effect Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor	0.051	0.051	0.038	1,369	0.171
Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.051	0.051	0.038	1,369	0.171

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.219	0.218	0.015	14,276	0,000

Based on the results of the mediation path analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results showed a T value of 1.369 with a p-value of 0.171. This value was not significant at the 5% level ($p > 0.05$), indicating that investor confidence did not significantly mediate the relationship between the clarity of currency laws and cryptocurrency investment. In other words, the effect of currency law clarity on cryptocurrency investment is likely to be direct or influenced by factors other than investor confidence.

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results showed a T-value of 14.276 with a p-value of 0.000. This value is highly significant, indicating that investor confidence strongly mediates the effect of global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investment. In other words, global economic regulations increase investor confidence, which in turn drives increased cryptocurrency investment.

The following are the results of research in the Philippines:

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

Evaluation of the inner model can be seen from several indicators, including the coefficient of determination (R2), Predictive Relevance (Q2), and Goodness of Fit Index (GoF) (Hussein, 2015). The results of the structural model displayed by Smart PLS 3.0 in this study are as follows:

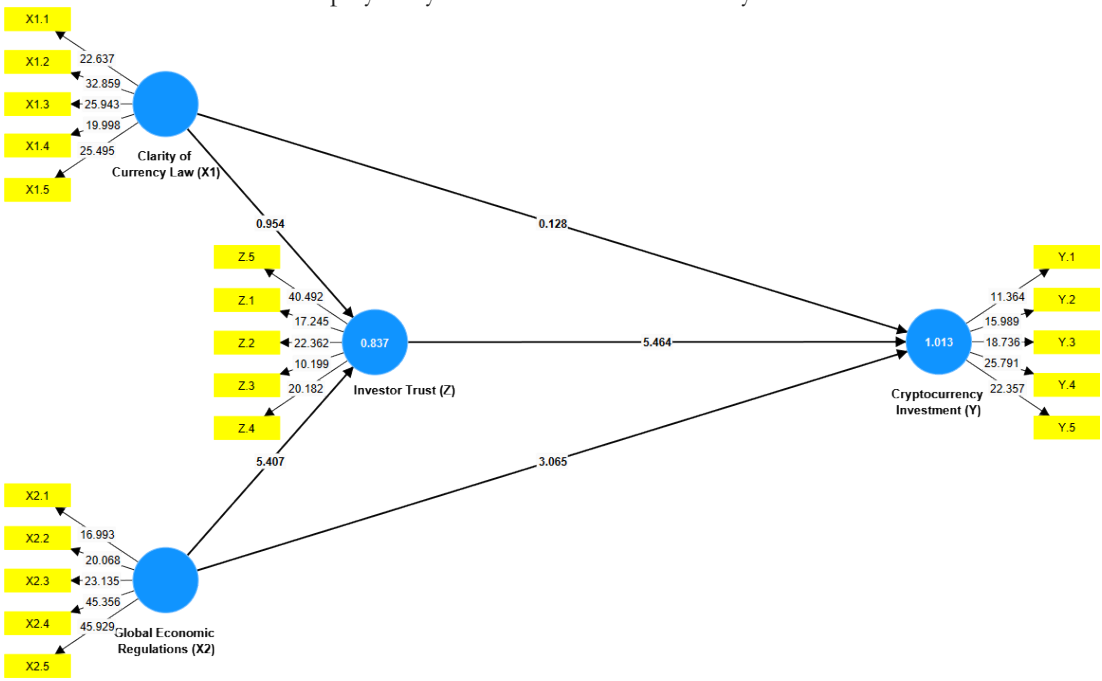


Figure 4.1 Structural Model (Inner Model)

R2 (R-square) Results

In assessing a model using PLS, we begin by looking at the R-square for each dependent latent variable. The results of the r2 calculation in this study are as follows:

Table 4.1 Correlation Value (r2)

	R-square	R-square adjusted
Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.813	0.813
Investor Trust (Z)	0.837	0.837

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

The R-square value of 0.813 and the adjusted R-square value of 0.813 indicate that 81.3% of the variation in cryptocurrency investment can be explained by the independent and mediating variables in the model, namely the clarity of currency laws (X1), global economic regulation (X2), and investor confidence (Z). The adjusted R-square value, which is almost the same as the R-square, indicates that this model is very good at explaining data variability, with little correction for the number of predictors. The R-square value of 0.837 and the adjusted R-square value of 0.837 indicate that 83.7% of the variation in investor confidence can be explained by the clarity of currency laws (X1) and global economic regulations (X2). This indicates that these two factors have a very strong contribution in shaping investor confidence.

Hypothesis Testing

Based on the results of the outer model, all tested hypotheses met the requirements and can therefore be used as analysis models in this study. Hypothesis testing in this study used a 5% alpha, meaning that if the t-statistic value is ≥ 2.048 or the probability value is ≤ the level of significance (α = 5%).

Table 4.2 Partial T-Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	-0.035	-0.054	0.270	0.128	0.898
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.149	0.148	0.156	0.954	0.340
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	-1,247	-1,334	0.407	3,065	0.002
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.777	0.778	0.144	5,407	0,000
Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	2,030	2,138	0.372	5,464	0,000

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the T-test analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investments (Y) The T-value of 0.128 with a p-value of 0.898 indicates that the direct effect of clarity of currency laws on cryptocurrency investments is insignificant. This means that the clarity of domestic currency regulations does not directly influence cryptocurrency investment decisions in the context of this study.
- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Investor Confidence (Z) The T-value of 0.954 with a p-value of 0.340 indicates that clarity of currency laws is also insignificant in influencing investor confidence. In other words, this factor is not strong enough to shape the perception of investor confidence in the cryptocurrency market.
- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investments

(Y) The T-value of 3.065 with a p-value of 0.002 indicates a positive and significant influence of global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investments. This indicates that investors consider global economic conditions in making investment decisions.

- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Investor Confidence (Z) The T-value of 5.407 with a p-value of 0.000 indicates that global economic regulations have a very significant influence on investor confidence. In other words, investor confidence is greatly influenced by global economic conditions and policies.
- The Influence of Investor Trust (Z) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y) The T-value of 5.464 with a p-value of 0.000 indicates that investor trust has a positive and significant influence on cryptocurrency investment. This indicates that investor trust is a key factor driving investment decisions.

Table 4.3 Indirect Effect Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor	0.301	0.324	0.359	0.840	0.401
Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.301	0.324	0.359	0.840	0.401
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	1,577	1,663	0.437	3,613	0,000

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the mediation path analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results show a T-value of 0.840 with a p-value of 0.401, which is not significant at the 5% level ($p > 0.05$). This indicates that investor confidence does not significantly mediate the relationship between the clarity of currency laws and cryptocurrency investment. This means that the influence of currency law clarity on investment is likely not through investor confidence or is influenced by other factors.

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results showed a T-value of 3.613 with a p-value of 0.000, which is highly significant. This indicates that investor confidence strongly mediates the effect of global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investment. In other words, global economic regulations increase investor confidence, which in turn drives increased cryptocurrency investment.

The following are the results of research in Singapore:

Structural Model Evaluation (Inner Model)

Evaluation of the inner model can be seen from several indicators, including the coefficient of determination (R2), Predictive Relevance (Q2), and Goodness of Fit Index (GoF) (Hussein, 2015). The results of the structural model displayed by Smart PLS 3.0 in this study are as follows:

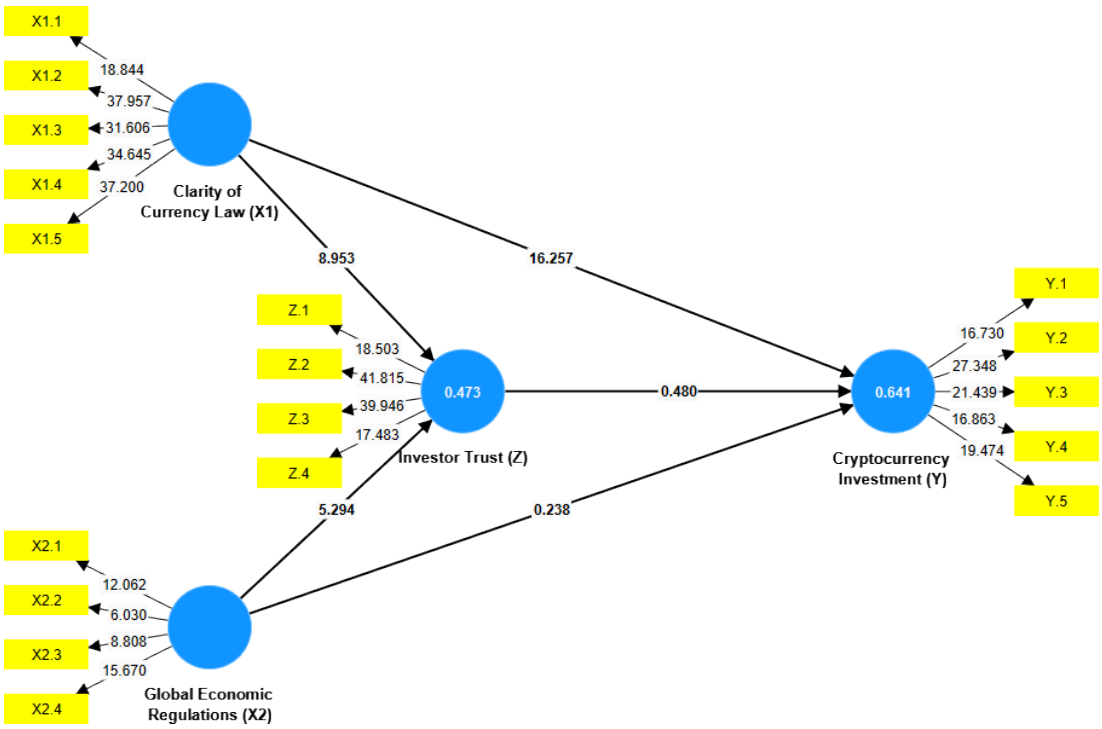


Figure 4.1 Structural Model (Inner Model)

R2 (R-square) Results

In assessing a model using PLS, we begin by looking at the R-square for each dependent latent variable. The results of the r2 calculation in this study are as follows:

Table 4.1 Correlation Value (r2)

	R-square	R-square adjusted
Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.641	0.639
Investor Trust (Z)	0.473	0.471

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

The R-square value of 0.641 and adjusted R-square of 0.639 indicate that 64.1% of the variation in cryptocurrency investment can be explained by the independent and mediating variables in the model, namely the clarity of currency laws (X1), global economic regulation (X2), and investor confidence (Z). The adjusted R-square value, which is close to the R-square, indicates that this model is quite good at explaining data variation with minimal correction for the number of predictors.

The R-square value of 0.473 and adjusted R-square of 0.471 indicate that 47.3% of the variation in investor confidence can be explained by the clarity of currency laws (X1) and global economic regulations (X2). This indicates that nearly half of investor confidence perceptions can be explained by these factors, while the remainder is likely influenced by other variables outside the model.

Hypothesis Testing

Based on the results of the outer model, all tested hypotheses met the requirements and can therefore be used as analysis models in this study. Hypothesis testing in this study used a 5% alpha, meaning that if the t-statistic value is ≥ 2.048 or the probability value is ≤ the level of significance (α = 5%).

Table 4.2 Partial T-Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.787	0.788	0.042	18,576	0,000
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.458	0.456	0.051	8,953	0,000
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.025	0.024	0.057	0.434	0.665
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z)	0.321	0.325	0.061	5,294	0,000
Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.029	0.028	0.061	0.480	0.631

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the T-test analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y) The T-value of 18.576 with a p-value of 0.000 indicates that clarity of currency laws has a positive and highly significant effect on cryptocurrency investment. This indicates that the clearer the currency regulations, the higher the investment decisions in the cryptocurrency market.
- The Effect of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Investor Confidence (Z) The T-value of 8.953 with a p-value of 0.000 indicates that clarity of currency laws also has a positive and significant influence on investor confidence. In other words, clear regulations increase the level of investor confidence in the cryptocurrency market.
- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investments

(Y) The T-value of 0.434 with a p-value of 0.665 indicates that the influence of global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investments is insignificant. This indicates that this global factor does not have a significant direct impact on investment decisions in the context of this study.

- The Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Investor Confidence (Z)The T-value of 5.294 with a p-value of 0.000 indicates a positive and significant influence of global economic regulations on investor confidence. This means that global economic conditions and policies remain important in shaping investor perceptions, even though they do not directly affect investment.
- The Influence of Investor Trust (Z) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y) The T-value of 0.480 with a p-value of 0.631 indicates that investor trust does not have a significant influence on cryptocurrency investment in the context of this study. This indicates that although investors have a certain level of trust, this factor does not directly drive investment decisions.

Table 4.3 Indirect Effect Test

	Original sample (O)	Sample mean (M)	Standard deviation (STDEV)	t statistic	p-value
Clarity of Currency Law (X1) -> Investor	0.432	0.428	0.072	6,030	0,000
Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.432	0.428	0.072	6,030	0,000
Global Economic Regulation (X2) -> Investor Trust (Z) -> Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)	0.009	0.010	0.021	0.460	0.646

Source: Primary data processed (2025)

Based on the results of the mediation path analysis, the following findings were obtained:

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Clarity of Currency Laws (X1) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results show a T-value of 6.030 with a p-value of 0.000, which is highly significant. This indicates that investor confidence significantly mediates the effect of clarity of currency laws on cryptocurrency investment. In other words, clarity of currency regulations increases investor confidence, which in turn drives increased cryptocurrency investment.

- Mediation of Investor Confidence (Z) on the Influence of Global Economic Regulations (X2) on Cryptocurrency Investment (Y)

The T-test results showed a T-value of 0.460 with a p-value of 0.646, which is insignificant. This indicates that investor confidence does not significantly mediate the relationship between global economic regulation and cryptocurrency investment. In other words, global regulation does not influence investment through investor confidence in the context of this study.

Based on quantitative analysis, significant differences were found in the influence of regulations and investor confidence on cryptocurrency investments in four countries, namely Indonesia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

In Singapore, results show that clarity in the Currency Act and compliance with global economic regulations significantly influence cryptocurrency investment decisions. Investor confidence also proved to be a mediator, strengthening the relationship between regulation and investment. This confirms Singapore's position as a stable digital financial hub, where investors feel secure due to a clear legal framework and global regulatory support.

In Indonesia, the clarity of the Currency Law has a significant direct impact on cryptocurrency investment, but investor confidence as a mediator is less prominent. This reflects the fact that, despite clear domestic regulations, investors remain cautious about investing due to the limited legal status of cryptocurrency as a commodity, not an official means of payment.

In the Philippines, global economic regulations have a more significant influence than the clarity of domestic currency laws. Investor confidence is also shown to mediate the influence of global regulations, although the effect is more moderate than in Singapore. These findings suggest that Filipino investors are more sensitive to external factors and global market dynamics than to domestic legal certainty.

In Thailand, data shows a balanced combination of domestic and global regulatory influences, with both factors contributing significantly to cryptocurrency investment. However, investor confidence appears to be a stronger mediator than in Indonesia and the Philippines, suggesting that Thai investors tend to assess investment security through their perceptions of regulatory certainty.

Based on the phenomena and issues that have been described, this research is formulated to answer the following qualitative research questions:

- How does the clarity of the Currency Law affect cryptocurrency investments in the Big Four ASEAN countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand)?

Clarity in currency laws is a key factor influencing the development of cryptocurrency investment at the national level. In the Big Four ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—differences in regulatory approaches have significantly impacted investor behavior. In Singapore, the government provides a clear legal framework and supports digital financial innovation through regulations from the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS). This clarity creates a sense of security for investors, minimizes legal risks, and encourages increased participation in the cryptocurrency market. Both domestic and foreign investors tend to be more confident investing when the legal status of investment instruments is clear and there are formally regulated protection mechanisms.

Meanwhile, in Indonesia, cryptocurrency is recognized only as a digital commodity, not legal tender. The unclear legal status of cryptocurrency as a means of payment raises investor concerns regarding the legality of transactions and future regulatory risks. This tends to limit investment volume and encourage investors to be more selective in choosing platforms or types of digital assets. Malaysia and Thailand demonstrate a moderate stance; both recognize cryptocurrency as an investment instrument with specific regulations, but still emphasize compliance with anti-money laundering (AML) and consumer protection regulations. The clarity of regulations in these two countries provides a balance between digital market growth opportunities and risk mitigation for investors.

Overall, these findings confirm that the clearer and more stringent the legal framework regarding cryptocurrencies, the higher the level of investor participation, as legal clarity reduces uncertainty and increases investor confidence in the security of investments. Conversely, regulatory ambiguity or restrictions tend to discourage investment and increase perceived risk.

- How do global economic regulations affect cryptocurrency investments in the Big Four ASEAN countries?

Global economic regulations play an external role in influencing the cryptocurrency investment climate, including in the Big Four ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Monetary policy, international interest rates, and cross-border regulatory standards such as the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) guidelines can influence the perception of risk and opportunities for both domestic and foreign investors.

In Singapore, stable global economic conditions and active involvement in international regulatory frameworks encourage investors to invest in digital instruments, including cryptocurrencies. Investors view Singapore's compliance with global regulations as a guarantee of investment security and clarity of cross-border transaction mechanisms.

Indonesia, despite having more restrictive domestic policies, remains affected by global dynamics such as fluctuations in the US dollar exchange rate and international regulations regarding digital assets. Global economic uncertainty can increase volatility in the local cryptocurrency market, making investors more cautious.

Malaysia and Thailand have demonstrated a moderate response to global regulations. Both countries have integrated international standards, such as those related to anti-money laundering (AML) and countering the financing of terrorism (CFT), providing investors with a legal framework aligned with global practices. This helps build investor confidence while maintaining domestic market stability.

Overall, these findings confirm that global economic regulations significantly influence cryptocurrency investment, as external factors such as international legal certainty, global economic conditions, and the integration of regulatory standards influence risk perception and investment interest. Investors tend to be more confident investing when the countries in which they operate adhere to a stable and consistent global regulatory framework.

- To what extent does investor confidence mediate the relationship between the clarity of the Currency Law and global economic regulations on cryptocurrency investment decisions?

Investor trust is a crucial psychological factor in determining investment behavior, particularly in digital instruments like cryptocurrencies, which carry high risks and significant market volatility. In the context of the Big Four ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—investor trust can serve as a mediator between regulations (both domestic and global) and investment decisions. Clarity in the Currency Law (X1) provides a clear legal basis for investors to understand the legality and security of investment instruments. When domestic regulations are transparent and firm, investors feel confident that their investment activities are protected from legal risks and potential losses resulting from regulatory

uncertainty. This increases investor confidence, which ultimately drives investment decisions in cryptocurrencies. Conversely, unclear domestic regulations tend to undermine investor confidence, thus hindering market participation.

Meanwhile, global economic regulations (X2) influence investors' risk perceptions through external factors, such as exchange rate stability, international monetary policy, and global compliance standards (e.g., FATF). Investors who perceive global regulations as aligned with domestic practices tend to have higher confidence in investment security. This trust then acts as a mediator, because even though global regulations provide positive signals, investment decisions still depend heavily on the extent to which investors feel secure and trust market mechanisms. Thus, investor trust serves as a bridge explaining how domestic and global regulations translate into concrete actions in the form of investments. These findings emphasize the importance of a combination of clear and consistent regulations, both at the national and global levels, to build investor confidence, thereby maximizing the growth potential of the cryptocurrency market in a sustainable manner.

- How different regulatory approaches in each country affect the cryptocurrency investment climate and investor risk perception

Investor trust is a crucial psychological factor in determining investment behavior, particularly in digital instruments like cryptocurrencies, which carry high risks and significant market volatility. In the context of the Big Four ASEAN countries—Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—investor trust can serve as a mediator between regulations (both domestic and global) and investment decisions. Clarity in the Currency Law (X1) provides a clear legal basis for investors to understand the legality and security of investment instruments. When domestic regulations are transparent and firm, investors feel confident that their investment activities are protected from legal risks and potential losses resulting from regulatory uncertainty. This increases investor confidence, which ultimately drives investment decisions in cryptocurrencies. Conversely, unclear domestic regulations tend to undermine investor confidence, thus hindering market participation.

Meanwhile, global economic regulations (X2) influence investors' risk perceptions through external factors, such as exchange rate stability, international monetary policy, and global compliance standards (e.g., FATF). Investors who perceive global regulations as aligned with domestic practices tend to have higher confidence in investment security. This trust then acts as a mediator, because even though global regulations provide positive signals, investment decisions still depend heavily on the extent to which investors feel secure and trust market mechanisms. Thus, investor confidence serves as a bridge explaining how domestic and global regulations translate into concrete investment actions. These findings emphasize the importance of a combination of clear and consistent regulations, both at the national and global levels, to build investor confidence, thereby maximizing the growth potential of the cryptocurrency market in a sustainable manner.

Conclusion

Based on the analysis carried out using quantitative and qualitative methods, the following conclusions were obtained:

- The Influence of Clarity of Currency Law (X1)
- Quantitative methods: The analysis results show that clarity of domestic regulations has a significant influence on cryptocurrency investment in some countries, such as Singapore and Indonesia, while in other countries the influence is more moderate.
- Qualitative methods: Interviews and case studies show that investors consider regulatory clarity as a key factor in reducing legal risk and increasing a sense of security in investing.
- The Influence of World Economic Regulations (X2)
- Quantitative methods: Global regulations have been shown to significantly impact cryptocurrency investments in countries that are more sensitive to international economic dynamics, such as the Philippines.
- Qualitative methods: Narrative analysis revealed that investors consider global economic stability, international compliance standards, and world market conditions as indicators of investment security.
- The Role of Investor Trust (Z) as a Mediator
- Quantitative method: Investor confidence is shown to mediate the influence of clarity of currency laws and global economic regulations on investment decisions, especially in Singapore and Thailand.

- Qualitative methods: Interview results confirm that investor confidence is shaped by a combination of domestic legal factors and compliance with global regulations, thereby increasing cryptocurrency market participation.
- Differences between countries
- Singapore has the clearest and most supportive regulatory framework, resulting in the highest investment and investor confidence.
- Indonesia demonstrates strong domestic regulatory influence, but investor confidence remains limited due to the legal status of cryptocurrencies as commodities.
- The Philippines is more influenced by global factors and shows sensitivity to the world economy.
- Thailand demonstrates a balance between domestic and global regulations, with a significant role as a mediator of investor confidence.

Overall, the integration of quantitative and qualitative results confirms that the synergy between domestic regulations, global regulations, and investor confidence is a key factor in driving the growth of the cryptocurrency market in ASEAN.

Suggestion

Based on these conclusions, the following are suggested:

For Government and Regulators:

- There is a need to clarify and standardize the legal framework for cryptocurrencies to increase investor security, including legal status, transaction mechanisms, and legal protection.
- Adopt global standards and international practices (e.g. FATF) to maintain regulatory consistency with the world economy.

For Investors:

- Consider a combination of domestic and global regulations before investing. Investors should assess legality, economic stability, and international regulatory compliance.
- Leverage information on legal clarity and global compliance to minimize investment risks.

For Further Researchers:

- Further research could add other variables, such as blockchain technology innovation, investor digital literacy, or market sentiment, to broaden our understanding of the factors influencing cryptocurrency investment.
- Longitudinal research can be conducted to see how regulatory changes and global economic conditions dynamically influence investment trends.

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