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2019 A Review

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Abstract

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Ciorstan Smark¹ and Monir Mir²

Do the firms' governance factors affect related party transactions differently in the context of developing economies? Is it important that we teach listening skills to accounting students? Do firms' earnings management behaviours show different trends in developing economies' contexts during an abnormal economic period? How social audits could be made useful for companies' holistic CSR evaluations? Could Confucian whistleblowing approach followed by an Asian country be applied to Australia (and in other developed economies)? These are the primary research questions addressed by the papers published in this issue of AABFJ.

Amer Al Fadli³, John Sands⁴, Greg Jones, Claire Beattie⁵ and Dom Pensiero⁶

Abstract

This study investigates whether board gender diversity influences corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting in Jordan, where there are no gender board balance regulatory requirements. Data was examined from all non-financial Jordanian listed companies for the period of 2006 to 2015. This longitudinal data results in balanced panel data of 800 observations. A content analysis method was used to obtain the reporting index of CSR disclosure in the annual reports. Ordinary least square regression showed that the presence of female directors on a board has a significantly positive effect on the level of CSR reporting. The presence of female directors on the board appears to play a significant role in enhancing compliance with corporate governance best practices. These results provide motivations for companies to consider gender balance on boards. Further, these results reinforce the decision making of regulators in countries where policies have been adopted to increase female representation on corporate boards. In countries where no such regulation exists the inclusion of gender balance practices within boards of directors may increase the level of CSR reporting practices. This study can be considered as one of the few empirical studies that have evaluated the impact of board gender diversity on the level of CSR reporting in a context where there are no gender balance strategies or policies.

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Surachai Chancharat⁷ and Nongnit Chancharat⁸

Abstract

The purpose of this paper is to investigate the effects of board and ownership structures on the performance of the companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) during the period 2001-2014. A random effects panel regression analysis is employed to explore these relationships. The empirical evidence shows that the firm's board independence is significantly related to corporate performance. Specifically, board independence has a negative and significant impact on the performance measure return on assets (ROA). The result supports the argument that outside directors will not necessarily act in shareholders' interest since the Chief Executive Officers (CEOs) often dominate the director nomination process. Moreover, we did not find a significant relationship between other board and ownership structures and firm performance. The results from this study show how board and ownership structures influence listed firms' performance in Thailand. Firms in Thailand are generally smaller than those in developed countries, so unquestioning compliance with different codes and principles from elsewhere is inappropriate for Thai firms. The codes and principles may have to be customised to fit specific, contextual needs in Thailand.

Danhong Wu⁹ and Sanja Pupovac¹⁰

Abstract

This paper is an exploratory analysis of information overload in a sample of 15 Chinese companies from mining, manufacturing, finance, electricity and information technology industries. Using an adaptation of Dahlsrud's (2008) five dimensional framework of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), we develop a longitudinal core information ratio analysis. Our findings suggest that while the length of the reports increased over the ten year period, the CSR information ratio, a measure of the proportion of the report comprising CSR disclosures, did not similarly increase. We argue that the driving force behind lengthy CSR reports is coercive pressure from the government and stock exchanges, and companies' attempts to manage their stakeholders' impressions. The results of this study have important implications for the Chinese government and Chinese stock exchanges as they consider ways to address and improve core CSR disclosures to be of greater value to users, rather than simply lengthier.¹¹

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Abstract

While there has been extensive research on the adoption of an innovation in general, research on adoption of a specific innovation such as virtual systems in an emerging economy is relatively scarce. This research addresses this lacuna in the extant literature by empirically investigating the potential drivers impacting on the practice of virtual systems at the individual level in an emerging economy, Bangladesh. The data for the study comprises responses obtained through a cross-sectional survey of individuals using a structured instrument. Data were analyzed using correlation and multiple regression analysis. Findings suggest that a personal initiative is one of the strongest predictors of virtual device adoption, followed by self-fulfillment with innovation and peer pressure. Surprisingly benefits and social pressure did not show any significant relationship with usage. The implications of these findings are highlighted in the paper along with the limits and future potential of research in this area.

Manish Sharma¹³ and Hima Bindu Kota¹⁴

Abstract

The contribution of Indian women in family, businesses and society is today being recognized. The role of women in the family decisions is also increasing with the change in demographics as more women are now participating in economic activities. With the change in education, employment and contribution in the earnings of the family, her say in the family decisions are increasing. When it comes to the investment decisions, women tend to be risk averse, have conservative attitude, lower levels of financial knowledge, lack of confidence and dependent on guidance from others as suggested by different researches worldwide. The role of husband becomes particularly important for women while choosing investment products or taking investment decisions. This article attempts to highlight the role of women in investment decision making in the family and further examines the role of a male spouse on the investment decisions. The objectives of the study were to examine the behavior of working women while taking investment decisions; and to identify the extent to which the investment decisions of the working women are influenced by the spouse/husband. The article further highlights that, when it comes to investment decisions, both husband and wife share responsibility for making investment decisions. There are investment products like Bank deposits, 5 year tax saving FDs, precious metals, public provident fund, national pension system, post office saving schemes, mutual funds, life insurance, and commodities, where the influence of women is stronger than their male spouse. The influence of a male spouse is stronger in products like real estate, company deposits, debentures or bonds, pension schemes, equity shares and derivatives.

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