CORPORATE OWNERSHIP & CONTROL

КОРПОРАТИВНАЯ СОБСТВЕННОСТЬ И КОНТРОЛЬ

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EDITORIAL

Dear readers!

The recent issue of the journal Corporate Ownership and Control pays attention to issues of corporate ownership and control and board practices. Control rights, company performance, corporate governance in Australia and Brazil are also under the scope of researches. More detailed issues are given below.

H. C. Martins, C. A. Gonçalves, J. A. S Neto, M. A. Gonçalves, R. M. Muniz analyzes the constitution of the directors boards, based on their attributes, and the impact of this configuration on the roles and responsibilities of the board members in Brazilian Family Businesses. *BEN MOUSSA Fatma, CHICHTI Jameleddine* tests the efficiency of the ownership structure and the debt policy as mechanism of resolution of agency conflicts between shareholders and managers. *Harjinder Singh, Rick Newby, Inderpal Singh* states that prior research has linked audit quality with large audit firms. Consequently, a dichotomous variable, Big N/non-Big N has traditionally proxied for audit quality. Applying a different measure of audit quality than audit fee, their paper investigates whether a single dummy variable for Big N is an appropriate proxy for audit quality in explaining differences in the existence of clients' internal audit (IA) function. *Wan-Ying Lin* examines the impact of firm's listing status on the relationship between corporate governance and cost of bank loans. *Karima Dhaouadi* seeks to understand how the firm's ownership structure and the board of directors' composition influence the structural capital. The latter is apprehended by two main levers: innovation ("R&D") and firm's reputation. *Rodrigo Miguel de Oliveira, Ricardo Pereira Câmara Leal, Vinicio de Souza e Almeida* did not find any consistent evidence that the presence of the largest Brazilian pension funds as relevant shareholders is associated to higher corporate governance scores by public Brazilian companies.

HU Dan, ZHENG Haiyan investigates the relationship between control rights, cash flow rights, and firm performance across a sample of 276 China's private listed companies (CPC) from 2003 to 2008. The main purpose of the study of *Ioraver Nyenger Tsegba* and *John Iorpenda Sar* is to ascertain whether alternative corporate ownership and control structures give rise to significant differential firm performance in light of Nigeria's conflicting polices regarding the ownership structure of the state owned enterprises.

Tasadduq Imam, Abdullahi Ahmed, Kevin Tickle tries to relate company performance (in terms of different measures) to corporate governance characteristics (like board size, internal or external majority governance) for the publicly listed information technology (IT) companies in Australia. A sample of 55 such companies are considered. *Neil Hartnett* in the study considers the association between corporate governance attributes and IPO return behaviour in the Australian share market. *Ananda Samudhram, Jothee Sinnakkannu* introduces an SME development model, based on a case study of the Malaysian SME enabling environment. The model proposes a structure of institutions that specifically addresses the different challenges faced by SMEs (including a lack of technological know-how, market and trade intelligence, advice on quality and capacity enhancements and financing), encased within supporting regulatory policies and synergistically linked with small scale accounting and consulting firms.

We hope that you will enjoy reading the journal and in future we will receive new papers, outlining the most important issues and best practices of corporate governance!

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SECTION 2. CORPORATE CONTROL

SECTION 3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN AUSTRALIA

This study considers the association between corporate governance attributes and IPO return behaviour in the Australian share market. Strong, significant associations are reported between IPO initial returns and board size, board independence and leadership structure. The board size effect appears contextual and increases with larger entity size. Audit committee formation per se was not a discriminating factor but committee conformity with exchange guidelines was of marginal significance. Overall, the results are consistent with the premise that governance attributes can offer signals to investors concerning the likely effectiveness of management actions in serving shareholder interests and enhancing firm prospects.

This paper introduces an SME development model, based on a case study of the Malaysian SME enabling environment. It proposes a structure of institutions that specifically addresses the different challenges faced by SMEs (including a lack of technological know-how, market and trade intelligence, advice on quality and capacity enhancements and financing), encased within supporting regulatory policies and synergistically linked with small scale accounting and consulting firms. It proposes establishing small business development units (SBDUs), within comprehensive universities, to strategically harness and deploy the universities' internal brainpower for boosting nationwide SME development. It also suggests harnessing the power of the free market by promoting small scale accounting and consulting firms, that will serve as information intermediaries between SMEs, SBDUs and various institutions set in place to help SME development. A national human resource accounting policy is proposed to help in the governance of the SME sector. This policy would help to measure, manage and promote human capital development at the level of firms, economic sub sectors and the nation. Various incentives, such as tax exemptions and national level recognition and awards for successful consultants, will further promote SME development. These measures can also be promoted at regional levels, such as the ASEAN and APEC. Given that SMEs are major sources of employment, these measures that help to create robust SMEs that would support sustained long-term economic growth, which would in turn help sustain low unemployment rates and combat poverty.