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Abstract

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The June 2017 issue of AABFJ presents research from a range of business research areas and from a range of authors from throughout Australia and the world. Dias, Rodrigues and Craig (2017) have investigated the association between CSR performance and corporate governance characteristics of Portuguese listed companies using data from these companies covering the GFC period. Their findings are consistent with the extant literature in this area and that the GFC did not influence the consistency in the findings. Dias et al. have offered academic community a very interesting phenomenon about a European Union country Portugal. Although belongs to developed economy, Portugal's corporate governance characteristics have got significant similarities with the developing economies such as high concentration of ownership to a small number of owners, high level of CEO duality, high concentration of banking and small capital market. Nevertheless, their findings are consistent with the findings of similar studies conducted in developed economy contexts. It would be interesting to investigate further whether cultural and institutional proximities of Portuguese capital market with the developed economies contributed in such findings.

Like Dias et al. above, Al-Rahahleh (2017) documents and explores interesting phenomena about corporate governance in Jordan. Al-Rahahleh has observed low representation of women on the boards of Jordanian listed companies and has provided evidence that gender diversity on boards in Jordanian companies would have improved the quality of their corporate governance. Interestingly also, it is observed that the low representation of women on the boards of listed Jordanian companies is not only lower compared to developed economies, but also lower than many other developing economies. Further exploratory studies will provide us with evidence on why Jordan lagging behind in this important corporate governance factor.

Graham and Sathye (2017) have explored how national culture impacts capital budgeting systems, comparing Indonesia's and Australia's capital budgeting systems. They have found significant differences between Indonesian and Australian listed companies in selecting and using their capital budgeting systems due to cultural differences between these two countries. Cultural issues are rarely captured in capital budgeting and therefore, Graham and Sathye's research makes a significant contribution to our existing knowledge of the impact of national culture in capital budgeting decisions. Their research could be expanded further through exploring the impact of differences in internal organisational cultures such as cultural differences between organisations operating in for-profit and not-for-profit sectors.

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Ahmad, Rashid and Gow (2017) examine the influence of board independence on corporate social responsibility (CSR) reporting by publicly listed companies in Malaysia. The results indicate that the association between board independence and company CSR reporting is industry specific. This research finds the perceptions of agency theory supported.

Adelopo (2017) investigated the association between risk narratives disclosures in annual reports and firm performance, especially firm failure using an alternative approach. That is, the use of risk narratives in the annual reports. This approach is still evolving and therefore Adelopo's use of the approach deserves appreciation and attention in academia. We know each annual report in general has two parts; one is the statutory disclosure part, which is audited and the second part is narratives which are mainly presented at the beginning of the report which are not audited. The use of the narratives in the annual reports to identify firms' risks and forecasting failure has started gaining attention from fundamental analysts of firms' performance. Regulators and policy makers must start thinking how these narratives in the annual reports could be quality tested so that obfuscation of crucial disclosure performance information by firms' and deliberate attempts to misguide users of annual reports is lessened.

Rounding out this issue, Irani, Gerayeli and Valiyan (2017) investigated whether there is any significant relationship between corporate governance mechanisms and CEO compensation of Iranian listed companies. The association between corporate governance mechanisms and CEO compensation has been researched extensively. However, most of these studies are conducted in the contexts of well-developed stock markets and generalising the findings of these studies in developing economies' context is problematic because of the difference in cultural, socio-political, institutional and economic characteristics. Irani et al.'s study is another addition to the academic literature of corporate governance in developing economies' context. Interestingly, Irani et al.'s findings are consistent with the findings of the extant academic literature. Iranian policy makers therefore, could use Irani et al.'s findings to improve and regulate the corporate governance mechanisms of the listed Iranian companies.

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