



Editorial Volume 16 Issue 1

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This issue of Australasian Accounting Business and Finance Journal (AABFJ) comes out at a time when the Omicron variant of COVID-19 has spiked infection rates around the world. In line with this reality, Djajadikerta, Trireksani and Appiagyei (2022) examine the extraordinary situation due to COVID-19 and examine the behavioural patterns of investors by way of the level of trading activities on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) around the releases of crucial information regarding the COVID-19 pandemic. The study finds sufficient evidence to indicate that the COVID-19 announcements and calculations influence investor decisions on the ASX as the pandemic evolved.

In other articles presented in this issue, Ahmed, Fan and Billah (2022) examine the relationship between external service quality and hotel performance in New Zealand. The study suggests that customer service quality is important in building customer loyalty and hotel performance. Hassan, Alam, Campbell, Bowyer and Reaz (2022) explore the impact of management initiatives and soft HRM on Generation Y employee retention in the healthcare industries. This study finds significant positive effects of soft HRM on Generation Y employee retention through increasing job satisfaction.

From an environment and sustainability perspective, Kumar and Firoz (2022) explore the connection between Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) disclosures and Corporate Financial Performance (CFP) in the Indian context. The better ESG disclosures were found to help the companies to improve their CFP and create a good image, credibility, and promote corporate ethical practices. This study provides managers and other stakeholders with important implications of corporate sustainability being in the best interests of the long-term survival of an enterprise. De Silva Lokuwaduge and De Silva (2022) comment on the issues arising from the widely differing approaches to sustainability standards and frameworks around the world and note that this poses the risk of increasing 'greenwashing', whereby some corporations will exaggerate and misrepresent their 'green' credentials. These authors focus on the problematic areas of ESG reporting caused by large variation in reporting frameworks, requirements and criteria, resulting in reporting quality which does not meet the above criteria. This article calls for a global framework for ESG reporting to prevent fragmentation, provide greater comparability, transparency and reduce the complexity of ESG disclosure.

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From a policy perspective, Musabayana and Mutambara (2022) discuss The Black Economic Empowerment (BEE) policy in the South African Government's effort to overcome the apartheid legacy. This article analyses the effects of Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment (BBBEE) policies on the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in South Africa. This research critically analyses the literature of BBBEE policies. Also related to policy issues, Rashid, Al-Mamun, Roudaki and Yasser (2022) provide a review of the literature on corporate fraud as well as financial crime and the prevention approaches used in different contexts. Based on the review of the literature concerning corporate fraud this article provides a comprehensive review and summary of financial crime / fraud committed across multiple jurisdictions around the world and highlights the importance of internal control systems in preventing these crimes.

In a corporate governance based article, Agustia, Harymawan and Nowland (2022) investigate whether joint meetings between boards of directors and top management teams associated with better decision making or higher agency costs? The findings suggest that the benefits from information sharing at joint meetings are greater than the agency costs involved.

Many authors and academic readers of AABFJ are making a return to face to face teaching and to on campus research in the next few months as well as also offering digital / distance alternatives for students and conferences. We take this opportunity to wish you and your students good health and strength in this difficult time.

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