

EDITORIAL: Emerging trends and global practices — Charting the future of corporate governance

Dear readers!

Corporate governance continues to be a cornerstone of modern business practices, evolving rapidly in response to new challenges and opportunities presented by globalization, technological advancements (Makpotche et al., 2024), and shifting regulatory landscapes (Awad et al., 2024; Shahrour et al., 2022). As companies navigate these complexities, research in corporate governance has expanded, encompassing a wide range of topics that reflect the dynamic nature of the field. Recent trends emphasize the importance of sustainability (Balla, 2024), ethical leadership (Yin & Zhang, 2012), and the integration of digital technologies in governance frameworks (Lobschat et al., 2021). These developments not only shape corporate strategies but also influence stakeholder trust and overall organizational resilience (Girerd-Potin et al., 2014; Tenuta & Kostyuk, 2020).

In this issue of the *Journal of Governance & Regulation*, we present a diverse collection of 20 papers that contribute to the expanding discourse in corporate governance and regulation. These papers are organized into key themes that highlight the current trends and challenges in the field.

Within the theme of *governance and regulation in financial markets*, the works of Mamdouh Abdulaziz Saleh Al-Faryan and Nikhil Chandra Shil; Maher Al-Mahrouq and Ahmad A. Al-Majali; Claudio Kumbirai Chikeya and Raphael Tabani Mpofu; Adam Czelleng; and Dipendra Karki, Rewan Kumar Dahal, Ganesh Bhattarai, Binod Ghimire, and Surendra Prasad Joshi explore various aspects of governance and regulatory frameworks within financial markets. Prior literature, such as Aouadi and Marsat (2018), has highlighted the impact of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) controversies on firm value, underscoring the importance of robust governance in safeguarding against reputational and financial risks. Building on these insights, the current studies examine the efficiency and impact of different regulatory mechanisms, monetary policies, and fiscal strategies on economic and market stability. As financial markets become increasingly complex and interconnected, effective governance and regulation are crucial for maintaining stability and fostering investor confidence. The role of governance in mitigating systemic risks and ensuring market integrity is a key focus in these studies, reflecting the growing need for adaptive and robust regulatory frameworks in a rapidly evolving financial landscape.

Turning to *corporate governance and financial performance*, this theme focuses on the impact of governance structures on financial performance and sustainability within corporations, a critical aspect for firms' survival (Arouri & Pijourlet, 2017; Bae et al., 2021). The studies by Tamer Elsheikh, Faozi A. Almaqtari, Najib H. S. Farhan, Nandita Mishra, and Abdou Ahmed Ettish; Arzu Safarli and Ramil Hasanov; Hisham Ali Shatnawi, Abdulrahman Al-Kharabsheh, Ahmad Wasfi Mohammad Albdour, Ro'aa Adnan Mustafa Arababah, Hasan Khaled Alawamleh, and Hebah Ghaleb Mohd Yasin Alshamayleh; and Joy Elly Tulung, Julie Jeannete Sondakh, Shinta Jeanette Camelia Wangke, and Raynaldo Fabian Karel Posumah cover a range of topics, including the role of environmental disclosures, board characteristics, and administrative skills in enhancing corporate governance and financial outcomes. Corporate governance is increasingly recognized as a critical driver of long-term financial performance, with effective governance practices linked to enhanced transparency, accountability, and strategic decision-making. These papers underscore the importance of aligning governance structures with corporate sustainability goals, particularly in light of increasing stakeholder demand for responsible and ethical business practices.

In the area of *governance in education and public policy*, the work of Feliciano P. Jacoba, Angelo R. Santos, Kenneth L. Armas, and Analyn M. Gamit; Ismet Sulila, Ivan Rahmat Santoso, Muchlis Polin, Roni Lukum, and Wahyudi Gobel; Ferra Arik Tridalestari and Hanung Nindito Prasetyo; and Ahmad Mahmoud Ahmad Zamil examine governance models and their effectiveness in the educational sector and public policy implementation. These papers explore data governance in higher education, the quality of regulatory guidelines in universities, and the development of e-government public policy models. As education systems and public policies undergo digital transformation, effective governance becomes essential for ensuring quality, accountability, and inclusiveness. The studies highlight the challenges and opportunities of implementing governance frameworks that can adapt to the changing needs of society, particularly in the context of emerging technologies and evolving regulatory environments.

Economic and social factors influencing governance is another critical theme covered in this issue. The papers by Syaeful Bakhri, Suharno Suharno, Abdul Aziz Ahmad, and Eko Suyono; Vjosa Hajdari; Rasha Istaiteyeh, Lara Mansour, and Qusai M. Talafha; and Huu-Dung Nguyen discuss topics such as the benefits of Eurozone membership, the sustainability of street vendors, and the role of economic and social factors in women's entrepreneurship. Additionally, Tamer Elsheikh, Faozi A. Almaqtari, Najib H. S. Farhan, Nandita Mishra, and Abdou Ahmed Ettish examine the impact of environmental disclosure on ESG reporting, focusing on emissions, innovation, resource use, environmental controversy, and environmental products, while analyzing how firm attributes and board characteristics influence ESG reporting across three different industries. The intersection of economic,

social, and environmental factors with governance is increasingly recognized as a critical area of study, particularly in developing regions (Mhadhbi, 2024; Rohani et al., 2023; Shahrouf et al., 2023; Wojewodzki et al., 2023). These papers explore how external pressures, such as economic integration and social challenges, shape governance practices and drive policy development, highlighting the need for inclusive and context-specific governance solutions.

Within the theme of *governance in accounting and information systems*, the studies by *Moustaфа Al Najjar, Mohamed Gaber Ghanem, and Wagdi Higazi*; and *Thanh Hanh Hoang, Van Quang Do, and Ngoc Son Nguyen* explore the governance of accounting practices and information systems within organizations. These papers focus on the efficiency and challenges in value-added tax (VAT) reporting, the effectiveness of accounting information systems in a digital landscape, and the importance of accuracy in financial reporting. As organizations increasingly rely on digital technologies for financial reporting and compliance, the governance of accounting and information systems becomes crucial for ensuring data integrity, accuracy, and compliance with regulatory standards. These studies emphasize the need for robust governance frameworks that can adapt to the challenges posed by digitalization, including cybersecurity risks, data management, and the integration of advanced technologies in financial reporting processes.

Finally, the theme of *technological and strategic governance* discusses the role of technology and strategic governance in national development. In this issue, *Mohammad Rakibul Islam Bhuiyan, Rashed Hossain, Maksuda Rashid, Md Mominul Islam, Lisa Mani, and Md Noor Uddin Milon* review the strategies for transforming countries into smart nations and the role of technological integration in governance frameworks. As nations strive to harness the potential of digital technologies for economic and social development, strategic governance becomes essential for guiding these transformations. The papers on this theme explore how technological advancements can be leveraged to enhance governance structures, improve public service delivery, and promote sustainable development, underscoring the importance of forward-looking governance strategies in the digital age.

These diverse contributions reflect the broad spectrum of governance and regulation topics currently shaping the field, providing valuable insights for researchers, practitioners, and policymakers alike.

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