

EDITORIAL: Current issues in corporate governance and sustainability

Dear readers!

It is of great honor to introduce the second issue (Volume 6) of the journal *Corporate Governance and Sustainability Review* in 2022.

Debates on current issues of governance and sustainability remain open dialogues among scholars, practitioners, regulators, and policymakers towards a good balance between ecological, social, and economic return of strategic investment decisions (Alkaraan, 2018). Such dialogues are matters of critical issues relevant to Sustainable Development Goals (Alkaraan, 2021a). The five papers published in this issue add to our knowledge and offer a better understanding of the influence of contextual factors surrounding governance and sustainability issues in different contexts and settings.

The study of *Nagendrakumar Nagalingam, Chathurini Kumarapperuma, Chathura Malinga, Kalpani Gayanthika, Nethmi Amanda, and Ashini Perera* offers a conceptual framework regarding the relationship between corporate governance and firm integrated performance. Their conceptual framework has potential applications regarding efficient decision-making on corporate governance and firm integrated performance.

Rajeshwari Krishnamurthy, Rammyaa Muralidharan, and Pavithra Maddipetolu Rajendran viewed sustainability as an important aspect of business processes in organizations. Based on a case of electric vehicles, as a context for sustainable products, their empirical study examines key factors influencing the purchase of electric vehicles in India. Their study articulates the responsible innovation sustainable eco-friendly adoption model, and a set of new additional factors such as financial incentives, environmental concerns, and cost constraints, in addition to the existing behavioral factors, charging infrastructure, and external influences.

Using panel data approach on a sample of 39 non-financial firms listed in the S&P BSE SENSEX 50 over 6 years (2014–2015 to 2019–2020) *Mohd. Anas, Mohd Tariq Jamal, Md. Moneef Ahmad, Shujaat Naeem Azmi, and Md. Firoz Alam* examine the relationship between board characteristics and a firm value. Their study offers a new perspective on the association between board characteristics and a firm value by examining whether board gender diversity alters the impact of board characteristics on a firm value. Findings of this study show that the board gender diversity positively moderates the association of board size and board meetings with Tobin's Q and ROA.

Based on the upper echelon theory, *Shaowen Hua, Xiaojie Christine Sun, Rixing Lou, and Hanmei Chen* investigate how the gender of CEOs affects internal controls over financial reporting. They hypothesize that female CEOs are negatively associated with internal control weaknesses because they are reported to act more conservatively and ethically than male CEOs. They use logit and Poisson regression models to test the association between the CEO's gender and internal control weaknesses of U.S. public companies from 2004 to 2020. Results of their study reveal that female CEOs are less likely to report an internal control weakness both in the current year and in the future years. They use a two-stage model to address the potential endogeneity concerns and show that the findings are not biased. Their study articulates an important factor that influences internal controls and provides evidence of the benefits of female CEOs on the quality of financial reports.

On the route to corporate social value via health and safety performance, productivity, and management quality, the study of *Jiaqi Sun* discusses the relationship between global pandemic and macroeconomic development by demonstrating the critical role of occupational health and safety, and risk management in-between. Through literature review and case studies, findings of this study show a lack of solid evidence in verifying the relationship between occupational health and safety activities and business performance.

Public health risk, such as COVID-19, unveils its direct and indirect impact on macroeconomic and microeconomic development. This study develops a conceptual framework for linking top-line organizational values with corresponding bottom occupational health and safety activities and helps organizations understand the logic behind the bottom-up value transmission mechanism. The quantitative analysis of the conceptual framework goes beyond the scope, and suggestions for further research are put forward.

The above papers contribute to previous research findings articulated corporate governance and sustainability issues where scholars adopt different paradigms and lenses (Hussainey, Albitar, & Alkaraan, 2022; Mantovani, Kostyuk, & Govorun, 2022; Gerged, Beddewela, & Cowton, 2021; Alkaraan, Albitar, Hussainey, & Venkates, 2022; Adams & Abhayawansa, 2021; Alkaraan & Floyd, 2020; Alkaraan, 2011, 2017, 2019, 2021b; Sveen, Gresaker, Hæhre, Madsen, & Stenheim, 2020; Malik & Yadav, 2020; Kostyuk, Kostyuk, & Shcherbak, 2016; Raja & Kostyuk, 2015).

Yet, corporate governance and sustainability research remains open for debate from different perspectives.

Enjoy the reading!

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