

EDITORIAL: Advancing research frontiers — From corporate sustainability to pandemic economics

Dear readers!

On behalf of the editorial team, we are pleased to present issue 4 (special issue, 2024) of the *Journal of Governance and Regulation*. The current issue features ten scholarly articles investigating a diverse array of research topics, including corporate sustainability, regulatory environments, financial economics, logistics, innovation culture and quality of work life, economic development policies in new rural construction, emotional intelligence and transformational leadership strategy, or stock market responses to government policies during the COVID-19 pandemic. Each contribution significantly advances the existing body of knowledge within an increasingly complex global landscape. We are confident that you will find these articles both informative and stimulating.

The success of logistics service providers in emerging economies hinges on several key factors, with governance playing a surprisingly crucial role. Think of governance as the invisible hand guiding the entire logistics ecosystem. Just as a well-maintained road network enables smooth traffic flow, robust governance facilitates efficient supply chains.

Research shows that countries with strong governance tend to have better-performing logistics sectors (Lund, 2016). It's like having a reliable GPS system for your business journey — good governance provides clear directions, reducing unexpected detours and roadblocks.

Take Thailand, for example. As a pivotal logistics hub in Southeast Asia, it has leveraged its strategic location and well-developed infrastructure to become a key player in regional trade. The government's commitment to improving regulations and investing in transportation networks has created fertile ground for logistics providers to thrive (Meathawiroon & Wanarat, 2022).

Good corporate governance can be like a responsible parent making sure a child does their homework (Faozan et al., 2023; Phuong et al., 2024; Tèrmkollu, 2023). It ensures companies play by the rules and pay what they owe. When businesses have strong oversight and ethical leadership, they're more likely to contribute their fair share to society. We all have a stake in this. Every time we buy a product or use a service, we're indirectly supporting a company's practices. By demanding transparency and ethical behavior from businesses, we can help create a fairer system for everyone (Souguir et al., 2023).

Ever noticed how a great day at work feels like a perfectly orchestrated symphony? That's the magic of balancing performance, innovation, and work-life quality. We have the example of a company that encouraged "thinking outside the box" Fridays. The result? Happier employees and a flood of fresh ideas!

Think of your workplace as a garden. Your performance is the flowers, innovation is the fertilizer, and work-life quality is the sunlight and water. When all three are in harmony, the garden thrives.

Economic development in rural areas is like building a house. You need a solid foundation (infrastructure), sturdy walls (education and skills training), and a roof (job opportunities). Each part is crucial, and they all work together.

The key factors shaping rural development policies include: Infrastructure, education, local resources, technology, and of course government support: policies and funding are the fuel for these initiatives (Wu et al., 2023).

In the fast-paced world of finance, especially in emerging markets, leaders need to read the room as well as they read balance sheets. I've observed how banks that prioritize emotional intelligence in their leadership often navigate market volatility with greater agility and foster stronger client relationships.

Emotional intelligence in finance isn't about being soft; it's about being smart. It's the ability to recognize and manage emotions — both your own and others — to make better decisions and build trust. In emerging markets, where uncertainty is the only certainty, this skill is invaluable.

Transformational leadership, on the other hand, is about blending traditional financial practices with innovative approaches, inspiring your team to create something extraordinary. Leaders who can paint a compelling vision of the future and motivate their teams to achieve it are the ones who drive real change in emerging financial markets (Lopez-Zafra et al., 2012).

These and other extraordinary research are included in this amazing issue of the *Journal of Governance and Regulation*.

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