CORPORATE OWNERSHIP & CONTROL

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EDITORIAL

SECTION 1. ACADEMIC INVESTIGATIONS AND CONCEPTS

THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCURATE RISK MODELLING TECHNIOUES FOR **CORPORATE OWNERS AND MANAGERS: AN APPLICATION OF DISTRIBUTION** FITTING TO ILLIQUID SECURITIES 8

Darren O'Connell, Barry O'Grady

This research highlights the importance of probing beyond standard textbook theory which assumes, for risk modelling purposes, that an asset's return should follow a Normal distribution. Methods of modelling the stochastic price process of two illiquid securities, in order to manage price risk within a simple GARCH Value-at-Risk framework are examined. This analysis was developed using Microsoft Excel, IHS's EVIews and Palisade's Decision Tools Suite. These widely used tools are chosen to allow for ease of replication of this analysis for any interested market participant and can be expanded to portfolios of liquid and illiquid assets. By ensuring a strict and efficient risk modelling template owners and managers alike are in turn held accountable to all company stakeholders.

REVISITING THE WEAK-FORM EFFICIENCY OF THE AUSTRALIAN STOCK MARKET

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Tong Tong, Bin Li, Omar Benkato

Authors use recent daily data and several testing procedures to re-investigate the weak-form efficiency of the Australian stock of the top 50 companies across different industries. Contrary to most prior studies, our results suggest that the Australian market is weak-form efficient with little or no evidence for short-term return predictability.

DOES MANDATORY CSR REPORTING LEAD TO HIGHER CSR TRANSPARENCY? THE CASE OF FRANCE 29

Anna-Lena Kühn, Markus Stiglbauer, Janina Heel

Expedited by the financial crisis and increased stakeholder activism, the demand for reliable and accountable business practices and transparency has gained momentum in the current corporate social responsibility (CSR) debate. Consequently, companies have started to become aware of the increasing importance of conveying increased transparency and accountability to stakeholders, gaining their legitimacy and establishing a positive public image through adequate CSR reporting. Since it is obligatory to disclose information on corporate financial performance and on companies' environmental and social impact in France, this paper addresses how transparent French listed companies of the CAC 40 communicate their CSR engagement externally.

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THE EFFECT OF CORPORATE BOARD CHARACTERISTICS ON LOAN MONITORING DECISIONS 46

Judy Day, Paul Mather, Peter Taylor

Motivated by a paucity of research into the impact of corporate governance from a debtholder perspective, we examine the impact of corporate governance on loan monitoring decisions. The active and close involvement of a major UK bank facilitated the development of extremely realistic experimental scenarios with a great deal of accurate institutional detail. The results show that the likelihood of loan officers increasing the level of monitoring in the context of a debt covenant breach is associated with board independence, director financial expertise and the presence of a blockholder. A two-way interaction between financial expertise and board independence is also documented. Since likelihood of debt covenant breaches continues to be an important variable in studies of accounting choice and corporate finance the paper provides insights into associated debt contracting costs and their determinants.

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Hiroshi Ohnuma

This study examines corporate tax avoidance as a determinant of executive compensation on the basis of equity risk incentives. Previous research shows that equity risk incentives motivate managers to make more risky—but positive net present value—investment decisions. Through correlation analyses, this study demonstrates that the tax risk measures adopted in this study are negatively associated with both the adoption of stock options and tax aggressive measures. Through multivariate analyses, this study demonstrates that executive compensations are significantly associated with our measures of tax risk positions despite the inclusion of several control variables. Moreover, this study finds consistent evidence that executive equity risk incentives are significantly associated with aggressive tax positions, regardless of the estimation method and the strength of the corporate governance function, and across several tax risk measures.

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Ramzi Benkraiem, Anthony Miloudi

This article aims at studying the effect of export activity, viewed as a way of estimating small business internationalization, on access to bank capitals during the recent global crisis. The empirical analysis leads to several interesting results. In particular, the existence and intensity of exports are negatively related to bank capitals, demonstrating the difficulties of small businesses to rely on financial leverage when they wish to explore new markets. Conversely, indicators of solvency and liquidity are positively related to this same source of financing. They are more important than those of profitability and growth opportunities in explaining the financial leverage level, attesting the primary need of small businesses to provide sufficient guarantees when they wish to incur new bank loans in times of crisis.

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Ichiro Iwasaki

Using a unique dataset of joint-stock companies, we explore the corporate audit system in transition Russia. In comparison with companies in Western and Asian Pacific states, Russian firms have a weaker audit system in terms of the independence and expertise of the audit committee and the external auditor. Board composition, foreign investment, and affiliation with a business group are highly important factors determining audit committee composition and audit firm choice as well as a combination of the two auditing bodies.

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Chen-Chin Wang, Fan-Hua Kung, Kai-Hsun Lin

This study investigated whether the Big N audit firms in emerging markets can provide audits of high quality and mitigate information risk, by comparing the audit quality of Big N audit firms in Taiwan with those in China. The two countries share a similar cultural background and engage in frequent economic exchange; however, they have different legal systems and institutional environments. This study followed previous research in the use of bid-ask spread and discretionary accruals as proxy variables for information asymmetry and audit quality.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE DISCLOSURE QUALITY: EXPLORATORY EVIDENCE FROM THE UK 120

Mark Mulgrew, Roisin Reynolds

A fundamental aspect of good corporate governance is the protection of shareholders and their investments. These stakeholders are now demanding increasing levels of transparency in all aspects of business with a greater emphasis being placed on non-financial information for investment decision making. While the majority prior research has examined the corporate governance practices of the firm, research investigating the actual disclosure of corporate governance practice is scarce. This study contributes to this debate by providing exploratory evidence on the levels of corporate governance disclosure quality and compliance in a sample of 40 UK listed firms throughout the period 2002 to 2009.

SECTION 3. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE IN ASIA

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Chee-Wooi Hooy, Chwee-Ming Tee

This paper examines the monitoring effectiveness of independent and non independent directors on a CEO pay-performance of Malaysian financial firms from 2002-2009. It is based on the agency and managerial power theory. The former states that under optimal contract pay should be aligned to performance, while the latter postulates that powerfully entrenched CEO can influence captive directors to award generous compensation package. Our empirical results show (1) a high CEO pay-dividend sensitivity while market measurement plays no part in influencing CEO pay; (2) both the independent and non independent directors have failed in their fiduciary role as internal monitor, suggesting the dominance of managerial power in the board; (3) the appointment of independent directors is merely a move to fulfill the minimum standards of the best practices of corporate governance.

IMPACT OF OWNERSHIP STRUCTURE ON DEFAULT RISK: A CASE OF BANKING SECTOR OF PAKISTAN

Khadija Ashfaq, Zahid Irshad Younas and Bilal Mehmood

This study empirically investigates the impact of ownership structure on default risk of banks by using the panel data of commercial banks of Pakistan over the period of 2005-2011. The study considers two dimensions of ownership structure: categories of owners and ownership concentration. The study further splits the categories of owners into seven categories (managers/directors, families/individuals, foreigners, public owners, banks, non-banking financial institutions, and non-financial institutions), having different risk taking incentives. Controlling for various factors, the results of the study reveal that the ownership structure is significantly related with default risk of banks.

SUBSCRIPTION DETAILS

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