



Program for MAC Research Forum (Spring 2017)

March 23rd, 2017 - Room C109

Time: 9:00-9:20
Title: Corporate Governance Effects on the Extent of Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure in GCC Countries
Author: Dima Hussein Al Hourani
Supervisor: Dr. Mostafa Mohamed Hassan
Committee Member: Dr. Ghassan Hani George Mardini

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to examine the relationship between corporate governance mechanisms namely, board size, audit committee, audit type, board independence, duality and government ownership and the extent of corporate social responsibility disclosure in selected countries in GCC across two time frames: before and after the financial crisis (2007-2009) and (2014-2015). In fulfilling this aim, the study will develop a Corporate Social Responsibility Index (CSRI). The CSRI items will be extracted from the annual reports and/or the company's website. The index is an adding up of a number of items covering five themes: environment, community, human resource, energy and product. The index relies on a dichotomy measurement in which an item scores of "1", if the item is disclosed by the company or "0" otherwise. A regression analysis will be used to test the relationship between CSR disclosures index and CG elements.



Time: 9:25-9:45
Title: Environmental Disclosure and its Effect on Firm Performance, Firm Value and Cost of Capital
Author: Farasha Valiyakath Abdel Jaleel
Supervisor: Dr. Ousama Abdulrahman Anam
Committee Member:

Abstract: Environmental protection and disclosure are widely discussed branches of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in today's corporate world. Nevertheless, the number of compulsory environmental disclosure laws are very limited for publicly-held companies in the Gulf Corporation Council (GCC). Therefore, companies disclose less mandatory environmental information. A review of the prior literature shows that there are limited studies in GCC that address the relationship between environmental disclosure (ED) and firm performance, market value and cost of capital. Consequently, the study aims to examine the effect of ED (i.e. information) on firm performance, market value and cost of capital of the chemical and industrial companies. 161 companies listed in the seven GCC stock exchanges will serve as the study sample. Firm annual report or sustainability report of 2010 and 2015 are used for the longitudinal study to assess the quantity and quality of ED. A regression analysis will be performed to test the relationships between the variables.



Time: 9:50-10:10
Title: A Study of Risk Disclosure in the Annual Reports of GCC Firms: A Content Analysis
Author: Kholoud Habib Al-Sayegh
Supervisor: Dr. Mustafa Elkasih Abdulkarim
Committee Member: Dr. Mostafa Kamal Mohamed Hassan

Abstract: This study main purpose is to examine the relation between specific corporate characteristics (company size, leverage, liquidity, profitability, complexity, auditor type, and industry type - and corporate risk disclosure (CRD) in the annual reports for all GCC listed non-financial companies. This research study main objectives are to

assess the level of corporate risk disclosure in the GCC countries and to examine the relation among corporate characteristics and corporate risk disclosure. Studying risk disclosure is significant because corporate transparency about risk is essential for the well-functioning of capital markets. In addition, To achieve and maintain an accurate valuation of a company's stock, confident and well-informed investors are necessary as well. Our study fills a gap in the literature on cross-national studies in the Risk Disclosure research, as most had been conducted in developed countries. Moreover, research conducted on developed countries is much more than that conducted on developing countries generally and on the GCC countries specifically. This research study chooses a sample of all listed companies on GCC Stock Exchanges, The risk disclosure data collected from the annual statements from year 2013 to year 2016 by getting at those firms websites. This research study uses content analysis method to examine the risk disclosure. We will apply regression analysis to examine the relationship among voluntary corporate risk disclosure and firm's characteristics. This research study contributes to literature for several grounds; our research study is the only and first to look in to corporate voluntary risk disclosure in GCC countries and our study contributes to improve corporate risk disclosure, which could influence the decision-making. Also, contribute to regulators for corporate disclosure improvement. Also will contribute to the understanding of the nature of risk disclosures and the determinants of such disclosures and it also will contribute to existing risk reporting literature by being the first to investigate the association of corporate-specific characteristics on CRD using GCC corporation's annual reports.



Time: 10:15-10:35
Title: Quality of Reporting Intellectual Capital: The Case of QSE
Author: Laiali Salman Wadt
Supervisor: Dr. Ahmed Ali Mohammed
Committee Member:

Abstract: QNV2030 has been launched to transform Qatar towards achieving sustainable development. Developing QSE to guide the economic growth is an essential pillar of QNV2030. The subject of this thesis can be classified under accounting for economic growth of QNV2030. Since the diagnostic of the status of reporting intellectual capital is at the crux of sustainable development. The importance of developing strong financial market requires better understanding of financial disclosure inside QSE "national financial reporting system". Most importantly, new issues and questions are being raised regarding the implications of QSE financial reporting and the role of government in the development and maintenance of the financial reporting base. Identifying "best practices" for the IC reporting is a focal point of strength of QSE. The burgeoning field of intellectual capital is an exciting area for both researchers and practitioners. According to the purpose of this study, IC combines various concepts (i.e. human capital, structural capital, and relational capital). A variety of models have surfaced in an attempt to measure IC and this thesis aims to build unique measurement model based on strengths, weaknesses and operationalization of those models. It is expected that the current study will provide quality indications about the current level of IC disclosure in QSE. This study is based on empirical results of the original data drawn from sample of 43 companies of QSE. The proposed research sample has been designed to cover time series of five years period extend from 2010 to 2015. The paper presents the findings of extensive research that show the type and quality of IC reporting which can help to strengthen the awareness of financial reporting in QSE. It can be concluded that IC reporting in QSE divides into traditional and non-traditional based on the components of IC. Being an emergent financial market, classification of Qatar as one of code law countries, and diffusion of personal sources of funding, are the key limitations of this study





Time: 10:40-11:00
Title: The Impact of Corporate Governance on Voluntary Carbon Disclosure
Author: Maryam Jamal Alqahtani
Supervisor: Dr. Adel Elgharbawy
Committee Member:

Abstract: The paper examines whether the type of industry and corporate governance structure can explain the variation in the level of carbon disclosure using the legitimacy theory perspective. A comparative study between carbon intensive and non-intensive industries, based on cross sectional data analysis is used for the UK FTSE 350. Carbon disclosure is measured using the scores of CDP for 2016. Corporate governance structure is measured using ownership structure, board composition, CEO duality and audit committee characteristics. ANOVA and OLS regression is used for data analysis. The global interest in climate change and carbon performance made carbon information important for decision-making. The study contributes to the literature by explaining why companies voluntarily disclose carbon information and whether disclosure is related to the real carbon performance or symbolic to improve the perception of society.



Time: 11:05-11:25
Title: Qatar University College of Business and Economics Strategy and Metrics of Performance Measurement
Author: Maryam Yahia Almadhoun
Supervisor: Dr. Emad Awadallah
Committee Member: Dr. Hany Kamel

Abstract: The purpose of this paper is to introduce balance score card framework to Qatar university college of business and economics and explore the possible benefits of applying it to measure the college performance along with modifying the college strategy over time to meet the university 4KPIs. A qualitative (subjective) approach is to conduct this case study. Data will be collected by semi structured interviews with the heads of departments and dean of the college. The data relating the balance score card application will be discussed within previous literature reviews. An interpretive analysis of the data will be conducted to feature finding of the research and conclude a theory.



Time: 11:30-11:50
Title: Impact of Intellectual Capital Information on Firm's Value, Performance and Cost of Capital
Author: Sara Hassan Elostaz
Supervisor: Dr. Ousama Abdulrahman Anam
Committee Member:

Abstract: Intellectual capital (IC) has gained a great attention due to its role in the value creation of companies. IC can be considered as a "hidden value" that makes difference on firms' market value and net book value. Prior studies showed that IC information a value relevance, hence users perceive it to be useful for them in making their decisions. In the new economy or the knowledge-based economy (KBE); knowledge is capital and all economic growths are knowledge-driven. USA is one of the developed countries with advanced KBE that contributed to a high economic growth. IC plays a major significant role in the KBE by enhancing the lone-term success of the companies and their competitive advantages. A review of previous IC literature showed limited studies in USA address the IC disclosure (i.e. information) with firm performance, firm value, and cost of capital. Hence, the aim of this study is to examine the impact of IC information on performance, market value and cost of capital of listed companies in New York Stock Exchange. It hopes that the current study will provide empirical evidence on the important role of IC for the companies, capital market and the economy in the USA.

