



UMS MFA
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SABAH *Malaysian Finance Association*

24th *MALAYSIAN FINANCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022 (MFAIC2022)*

**Global Finance: Evolving and Impacting the
post-pandemic World**

PROGRAM BOOK

7-9 SEPTEMBER
2022

**DORSETT GRAND LABUAN
/ HYBRID MODE**

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MESSAGE FROM THE ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR



Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Greetings to all.

It gives me tremendous pleasure to participate in this conference. A warm welcome to everyone to the 24TH MALAYSIAN FINANCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022(MFAIC 2022). Let me begin by congratulating UMS Labuan Faculty of International Finance on their exceptional work in co-organizing this conference with the Malaysian Finance Association (MFA).

I am thrilled to learn that over 90 academics, researchers, and practitioners have convened for this event, with some participating online and others attending in person. Participants will share their findings on important topics linked to global finance, such as Islamic Finance, Fintech, Investment, and Real Estate Finance, to name a few.

Today, a series of distinguished professors will present on their respective fields of specialization; their sharing of experience and knowledge will definitely be noteworthy, with the potential to generate revolutionary research for the worldwide development of finance. A number of notable industry experts will also speak global finance-related topics at this conference, and I am convinced that their views will be of immeasurable benefit to all of us.

Your enthusiasm to share your expertise, perspectives, and research findings demonstrates that your participation enables continuity; it facilitates interaction, the exchange of ideas, and the dissemination of research on topics that are evolving and influencing the post-pandemic environment locally and globally. Certainly, at the completion of the conference sessions, we will be able to glean vital information that may lead to themes pertaining to the balancing of financial and economic growth, as well as topics pertaining to the general welfare of the population.

Two years have passed since COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. This epidemic has generated a simultaneous worldwide shock that has incurred enormous human and economic losses. The intricacy, level of ambiguity, and severity of this COVID-19 issue make it a human tragedy unlike anything we have seen in recent memory. The good news is that we were not vanquished; we move on and continue to meet while the world confronts the consequences of the health crisis. Academics and industry experts from diverse backgrounds must continue to engage in ongoing dialogue at conferences of this nature in order to generate and disseminate answers to challenges confronting business sectors and society as a whole. This is essential given the ever-changing environment that influences all facets of life.

I am confident that esteemed institutions of higher learning like UMS are dedicated to bringing together local and foreign academics, professionals, and practitioners. In order to assure their survival and prosperity in the post-pandemic era, I hope that this conference will inspire further partnerships between academic institutions, business, and other organizations.

To conclude, I would like to thank everyone who helped make this Conference a reality. In addition to wishing everyone success and fantastic outcomes, I also hope that this conference provides many opportunities for friendship-building among the participants.

I hereby declare that the 24TH MALAYSIAN FINANCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022 (MFAIC 2022) open. Enjoy the productive three days' conference.

Thank you

Associate Professor Dr Raman B. Noordin
Acting Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Sabah



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN LABUAN FACULTY OF INTERNATIONAL FINANCE

Greetings to all.

First and foremost, it is my pleasure to welcome our speakers and delegates to the 24TH Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022, those attending physically and from abroad, and those making their first visit to this small but beautiful island of Labuan, historically known as the Pearl of Borneo.

Welcome to Labuan Faculty of International Finance, where we continue to diligently collaborate with other scholars and researchers from around the globe and exploring cutting-edge knowledge and innovations for our future society.

3. One important long-term objective of the Campus' establishment in Labuan was to continually collaborate with the local authority or government agencies to boost Labuan's economy as well as upgrade the populace's standard of living. . The faculty's most recent noteworthy attempt to attain this objective is its participation as a consultant for poverty eradication in Labuan (Program Pembasmian Kemiskinan Tegar Keluarga Malaysia by Perbadanan Labuan).

Equally significant is the opportunity to collaborate with organisations like MFA. MFA's continuous efforts to increase financial knowledge and interest in the field of finance are both remarkable and exemplary. Therefore, this inaugural collaboration with MFA is an essential milestone for our faculty as it represents a significant step forward as we continue to increase regional and international interest in the discipline of finance.

The conference's theme is "Global Finance: Evolving and Impacting the Post-Pandemic World". This theme was selected with current challenges and developments in mind that influence us regionally and worldwide. The organising committee carefully reviewed and questioned several broad and more specific concerns and topics concerning the financial sector in the post-pandemic era., for instance

- How can companies and leaders reposition themselves for growth and success beyond COVID-19?
- What are the challenges and possibilities, for example in the field of accounting and auditing, fintech, Islamic finance, investing, and how might these be addressed?
- What are the evolving global finance patterns affecting the world post-pandemic?

The COVID-19 pandemic, as we already know, is indeed a major test of the global financial system. It also serves as a sobering reminder that pandemics will likely continue to happen in the future.

The current National Recovery Plan (NRP) or Pelan Pemulihan Negara (PPN) of the Malaysian government, which relies on science and data to prepare the country for the next phase of living with Covid-19 as an endemic, is nevertheless optimistic. Therefore, a collaborative effort is necessary to address some of the pandemic-related issues facing businesses or society at this time.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my gratitude to the MFAIC organising team for their tireless work in making this event a success., the MFA executives for their support and guidance, our distinguished speakers, delegates, sponsors, and guests.

Once again, I honoured to welcome you to Labuan and Labuan Faculty of International Finance, and I hope that by the end of this conference, all of us will be more hopeful and enriched.

Thank you.

Associate Professor Dr Geoffrey Harvey Tanakinjal
Dean
Labuan Faculty of International Finance

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT MALAYSIAN FINANCE ASSOCIATION



Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Greetings to all.

I am honoured and delighted to be here in Labuan on the final day of the 24th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022 (MFAIC2022) with the theme, Global Finance: Evolving and Impacting the Post-pandemic World, co-organized by Universiti Malaysia Sabah, Labuan International Campus, and Malaysian Finance Association (MFA).

First and foremost, let me express my deep appreciation and congratulation to UMSKAL and MFA for their enthusiastic and committed work, as I see them putting their heart and soul into making this event a reality. I am delighted that this conference is well attended by a diverse range of stakeholders, from academics, government officials and policymakers to industry practitioners and experts.

Equally engaging is the superb line-up of keynote, plenary, and industry speakers who have contributed their ideas and whose insights definitely benefit the delegates. I must thank our

- Keynote speakers: Prof Dr Iftekar Hasan and Prof Dr Wong Wing-Keung for each delivering an insightful sharing on their topic of expertise, and
- Plenary speaker, Prof Lean Hooi Hooi for speaking on "Energy economics
- The industry speakers, Mr. Nik Mohamed Din (Director General of Labuan FSA), Ms Helen Peng (Deputy Principal Officer China Construction Bank) and Mr Owen Chen (Chief Executive Officer, Neurogine Group (Malaysia) – who presented their incredible experiences and opinions on 'Future Development in Financial Sector' - this is clearly a vital topic to address.

Massive forces of change are reshaping the global business and society in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, putting the financial sector at a critical point in its development. As a result, exploring the direction for a more human-centred future of financial services, the causes driving it, and the critical role financial services organisations must play - not only to succeed, but also to define and characterise it.

Yesterday, the Malaysian Finance Association hosted its Annual General Meeting right here at Dorsett Labuan. This is a significant achievement since it demonstrates MFA's continued efforts to achieve its initial goals and objectives. To sustain the ambitious goals, further effort, intellectual, financial, and human resources, not to mention collaboration, are definitely required.

Last but not least, I would like to express my gratitude to ▪ all of the conference's speakers and delegates, ▪ Universiti Malaysia Sabah Labuan International Campus for the excellent work done ▪ the committee members of the Malaysia Finance Association for their cohesive team efforts to drive MFA to greater heights ▪ our gold sponsors, China Construction Bank (CCB) Sdn Bhd, Neurogine Sdn Bhd, and Function Group Labuan for their support ▪ other respective sponsors and all individuals and groups who have directly or indirectly contributed toward the success of this conference

I hope that everyone has had the chance and enjoyed the networking opportunities throughout the conference. Let me wish everyone a lot of energy, enthusiasm, shared trust, and resolution as we work for a better future for all.

Thank you.

Professor Dr Mansor Ibrahim
President of Malaysia Finance Association



MESSAGE FROM THE CONFERENCE CHAIR OF MALAYSIA FINANCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

Welcome to 24th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022.

It gives me great pleasure to speak to at the closing ceremony of the 24th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022. We are truly honoured to have so many distinguished guests from different parts of the country. Just briefly, this event is a culmination of an enormous collective effort which began last year when Labuan Faculty of International Finance, Universiti Malaysia Sabah was selected as the host of the conference. From that moment, many organizations and individuals contributed on one form or another towards the organization of this conference.

I want to thank and appreciate the Malaysia Finance Association for allowing us working together to organize this conference. With this collaboration, we hope to be able to further solidify the bond between these two organisations and work together once more at conferences in the future.

I would also like to take this opportunity to extend our gratitude and appreciation to CCB Sdn Bhd and Neurogine Sdn Bhd as our industry partners. As well as our sponsors Function Group Sdn Bhd, Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), Labuan Financial Services Authority (LFSA), Empire Hornbill Travel & Tours Sdn Bhd and Labuan Corporation (PL). We greatly appreciate your contribution in providing support for this conference.

I once again take this opportunity to express my appreciation and congratulations to the organizing committee for their tireless effort in making this conference a success despite being overwhelmed with other duties. Additionally, my appreciation to everyone who has helped this initiative succeed by cooperating and offering energy and time whether directly or indirectly.

On behalf of the management, I hope that this conference somehow or rather had benefited all the participants and guests. Hopefully this event had strengthened our relationship and that the goal of this program was achieved.

For the last three days, we had the opportunity to engage with the wisdom and experience of all those present here. For fundamental knowledge to grow, debate must also flourish, and that is what we were here for.

Last but not least, I hope you had an invigorating and fruitful discussions during the 3 days' conference.

Thank you.

Dr Ricky Chia Chee Jiun
Conference Chair of 24th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022

ABOUT THE ORGANIZERS



Universiti Malaysia Sabah was officially established on 24 November 1994 as the ninth public university in the country. In January 1999, the university expanded its academic reach to the Federal Territory of Labuan with the establishment of the UMS Labuan International Campus. UMS have a total of ten faculties offering 64 bachelor programs in science, engineering, medical, food science, agriculture, forestry, arts, humanities, business, accounting and economics. To date, UMS has more than 1200 academicians with 15,000 undergraduate students and 2700 postgraduate students at the Master and PhD levels. UMS has moved from an academia operating in insolation, to the quadruple helix of academia, working together with the industry, government, and local communities in partnership for the incubation, development, and commercialization of ideas, research and innovation. To find out more visit <https://www.ums.edu.my>



The Malaysian Finance Association (MFA) was established in September 1998. The purpose of its establishment is to encourage interest in financial research and to discuss financial related issues in Malaysia. In order to achieve this purpose, forums and dialogues on current financial and economic environment have been conducted through conferences. Started as an inaugural half-day workshop in 1999, it has grown to a full-day symposium and later on to conferences. These conferences have received an overwhelming response from the academia, industry, and the practitioners. Therefore, it has become a tradition of MFA to organize annual conferences in collaboration with local institutes of higher learning with the support from the industry, academia and practitioners. To find out more visit <https://www.mfa.com.my>

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Dr. Iftekhar Hasan

University Professor and E. Gerald Corrigan Chair in
International Business and Finance
Joined Fordham: 2011

Program Director, PhD Program

General Information:
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Iftekhar Hasan holds the title of university professor at Fordham University, where he also serves as the E. Gerald Corrigan Chair in Finance, academic director of the PhD program, and co-director of the Center for Research in Contemporary Finance at the Gabelli School of Business. He further serves as a scientific advisor at the Central Bank of Finland, as a fractional faculty member at the University of Sydney, as a research fellow at the Financial Institution Center at the Wharton School as well as at the IWH Institute in Halle, Germany. He is the managing editor of the Journal of Financial Stability and has served as an associate editor with several other reputed academic journals.

Professor Hasan's research interests are in the areas of financial institutions, corporate finance, capital markets, and emerging economies focusing on interdisciplinary questions and public policy issues. He has been involved with numerous academic research grants from different governmental, national, and international science foundations and organizations in the U.S. and abroad. Hasan has more than 450 publications in print, including 16 books and edited volumes, and more than 330 peer-reviewed articles in significant academic journals in finance (JFE, JFQA, RF, JB), accounting (JAR, RAST, CAR), economics (JME, JIE, JEG, JMCB), international business (JIBS), management (SMJ, JoM, HRM, RP, JBE), operation research (MS), and information systems (JIMS).

Professor Hasan has held visiting faculty positions at several universities around the world, including the University of Rome, Italy; the University of Strasbourg, France; the University of Carlos III, Madrid; EPFL at Lausanne, Switzerland; Hong Kong Polytechnic University; the University of Limoges, France; National Taiwan University at Taipei; the University of Romania at Bucharest; Xi'an Jiaotong University, China; University Utara Malaysia; the University of Sydney, Australia; and NYU's Stern School of Business.

Professor Hasan has also been a consultant or a visiting scholar for numerous international organizations, including the World Bank, the IMF, the United Nations, the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, the Office of the Comptroller of Currency of the U.S. Treasury, the Banque de France, Development Bank of Japan, and the Italian Deposit Insurance Corporation.

A Fulbright scholar and a Fulbright selector, Professor Hasan has also earned distinction as a Changjiang Scholar in China, a Louis Bachelier Fellow in France, a Shimomura Fellow in Japan, and a Bursa Malaysia Chair in Malaysia. He also received a Doctor Honoris Causa degree from the Romanian American University in Bucharest.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Professor Wong Wing-Keung
Professor of Finance,
Asia University, Taiwan



Professor WONG, Wing-Keung obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the USA with a major in Business Statistics (Statistics and Finance) and obtained his bachelor's degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, with a major in Mathematics and a double minor in Economics and Statistics. Currently, he is a Chair Professor at the Department of Finance, Asia University. He was a Full Professor at the Department of Economics, Hong Kong Baptist University, and Deputy Director at Risk Management Institute, National University of Singapore.

He appears in "Who's Who in the World" and gets Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. 2017, Marquis Who's Who. His Erdos number is 3. He is ranked top 1% by Social Science Research Network and in the list of top Taiwan economists and Asian economists and top economists by RePEc. He has published more than three hundred papers including papers published in some top journals. He has more than 11500 citations in Google Scholar, more than 9800 citations in ResearchGate, and more than 4800 citations in Scopus. His h-index is 60 (41 since 2017) and i10-index is 2342 (220 since 2017) by Google Scholar citation in June 2022.

He is in the list of top (1st, 0.39%) Taiwan economists (counted publications last 10 years), top (2nd, 0.78%) Taiwan economists, (42nd, 0.53) Asian economists (counted publications last 10 years), (52nd, 0.58%) Asian economists, (487th, 0.75%) [World] authors [in Economics in last 10 years] and (795th, 1.2%) [World] authors [in Economics], top (221st, 0.34%) in Number of Works, top (160th, 0.25%) in Number of Distinct Works, top (773rd, 1.2%) in Number of Distinct Works, Weighted by Number of Authors, top (46th, 0.071%) in Number of Journal Pages, top (244th, 0.37%) in Number of Journal Pages, Weighted by Number of Authors, top (514th, 0.79%) in Number of Abstract Views in RePEc Services over the past 12 months, top (849, 1.3%) Number of Downloads through RePEc Services over the past 12 months, top (853rd, 1.3%) in Record of graduates, top (62nd, 0.096%) in Closeness measure in co-authorship network, top (15th, 0.023%) in Betweenness measure in co-authorship network by RePEc in Aug 2022. I have 39 items ranked within 15%, 31 items ranked within 10%, 20 items ranked within 5%, 17 items ranked within 3%, 17 items ranked within 2%, and 12 items are within 1% among all Economists registered in RePEc in Aug 2022. He has published more than four hundred papers including papers published in journals ranked as A* in ABDC, Q1 in SJR Quartile, Q1 in JCR, and 4 in AJG many other high ranking journals.

He has been serving international academies, Government, society, and universities, providing consultancy to several Government departments and corporations, and giving lectures and seminars to several universities. For example, he has been serving as editor, guest leading editor, advisor, associate editor for some international journals, appointed as an advisor/member of various international associations/institutes, serving as a referee for many journals/conferences, supervising solely or jointly several overseas graduate students, appointed as an external reviewer and external examiner by other universities, and invited by many universities/institutions to present papers or conduct seminars.

PLENARY SPEAKER

Professor Lean Hooi Hooi
Professor of Economics
Universiti Sains Malaysia



Dr. Hooi Hooi Lean is a Professor of Economics at the School of Social Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia. She obtained her Honors Bachelor Degree of Economics majoring in Statistics from the University of Malaya, Master of Science (Statistics) from the Universiti Sains Malaysia and Ph.D (Economics) from the National University of Singapore. She served as a post-doctoral visiting scholar to the Department of Economics at Monash University, Australia. Dr. Lean has been a visiting scholar to a number of prestigious international universities which include SungKyunKwan University (Korea), Tamkang University (Taiwan), CEREFIGE Université Nancy 2 (France), Auckland University of Technology (New Zealand), Georg-Simon-Ohm University of Applied Sciences (Germany) and University of Rennes 2 (France).

Prof. Lean has authored more than 190 scholarly articles and academic book chapters. Her works have been published in many reputed international journals and publications. Her H-index is 51 and there are more than 11,000 citations to her works on Google Scholar. She has also presented on various topics at many major international conferences held in Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Malaysia, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, Vietnam etc. In addition to these talks in the academic circuit, she has been invited to give talks to some private corporations, organizations and educational institutions. She has also provided consultancy works to the private sector, government agencies and non-governmental organizations.

Prof. Lean is the Top Research Scientists Malaysia by Academy of Sciences Malaysia in 2018. She received Malaysia's Research Star Award in 2017 from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia and Clarivate Analytics; and National Academic Award in 2015 from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia. She was listed as Top 2% scientists in the world by Stanford University and Top 1000 Scientists in the field of Economics and Finance by Research.com. She has been listed in the Who'sWho in the World since 2009 and granted the prestigious title of "Researcher of the Week" in GDN Net East Asia in 2012 for her excellent contributions. She has been awarded the ASEAN-ROK Academic Exchange Fellowship Programme in 2007, the Democratic Pacific Union (DPU) Visiting Fellowship in 2008, the International HERMES Fellowship Programme in 2009 and Faculty Exchange Fellowship from Georg-Simon-Ohm University in 2012. Dr. Lean also won the "Sanggar Sanjung" Excellent Award for Publication continuously since 2009, the "Hadiah Sanjungan" Best Award for Publication since 2006 and the Excellent Service Award 2010 & 2014 from the Universiti Sains Malaysia. Prof. Lean has received Newton Research Grant from Research Councils United Kingdom; the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme and Research University Grant from the Ministry of Higher Education Malaysia.

Prof. Lean serves as Specialty Chief Editor for Energy Economics in *Frontiers in Environmental Economics*. She is an associate editor for the *Singapore Economic Review*, *Frontiers in Energy Research*, *Malaysian Journal of Economics* and the *International Journal of Economics and Management*. She is awarded the *Frontiers in Energy Research* 2021 Outstanding Associate Editor Award. Prof. Lean is also an editorial board member of *Asian Journal of Economics and Finance*, *China Finance Review International*, *Energy Research Letters*, *Journal of Asian Finance, Economics and Business* and *Journal of Risk and Financial Management*. She is also sitting on the editorial advisory board member of the *Indonesian Capital Market Review* and the *Labuan Bulletin of International Business & Finance*. She has reviewed more than 200 papers for various academic journals and received Peer Review Award from Publons in 2018.

INDUSTRIAL SPEAKER



Mr. Nik Mohamed Din Nik Musa
Director General of Labuan Financial
Services Authority

Mr. Nik Mohamed Din bin Nik Musa is the Director General of Labuan FSA, the regulatory authority of Labuan International Business and Financial Centre. He assumed the position of Director General with effect from 1 May 2021.

Prior to his appointment as the Director General of Labuan FSA, Mr. Nik Mohamed Din was the Director of Money Services Business Regulation, Central Bank of Malaysia since 2016 and was responsible for the regulation, supervision, policy-making and development of cross-border remittance, currency exchange and currency wholesale business in Malaysia. From 2006 to 2016, Mr. Nik was involved in the development of the sukuk market in Malaysia especially in creating awareness to the global financial market on the various sukuk structures and issuance requirements. He has been with the Central Bank of Malaysia since 1991 and had served in various areas within the Central Bank, including bank regulation, Islamic banking and takaful as well as market development of international finance of the Labuan IBFC.

Mr. Nik Mohamed Din holds a Chartered Banker certificate from the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers, a Bachelor of Science in Economics and Accounting from the University of Bristol and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Warwick.

INDUSTRIAL SPEAKER



Owen Chen
Group Chief Executive Officer
and Co-founder
Neurogine Group

Owen Chen (51) is Neurogine’s co-founder and Group Chief Executive Officer. He is driving Neurogine’s efforts to digitalise financial access with technology and solutions for banks, financial institutions, licensed money services businesses and corporations.

In 2022, Neurogine was recognised and acknowledged in KPMG – HSBC Emerging Giants in Asia Pacific as one of “Leading 10 Emerging Giant” in Malaysia. This acknowledgment validates Neurogine’s position as having the right ingredients to flourish and lead in shaping the industry.

He has expanded Neurogine to now include mid-shore techfins, approved by Labuan Financial Services Authority to operate licensed Money-Broking, Credit Token and approved Payment System Operator businesses and increased the Group’s portfolio of mobile-first digital financial technology and solutions, powered by Artificial Intelligence (AI) and financial blockchain technology.

Neurogine’s portfolio of financial and banking technology include **nPay®**, a fully integrated mobile payment solution; **nCard®**, a Near Field Communication and token service payment technology; **nTrade®**, an AI-driven, multi-routing, multi-pairing money broking platform with its dedicated application **nTrade® Mobile**; **nMerchant®**, a merchant acquiring solution for banks and payment providers; **nCommerce®**, a complete end-to-end mobile-first commerce solution for SMEs and micro enterprises; and **n2Tap®**, a smartphone-based contactless payment acceptance system.

He graduated Arkansas State University with a Bachelor Of Science, Electrical Engineering in 1994, an Associate Member of Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers since 2021, Certified Anti-Money Laundering & Counter Financing of Terrorism Compliance Officer and member of Asia-Pacific Regional Scout Foundation, which serves to lead youths create a better world through noble Scouting ideals.

Neurogine has strong community ties; reflected by a Memorandum of Understanding with Universiti Malaysia Sabah or UMS (2022), Letter of Intent with UMS Labuan International Finance Faculty (2000), funding researches in selected areas and supporting various communities, reflecting its commitment to support environmental causes and communities. This includes taking on a role as the first Corporate Supporter (2021) of Gilwell Scouts Nature Park Sandakan, the first chartered Scout Centres of Excellence for Nature, Environment and Sustainability from World Organization of the Scout Movement, Gold Sponsor and supporter of both 24th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference, organised by UMS and held in Labuan September 7 – 9 and Keluarga Malaysia and Malaysia Sihat 2022 campaign in Labuan. It is also Neurogine’s intention to bridge financial services in Asia across commerce, consumer and society, based on United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals.

INDUSTRIAL SPEAKER



Ms. Peng Xiaowei
Deputy Principal Officer
China Construction Bank Corporation Labuan
Branch (CCB Labuan)

Ms Peng Xiaowei is the Deputy Principal Officer of China Construction Bank Corporation Labuan Branch (“CCB Labuan”). Ms Peng has more than 20 years working experiences in comprehensive banking business, including settlement, cash management, international business, corporate banking and trade finance. Ms Peng has rich experiences in working both in China and internationally and has assumed various important positions within CCB Group. She was in-charged of Trade Finance Division in CCB Sydney Branch from 2013 to 2016.

Ms Peng joined CCB Labuan since 2021, being in charge of FinTech, cash management, clearing and settlement. She is also responsible to focus on enhancing efficient and accurate settlement and clearing service for clients.

In CCB Labuan, Ms Peng also take charge of product innovation and system development in order to strengthen the integration of financial technology and banking business based on the Bank’s strategies and vision. Ms Peng graduated with Bachelor’s Degree in Economics from Nankai University, China and has joined CCB since then.

INDUSTRIAL SPEAKER (MODERATOR)



FOCUS

Professional Learning & Development
Islamic Finance Standards Development

QUALIFICATIONS

BA (Econs), University of Nottingham, UK
Certified Islamic Professional Accountant (CIPA), AAOIFI




Khairul Nizam Md Som is the Chief Executive Officer of Finance Accreditation Agency (FAA), based in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Established and supported by Central Bank of Malaysia and Securities Commission Malaysia. FAA provides independent accreditation and quality assurance services on academic, learning and training programmes relating to finance as well as accreditation and competency assessment services for finance professionals to support human capital development for the international finance industry.

Khairul was previously Deputy Secretary General of Accounting and Auditing Organisation for Islamic Financial Institutions (AAOIFI) – the international organization responsible for development and issuance of standards on Shariah, accounting, auditing, ethics and governance for the global Islamic finance industry. Khairul served AAOIFI, based in Manama, Bahrain, for over 10 years in various positions.

Prior to AAOIFI, Khairul was with Malaysia's largest financial services group for over 10 years and was the Head of Islamic Banking in the groups offshore banking arm. He also served in various areas of the group's operations, including corporate banking, auditing, and international banking. Khairul Nizam graduated from the University of Nottingham, United Kingdom, and is a Certified Islamic Professional Accountant (CIPA).

AWARDS

The conference organizing committee acknowledges the contribution of all reviewers, track chairs and the various paper award committees for their assistance in the nomination of the following best paper awards.

Best Paper Awards	Journal	Number	Cash
MFA	Capital Markets Review 	3	RM 1,000 each
IJBF	International Journal of Banking and Finance 	3	RM 400.00 each
LBIBF	Labuan Bulletin of International Business and Finance 	1	RM 200.00

PUBLICATION OPPORTUNITIES

Selected papers will be invited for further review and consideration for publication in the following Refereed journals. Submission fees or/and publication fees may apply to some of these journals, to be followed up by the respective journal with the author after the conference:

- Journal of Financial Stability (SSCI, SCOPUS)
- Annals of Financial Economics (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- Asian Academy of Management Journal of Accounting and Finance (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- Asian Journal of Business and Accounting (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- International Journal of Business and Society (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- International Journal of Economics & Management (SCOPUS)
- Journal of Risk and Financial Management (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- Malaysian Journal of Economic Studies (ESCI, SCOPUS)
- Capital Market Reviews (MyCite, ABDC)
- Labuan Bulletin of International Business and Finance (MyCite)
- International Journal of Banking and Finance (MyJurnal)
- Labuan e-Journal of Muamalat and Society (MyJurnal)



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En. Joehan Joehari Willian

En. Mohd. Hatta bin Yunus

En. Rosli bin Alias

Puan Norafizah binti Sulaiman

En. Azri Onn bin Othman

En. Amir Fariz bin Aliazhar

Program Book Team

Dr. Emily Yapp Hon Tshin (Leader)

Cik Minah Japang

Cik Caroline Rosie Anak Jeffrey Nasah

VVIP Invitation Team

Puan Mary Monica Jiony (Leader)

Dr Noor Hassanah binti Husin

Puan Daria Gom

Certificate Preparation Team

Dr. Alesia Sigang Gugkang (Leader)

Puan Nor Zulaiha binti Salleh @Sapran

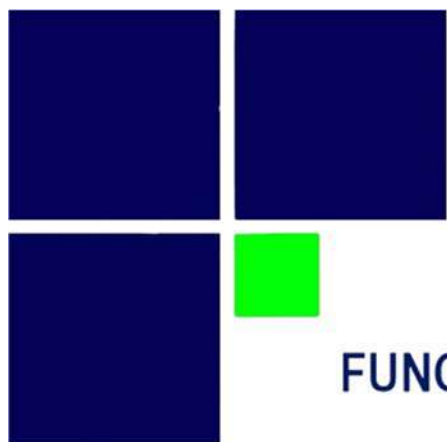
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CONFERENCE TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (DAY1)

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	WEBLINK
DAY 1 7th September 2022 (Wednesday)	8:00 am – 8:20 am	Registration	
	8:20 am – 8:30 am	Opening Session – Short Video	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m082457603bd43c3c8a4f5e9e67895948
	8:30 am – 8:35 am	Welcoming Speech by Associate Professor Dr Geoffrey Harvey Tanakinjal Dean, Labuan Faculty of International Finance	
	8:35 am – 8:45 am	Welcoming Speech by Professor Dr Hooy Chee Wooi Vice President, Malaysian Finance Association	
	8:45 am – 9:00 am	Officiating Address by Associate Professor Dr Raman B. Noordin, Acting Vice-Chancellor, Universiti Malaysia Sabah	Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2644 195 7845 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room
	9:00 am–10:00 am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Professor Dr Iftekhar Hasan Fordham University USA Title: Climate-related Disclosure Commitment of Lenders, Credit Rationing, and Borrower Environmental Performance	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m6bd2b582c6d41317da0af8652197c795 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2641 289 4000 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room
	10:00 am–11:00am	KEYNOTE ADDRESS Professor Dr Wong Wing-Keung Chair Professor of Finance Asia University, Taiwan Title: New Stochastic Dominance Theory for Investors With Risk-Averse And Risk-Seeking Utilities With Applications	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m0dd6db419dfc963e8b8a64b9009d04a2

			Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 280 9209 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room
	11.00 am – 11.30 am	Tea Break	
	11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Concurrent Session 1 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m3b104576c18553b2bae45f56a9c00ab8 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2641 404 9169 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m97c2af6f6088f53803aea87db2f97784 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 049 3304 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sarawak Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mf46930952033707f42bdfdaf522b77d Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 862 6375 Meeting password: MFAIC2022
	1:00 pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
	2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	PLENARY ADDRESS Prof Dr Lean Hooi Hooi Universiti Sains Malaysia Title: Energy Economics	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m6520d49e99ec7bc7881fbd1cbad555c6

			Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 455 1146 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room
	3:00 pm - 3:30 pm	Tea Break	
	3:30 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Session 2 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mdebd82e0d24556c167d90c9f85a72d65 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2641 049 1882 Meeting password: MFACI2022 Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m1b18816adf0134692e53de629ba9f0dc Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 471 2631 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sarawak Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m0c8da7fefec4f4d0e576e681e618cb1a Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2644 621 9936 Meeting password: MFAIC2022
	END OF DAY 1		

CONFERENCE TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (DAY2)

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	WEBLINK
DAY 2 8 th September 2022 (Thursday)	8:30am –10:00 am	Concurrent Session 3 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=md4d0a7057392a467fd4a3026fb5fc5ed Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 396 1108 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m9fc5af5ca7adbf7b3ddc338e65eadeff Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 923 6699 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sarawak Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=ma8d2f4b2ba531afb9d90c0fb3ed044d5 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 779 7532 Meeting password: MFAIC2020
	10:00am–10:30am	Tea Break	
	10:30 am– 1.00pm	INDUSTRY KEYNOTE ADDRESS Title: Future Development in Financial Sector Mr. Nik Mohamed Din Director General of Labuan FSA Ms Helen Peng Deputy Principal Officer China Construction Bank Labuan FT	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=ma1938ff0997a3a944b709aef16427fba Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 245 6952 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room

		Mr Owen Chen Chief Executive Officer Neurogine Group (Malaysia) Session Moderator: En. Khairul Nizam Md Som Finance Accreditation Agency	
	1.00pm – 2:00 pm	Lunch Break	
	2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	Concurrent Session 4 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m5b03c8c03db3e1ef0a592860a40db144 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 188 2975 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m9efe7a41d1f96dd98c8b8f28995dfd62 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2644 014 6613 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sarawak Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m501af5560e99c3baca264056323a538d Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 148 1997 Meeting password: MFAIC2022
	3:30 pm - 4:00 pm	Tea Break	
	4:00 pm – 5:30pm	Concurrent Session 5 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m3f37ad572760c52d233c639e428bb005

			<p>Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 451 1520 Meeting password: MFAIC2022</p> <p>Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m09a186c9544ea441ea0c71e3a77dd1de</p> <p>Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 662 3860 Meeting password: MFAIC2022</p>
	6.00 pm – 7:00pm	Annual General Meeting Malaysian Finance Association	<p>Venue: Borneo Room</p> <p>Online Microsoft Team: https://teams.microsoft.com/l/team/19%3ajShavwA31BFIWy8hgh_QjMFt4AQZ4ySm9yeuCz8aYFc1%40thead.tacv2/conversations?groupId=cd5d8ea0-db6d-4708-8772-60d2c1af6210&tenantId=84187be3-037e-41ec-889c-a150fe476432</p>
END OF DAY 2			

CONFERENCE TENTATIVE PROGRAMME (DAY 3)

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	WEBLINK
DAY 3 9 th September 2022 (Friday)	8:30 am – 10:00am	Concurrent Session 6 Borneo Room Sabah Room Sarawak Room	Borneo Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mc3501929ff9245d965647ad2a4bd8263 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 314 0764 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Sabah Room Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m186f4dac26f77f94785b6afb8e8136eb Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2641 391 2817 Meeting password: MFAIC2022
	10:00 am – 10:30am	Tea Break	
	10:30am–12:00 pm	Closing Ceremony Speech by Professor Dr Mansor Ibrahim President, Malaysian Finance Association Award Giving Ceremony Video Presentation by Next Host Speech by Dr Ricky Chia Chee Jiun Conference Chair, The 24 th Malaysian Finance Association International Conference 2022	Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m38d0037c63e5da6de7486247b75cd54 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 376 5578 Meeting password: MFAIC2022 Venue: Borneo Room
	END OF MALAYSIAN FINANCE ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022		

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 11.30am - 1.00pm

Venue: Borneo Room

Session Chair: Dr Sharinah Puasa

Session Theme: Accounting and Auditing

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m3b104576c18553b2bae45f56a9c00ab8>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2641 404 9169

Meeting password: MFAIC2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes /Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-038	Determinants Of Environmental, Social And Governance (ESG) Disclosures In The Malaysian Banking Sector: An Empirical Investigation	Accounting and Auditing	Lui Tze Kiat (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman)	Mohd Haniff Zainuddin (Presenter, University of Malaya)	F2F
MFAC2022-060	The Effects Of Untraceable Claim And Receipt On User Satisfaction On The E-Filing Tax Return In Malaysia: A Conceptual Framework	Accounting and Auditing	Nurjeehan Binti Ayub (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Sharinah Puasa (Universiti Malaysia Sabah); Fithriah Ab Rahim (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	F2F
MFAC2022-063	Related Party Transactions Complexity And Audit Fees: Influence Of Auditor Reappointment Tenure	Accounting and Auditing	Nor Suhaila Ghazali (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	Mohd Mohid Rahmat (Presenter, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Hamezah Md Nor (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-087	The Disclosure Issues Of Integrated Report: A Systematic Literature Review	Accounting and Auditing	Siti Mariam Mansor (Presenter, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia & Universiti Teknologi MARA)	Mohamat Sabri Hassan (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Romlah Jaffar (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Maizatulakma Abdullah (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	F2F

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 11.30am - 1.00pm

Venue: Sabah Room

Session Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Mohd Edil Abd Sukor

Session Theme: Investment

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m97c2af6f6088f53803aea87db2f97784>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2642 049 3304

Meeting password: MFAIC2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-019	Mitigating Effect Of Multicollinearity From Algorithmic Trading Via Neural Networks: A Study On The MYR/USD Exchange Rate	Investment	Steven Mun Hong Leow (Presenter, Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman)	Khean Thye Bea (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman); Jireh Yi-Le Chan (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman); Wai Khuen Cheng (Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman)	F2F
MFAC2022-099	Sanctions And Market Reaction: Evidence From The Russia-Ukraine Conflict	Investment	Chwee-Ming Tee (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Wai Yan Wong (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Chee-Wooi Hooy (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	F2f
MFAC2022-033	Factor Affecting The Share Value Of Islamic Banks In Indonesia And The United Arab Emirates During The COVID-19 Pandemic	Investment	Daffa Athanabil Ramadhan (Presenter, BINUS University)	Melvern (BINUS University); Mohamad Heykal (BINUS University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-043	The Effect Of Lockdown, Economic Stimulus Package And National Recovery Plan Announcements On The Malaysian Stock Market	Investment	Tan Kok Jun (University of Malaya)	Mohd Edil Abd Sukor (Presenter, University of Malaya)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 1

Time: 11.30am - 1.00pm

Venue: Sarawak Room

Session Chair: Dr Jaludin Janteng

Session Theme: Fintech

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mf46930952033707f42bdfdaf522b77d>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2643 862 6375

Meeting password: MFAIC2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-025	Improving The Malaysian Stock Market Indexs Predictability Via Sequential Transfer Learning Sentiment Analysis	Fintech	Khean Thye Bea (Presenter, University Tunku Abdul Rahamn)	Steven Mun Hong Leow (University Tunku Abdul Rahamn); Jireh Yi-Le Chan (University Tunku Abdul Rahamn); Wai Khuen Cheng (University Tunku Abdul Rahamn)	F2F
MFAC2022-049	Financial Literacy, Fintech And Financial Inclusion " Policy Nexus In Malaysia	Fintech	Chung Tin Fah (Presenter, HELP University)	Julian Chan Hock Leong (HELP University)	F2F
MFAC2022-085	A Millennial-Centric Approach For Accepting Financial Transactions Using Blockchain Technology And Cryptocurrency	Fintech	Jaludin Janteng (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Nelson Lajuni (Universiti Malaysia Sabah); Aini Janteng (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	F2F
MFAC2022-011	An Investment Opportunity From Stepn By Using Sentiment Analysis And Predictive Model In The New Concept Like Gamefi And Socialfi Together	Fintech	Eik Den Yeoh (Presenter, HELP University)	Tin Fah Chung (HELP University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-030	Legal Governance Of Fintech Risks In Malaysia	Fintech	Hanis Hazwani Binti Ahmad (Presenter, Kolej Universiti Islam Perlis)	Nurul Khofifah Binti Abdullah (Kolej Universiti Islam Perlis); Muhammad Arif Fadillah Bin Ishak (Kolej Universiti Islam Perlis)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 2

3.30pm - 5.00pm

Venue: Borneo Room

Session Chair: Dr Ricky Chia Chee Jiun

Session Theme: International Finance

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mdebd82e0d24556c167d90c9f85a72d65>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2641 049 1882

Meeting password: MFACI2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-007	How Do Prior Firm Performance And Ownership Change Affect The Short-Run Firm Performance Of Dual-Listing Event In Hong Kong Market? Empirical Evidence From Chinese Companies	International Finance	Wing Kwong, Chan (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Ei Yet, Chu (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-040	Does Uncertainty Indices Impact The Cryptocurrency Market? An ARDL Approach	International Finance	Thong Li Yi (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Ricky Chia Chee Jiun (Universiti Malaysia Sabah); Mohd Fahmi Ghazali (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-064	The Relationship Between Environment Innovation And Wealth Development Under The Based Of Green Finance	International Finance	Cao Mingyao (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia & National University of Singapore)	Duan Keyi (Universiti Sains Malaysia); Haslindar Ibrahim (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-065	Impacts Of Corporate Governance Mechanisms And Ownership Structure On Capital Structure: A Case Study Of Chinese Dual Listed Companies	International Finance	Wing Kwong, Chan (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Ei Yet, Chu (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-066	Determinants Of Hedging Decisions In State-Owned And Private Manufacturing Firms On The IDX	International Finance	Ezra Hosama (Tarumanagara University)	Ignatius Roni Setyawan (Presenter, Tarumanagara University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-100	Corporate Risk Taking And Cash Holdings: The Moderating Effect Of Investor Protection	International Finance	Fatima Saleh Abd Almajeed Al-Hamshary (Presenter, Imam Abdulrahman Bin Faisal Universiti)	Akmalia M. Ariff (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu); Norakma Abd Majid (Universiti Malaysia Terengganu); Khairul Anuar Kamarudin (University of Wollongong in Dubai)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 2

3.30pm - 5.00pm

Venue: Sabah Room

Session Chair: Prof Dr Hooy Chee Wooi

Session Theme: Corporate Finance

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m1b18816adf0134692e53de629ba9f0dc>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2643 471 2631

Meeting password: MFAIC2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-059	Imprint And Imprinting Dynamics Of Military CEOs: Implications On Managerial Risk-Taking	Corporate Finance	Siew-Boey Yeoh (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Chee-Wooi Hooy (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-075	Good Corporate Governance Effect On Corporate Social Responsibility Of Sharia Banking In Indonesia	Corporate Finance	Nihayatul Maskuroh (UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten)	Solihah Wulandari (Presenter, UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten); Asep Dadan Suganda (UIN Sultan Maulana Hasanuddin Banten)	F2F
MFAC2022-078	Operating Cash Flows, Board Characteristics And Adoption Of IR 4.0 Technologies	Corporate Finance	Shu-Fen Chuah (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Char-Lee Lok (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia); Chee-Wooi Hooy (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-097	Covid-19 Dynamics And Financing Of Cash Flow Shortages: Evidence From Firm-Level Survey	Corporate Finance	Yusuf Adeneye (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan)	Fathyah Hashim (Universiti Sains Malaysia); Yusuf Babatunde Rahman (Lagos State University); Normaizat Akma Saidi (Universiti Malaysia Kelantan)	F2F

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 7th September 2022

Concurrent Session 2

3.30pm - 5.00pm

Venue: Sarawak Room

Session Chair: Prof Dr Obiyathulla Ismath Bacha

Session Theme: Islamic Finance

Sarawak Room:

Webex Link: <https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m0c8da7fefec4f4d0e576e681e618cb1a>

Join by meeting number

Meeting number (access code): 2644 621 9936

Meeting password: MFAIC2022

Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-024	Bank Loan And Financing Diversification, Market Structure, And Stability In A Dual-Banking System	Islamic Finance	Mirzet Šeho (Presenter, Monash University Malaysia)	Edib Smolo (Effat University); Obiyathulla Ismath Bacha (INCEIF)	F2F
MFAC2022-035	Bank Ownership And Non-Performing Loans: A Case Study Of Islamic And Conventional Banks In Malaysia	Islamic Finance	Andrew Tek Wei Saw (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Zurina Patrick (Universiti Malaysia Sabah); Woon Kan Yap (Universiti Tun Abdul Razak); Ai Yee Ooi (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	F2F
MFAC2022-036	Dividend Policies Of Shariah Compliant And Non-Shariah Compliant Firms: Evidence From Malaysia	Islamic Finance	Mohd Ashari Bakri (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Yong Chia Chia (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	F2F
MFAC2022-042	Islamic Donation Crowdfunding Model As Financing Alternative For Youth Entrepreneurs In Malaysia: A Qualitative Assessment By Experts	Islamic Finance	Munirah Salim (Presenter, Kolej Profesional MARA Bandar Melaka & International Islamic University Malaysia)	Salina Kassim (International Islamic University Malaysia); Mohamed Asmy Mohd Thas Thaker (International Islamic University Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-090	What Matters Most In Islamic Banking Disclosure Practices?	Islamic Finance	Mohammad Ali Tareq (Presenter, Malaysia-Japan International Institute of Technology (MJIT), Universiti Teknologi Malaysia)	Rochania Ayu Yunanda (Institut Agama Islam Tazkia, Bogor, Indonesia); Faried Kurnia Rahman (Institut Agama Islam Tazkia, Bogor, Indonesia)	F2F

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 3 8.30am - 10.00am					
Venue: Borneo Room Session Chair: Prof Dr Hooy Chee Wooi Session Theme: Accounting and Auditing Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=md4d0a7057392a467fd4a3026fb5fc5ed Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 396 1108 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-044	The Effect Of Auditor Morality On Professional Skepticism: Evidence From Individual-Level Auditors In China	Accounting and Auditing	PuZhao (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)		Hybrid
MFAC2022-067	E-Waste Practices Post-Pandemic Covid-19: The Case Of Malaysian Technology And Telecommunication Companies	Accounting and Auditing	Hafizah Abd Mutalib (Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Nor Atikah Shafai (Presenter, Universiti Utara Malaysia); Saidatul Nurul Hidayah Jannatun Naim Nor Ahmad (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Che Zuriana Muhammad Jamil (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Rapiah Mohamed (Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-073	Effectiveness Of E-Audit Implementation In Indonesian Audit Board	Accounting and Auditing	Pupung Purnamasari (Presenter, Universitas Islam Bandung)	Rudy Hartanto (Universitas Islam Bandung)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-082	The Effect Of CEO Early Life Experiences On Corporate Social Responsibility In China: The Moderating Role Of CEO Power	Accounting and Auditing	Yanzhao Liu (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Chee-Wooi Hooy (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 3 8.30am - 10.00am					
Venue: Sabah Room Session Chair: Dr Andrew Saw Tek Wei Session Theme: Investment & Real Estate Finance Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m9fc5af5ca7adfbf7b3ddc338e65eadeef Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 923 6699 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-069	Breaking The Glass Ceiling: The Reaction Of Malaysian Investors To The Appointment Of Female Directors	Investment	Rabial Aqillah Binti Shazali (Presenter, International Islamic University Malaysia)	Ahmad Fawwaz Bin Mohd Nasarudin (International Islamic University Malaysia); Norhasniza Mohd Hasan Abdullah (Norhasniza Mohd Hasan Abdullah); Fadhilah Abdullah Asuhaimi (International Islamic University Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-070	Local And International Market Sentiment Effects On Dividends And Leverage Of China A-Shares	Investment	Da Jiaqi (Presenter, Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Annuar Bin Md Nassir (Xiamen University Malaysia); Mohd Padzil Hashim (Universiti Putra Malaysia); Andrew Saw Tek Wei (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-074	Will Adding Crypto And Nfts On Portfolio Result In A Better Performance?	Investment	Muhammad Naufal Harits (Presenter, Universitas Indonesia)	Zuliani Dalimunthe (Universitas Indonesia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-012	Corporate Diversification Of Real Estate Investment Trusts (Reits) In A Post-Pandemic World: Lessons From Malaysia And Singapore	Real Estate Finance	Ling-Foon, Chan (Sunway University)	Calvin W. H. Cheong (Sunway University); A. N. Bany-Ariffin (Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 3 8.30am - 10.00am					
Venue: Sarawak Room Session Chair: Dr Md Mahmudul Haque Session Theme: Islamic Finance Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=ma8d2f4b2ba531afb9d90c0fb3ed044d5 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 779 7532 Meeting password: MFAIC2020					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-058	Factors Influencing The Performance Of Fixed Deposit Of Bank Rakyat In Malaysia	Islamic Finance	Nor Haryanti Md Nor (Presenter, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan)	Nadia Farleena Mohd Aznan (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan); Yusrina Hayati Nik Muhammad Naziman (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan); Siti Maziah Abdul Rahman (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan); Azmahani Othman @ Yaacob (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan)	F2F
MFAC2022-071	Implementing Scientometric Analysis In The Review Of Literature On Business Zakat Payment With Nvivo 12	Islamic Finance	Siti Maziah Binti Ab Rahman (Presenter, Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan)	Khalid Bin Abdul Wahid (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan), Nor Haryanti Md Nor (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan), Yusrina Hayati Binti Nik Muhammad Naziman (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan), Nadia Farleena Binti Mohd Aznan (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan), Azmahani Othman @ Yaacob (Universiti Teknologi MARA Cawangan Kelantan)	F2F
MFAC2022-077	Diversification opportunities of the US and Malaysia Islamic stock indices and commodities: Empirical Evidence from MGRACH-DCC and Wavelets Techniques	Islamic Finance	Ahmad Monir Abdullah (Presenter, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	Hishamuddin Abdul Wahab (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia); Maizatulakma Abdullah (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Romlah Jaafar (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia); Noradiva Hamzah (Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-027	Foreign Currency Derivatives and Shariah Compliant Firm Value: Evidence on Pre and Post IFRS 7	Islamic Finance	Zaminor binti Zamzamin @ Zamzamin (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Kelantan)	Razali Haron (International Islamic University Malaysia)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 4 2.00pm - 3.30pm					
Venue: Borneo Room Session Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Wong Woei Chyuan Session Theme: Corporate Finance Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m5b03c8c03db3e1ef0a592860a40db144 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 188 2975 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub- Themes /Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-013	Earnings Response Coefficient: A New Perspective	Corporate Finance	Sook Yin, Choo (Presenter, Sunway University)	Mohamed Ariff (Sunway University); Calvin W. H. Cheong (Sunway University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-016	Corporate Cash Holding And Firms Value Under The COVID-19 Pandemic Shocks	Corporate Finance	Shien Zhi Chan (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Phaik Nie Chin (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-022	Factors Influencing The Firms Stock Returns In The Travel, Leisure, And Hospitality Sector During Covid-19 Pandemic	Corporate Finance	Goh Wei Xuan (Multimedia University)	Lee Pei Ling (Presenter, Multimedia University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-034	Stock Valuation: Exploring The Accuracy And Explainability On Banks Versus Non-Bank Firms	Corporate Finance	Mohamed Ariff (Sunway University)	Leong Ken Yien (Presenter, Sunway University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-054	From Outbreak To Vaccination: An Analysis Of Commercial Property Market Reaction To Covid-19 In Malaysia	Corporate Finance	Wong Woei Chyuan (Presenter, Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Edie Erman Bin Che Johari (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Shazida Jan Bt Mohd Khan (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Siti Nurazira Binti Mohd Daud (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Mohad Yushairi Bin Mat Yusoff (Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-026	Board Diversity And ESG: Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia And Thailand	Corporate Finance	Blake Lorient (Monash University Australia)	Yessy Peranginangin (Monash University Malaysia); Michael Skully (Monash University Australia); Jothee Sinnakkannu (Monash University Malaysia); Kym Brown (Presenter, Monash University Australia)	F2F

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 4 2.00pm - 3.30pm					
Venue: Sabah Room Session Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Lee Hock Ann Session Theme: Financial Economics & Financial Institution Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m9efe7a41d1f96dd98c8b8f28995dfd62 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2644 014 6613 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-047	Food Crisis And The Relevant Muamalat Contracts.	Financial Economics	Masfufah binti Ab Rahim (Presenter, Kolej Professional MARA Bandar Melaka)		F2F
MFAC2022-089	Gold, Silver, And Copper As A Hedge Against Inflation: A Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR) Approach	Financial Economics	Nurul Fasyah Mohd Ussdek (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Mohd Fahmi Ghazali (Presenter, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia)	F2F
MFAC2022-092	Equity Risk Premium And Volatility: Modelling Sentiment Of COVID-19	Financial Economics	Chong Meng Chee (Presenter, Heriot-Watt University Malaysia)	Ricky Baan Wahh Wong (Heriot-Watt University Malaysia); Fong Yew Ong (Heriot-Watt University Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-096	Exploring The Comovements And Interconnectedness Of Petroleum Markets With Global Equity Markets: Aggregate And Sectoral Analysis	Financial Economics	Md Mahmudul Haque (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Mohammad Ashraful Ferdous Chowdhury (King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals), Rashed Jahangir (Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University), Ruslan Nagayev (Hamad Bin Khalifa University)	F2F
MFAC2022-101	Analyzing The Double Crossover Moving Averages Strategy Before, During And After Lockdown Period	Financial Economics	Farha Ghapar (Presenter, Kolej Universiti Poly-Tech MARA Kuala Lumpur)		F2F
MFAC2022-056	The Effect Of NPL On Banks Financial Performance	Financial Institutions	Maimunah Ali (Presenter, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia)	Siti Aisyah Mustafa (Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia)	Hybrid

CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 4 2.00pm - 3.30pm					
Venue: Sarawak Room Session Chair: Dr Lok Char Lee Session Theme: Fintech Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m501af5560e99c3baca264056323a538d Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2642 148 1997 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-045	Adoption Of Metaverse In Southeast Asian (Sea) Countries - Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia	Fintech	Chan Hock Leong, Julian (Presenter, HELP University)	Chung Tin Fah (HELP University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-061	Financial Literacy Elements On Sustainable Entrepreneurship Among Bumiputera Smes In Selangor: Mediation Effects Of I-Fintech Adoption	Fintech	Suria Abu Basar (Presenter, Universiti Selangor)	Halimi Poniran (Universiti Selangor); Noor Nasyikin Mohd Zain (Universiti Selangor); Fazilah Tamsir (Universiti Selangor); Asma Rina Abdul Rahman (Universiti Selangor); Noor Ayuernie Ibrahim (Universiti Selangor)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-068	Will Investors Willingly Move Their Funds From Banks Deposit And Stocks/Bonds To Equity Crowdfunding?	Fintech	Tubagus Rifqi Hanif (Universitas Indonesia)	Zuliani Dalimunthe (Presenter, Universitas Indonesia); Rachmadi Agus Triono (Universitas Indonesia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-086	Diversification benefits of Bitcoin during, and post-COVID-19 outbreak: evidence from ASEAN-based investors based on a multivariate-GARCH approach	Fintech	Lim Siok Jin (New Era University College)	Andaeus Zun Khan Neoh (New Era University College); Vivien Wai Yan Ng (New Era University College); Frankie Song Peng Goh (Presenter, New Era University College)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-098	FinTech Innovation, Stability and Efficiency: Evidence from Malaysian Bank Industry	Fintech	Rubi Ahmad (Universiti Malaya)	Changqian Xie (Presenter, Universiti Malaya); Fauzi Zainir (Universiti Malaya)	Hybrid

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Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 5 4.00pm - 5.30pm					
Venue: Borneo Room Session Chair: Dr Ahmad Hakimi Tajuddin Session Theme: Corporate Finance Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m3f37ad572760c52d233c639e428bb005 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 451 1520 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-080	Corporate Governance And Bank Performance: The Moderating Role Of Competitive Intensity On Kuwait Banks	Corporate Finance	Mohammad Abbas Hayati (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Haslindar Ibrahim (Universiti Sains Malaysia); Sulaiman Tareq Al-Abduljader (Gulf University for Science and Technology)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-081	Financial Fragility At Country Level Using Credit Rating Scores: A Multi-Country Analysis	Corporate Finance	Yaasmin Farzana Abdul Karim (Presenter, Sunway University)	Mohamed Ariff (Sunway University); Kian-Tek Lee (Sunway University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-084	Impact Of Financial Inclusion On Firms Default Risk In Developing Nations	Corporate Finance	Bolaji Tunde Matemilola (Presenter, Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Badayi S.A (Jigawa State Polytechnic); Bany-Arifin A.N (Universiti Putra Malaysia); Annuar Md Nassir (Xiamen University of Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-088	The Influence Of Board Size And Board Independence On Triple Bottom Line Reporting	Corporate Finance	Ahmad Hakimi Tajuddin (Presenter, Taylor's University)	Shabiha Akter (East West University); Rasidah Mohd-Rashid (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Waqas Mehmood (Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Hybrid

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Date: 8th September 2022 Concurrent Session 5 4.00pm - 5.30pm					
Venue: Sabah Room Session Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Tang Tuck Cheong Session Theme: Financial Economics Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m09a186c9544ea441ea0c71e3a77dd1de Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2640 662 3860 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-001	The Impact Of Credit Facilities On Tanzanian SMEs Growth	Financial Economics	Hamad Shkeily (Presenter, Universiti Kuala Lumpur)	Naziruddin Abdullah (Universiti Kuala Lumpur); Kibago Waryoba (Universiti Kuala Lumpur)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-005	A Re-Examination Of Taylor Rule Studies : An Analysis Of Time Series Econometric Procedures	Financial Economics	Sam Chung Yan (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Robert McNown (University of Colorado); Goh Soo Khooon (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-017	Oil Dependency And Happiness In Net Oil-Exporting Countries: Is It A Curse Or Blessing?	Financial Economics	Ly Slesman (Presenter, Universiti Brunei Darussalam)		Hybrid
MFAC2022-023	Impact Of Employee Turnover On The Credit Risk Of Microfinance Institutions (MFIS): A Global Perspective	Financial Economics	Md Imran Hossain (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Md. Aslam Mia (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-029	Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Statements And Policy Rate: Central Bank Of Malaysia	Financial Economics	Kian Teck Ang (Universiti Malaya)	Tuck Cheong Tang (Presenter, Universiti Malaya)	Hybrid

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Venue: Borneo Room Session Chair: Assoc Prof Dr Lau Wee-Yeap Session Theme: Financial Economics and Financial Institutions Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=mc3501929ff9245d965647ad2a4bd8263 Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2643 314 0764 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-055	Identifying Macroeconomic Factors Correlated With Trade Openness: A Study Of 101 Economies	Financial Economics	Shahida Suleman (Sunway University)	Mohamed Ariff (Sunway University); Hassanudin M. Thaker (Presenter; UCSI University)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-091	Asset Allocation And Performance Of Malaysian Civil Service Pension Fund	Financial Economics	Muhammad Irfan AR (Presenter; University of Malaya)	Wee-Yeap Lau (University of Malaya)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-102	Determinants Of Pension Funds Required Return: A Scenario-Based Simulation Of Civil Service Pension Fund	Financial Economics	Muhammad Irfan AR (Presenter; University of Malaya)	Wee-Yeap Lau (University of Malaya)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-020	Impact On Bank Specific And Macroeconomic Factors On Liquidity Of Domestic And Foreign Commercial Banks In Malaysia	Financial Institutions	Tan Kock Lim (Presenter; UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College)	Tan Hong Hooi (UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College); Loo Teck Khum (UOW Malaysia KDU Penang University College)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-037	Do Judicial Effectiveness, Property Rights, And Government Integrity Impact Corruption? Evidence From Asia-Pacific Countries	Financial Institutions	Rasidah Mohd-Rashid (Presenter, Universiti Utara Malaysia)	Waqas Mehmood (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Chai-Aun Ooi (Universiti Utara Malaysia); Siti Zakiah Che Man (Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission); Chui Zi Ong (Xiamen University Malaysia)	Hybrid

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Venue: Sabah Room Session Chair: Prof Dr Mansor Ibrahim Session Theme: Islamic Finance & Behavioral Finance Webex Link: https://ums-edu-my.webex.com/ums-edu-my/j.php?MTID=m186f4dac26f77f94785b6afb8e8136eb Join by meeting number Meeting number (access code): 2641 391 2817 Meeting password: MFAIC2022					
Paper ID	Paper Title	Sub-Themes / Topics	First Author	Co-authors	Mode of Presentation
MFAC2022-079	Literature Review Financing To Infrastructure Contractor In The Islamic Banking	Islamic Finance	Mohamad Torik Langlang Buana (Presenter, Universitas Mercu Buana)	Nuradli Ridzwan Shah Mohd Dali (Universiti Sains Islam Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-021	Cash Waqf Giving Behavioural Intentions In Negeri Sembilan: An Extension Of The Theory Of Planned Behaviour	Islamic Finance	Muhsinah Hasanar Kunju (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Hanudin Amin (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-057	Risk Aversion Of Political Connection Firm	Behavioral Finance	Normaziah Mohd Nor (Presenter, Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Wenhui Li (Hunan University of Humanities, Science and Technology); Hanh Minh Thai (Hanoi University of Science and Technology)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-062	Understanding The Sentiment On Gig Economy: Good Or Bad?	Behavioral Finance	Fatin Aimi Naemah Norazmi (Presenter, Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Nur Syazwani Mazlan (Universiti Putra Malaysia); Rusmawati Said (Universiti Putra Malaysia); Rahmita Wirza OK Rahmat (Universiti Putra Malaysia)	Hybrid
MFAC2022-095	Young Investors' Perceptions Toward Amanah Saham Bumiputera Fixed-Price Unit Trust In Sabah	Behavioral Finance	Sarmizah Md Kananon (Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	Noor Hassanah Husin (Presenter, Universiti Malaysia Sabah)	F2F
MFAC2022-046	Sustainable Development Goals and Islamic Behavioural Finance in Malaysia and GCC Shariah-Compliant Stocks	Islamic Finance	Ooi Kok Loang (Presenter, Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Zamri Ahmad (Universiti Sains Malaysia)	Hybrid

LIST OF ABSTRACTS

MFA 2022_001

THE IMPACT OF CREDIT FACILITIES ON TANZANIAN SMEs GROWTH

Hamad Mohammed Shkeily*, Kibago Waryoba & Naziruddin Abdullah
Universiti Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Abstract

As SMEs are leading enterprises globally in contributing to GDP, employment, exports and investments, to name a few, they are mainly using credit facilities rendered by financial institutions to support their operations. Considering the importance of the nexus between the two economic players in triggering the growth rate of an economy where the former represents product market, while the latter represents money market, this study aims to examine the impact of credit facilities on the growth of SMEs. As such, it treated interest rate, loan limit and loan terms as independent variables, while growth of SMEs was considered as dependent variable. Data was successfully collected using structured questionnaire from SMEs in Dar es salaam region. A total of 200 questionnaires were administered to various SMEs stakeholders but only 121 respondents were analysed using SPSS. Using both descriptive and inferential statistics, the findings revealed that there was a strong positive relationship ($R = 0.685$) between interest rates, loan amount, loan terms and growth of SMEs. The findings also revealed that at 95% confidence level, all variables produced statistically significant values, signifying that all of them effect the growth of SMEs. The findings further revealed that strict loan repayment terms, high interest rates as well as small loan amounts are still major challenges in accessing credit facilities despite their contribution towards SMEs growth. Lastly, the study recommends the need for the government to regulate the financial institutions through the credit bureau to enable SMEs stakeholders to access credit with affordable interest rate charged along with reviewing loan requirements criteria or loan repayment terms to improve credit access at large by SMEs.

Keywords: *credit facilities, growth of SMEs, interest rate, loan limit, loan terms and loan repayment.*

MFAC2022_005

A RE-EXAMINATION OF TAYLOR RULE STUDIES : AN ANALYSIS OF TIME SERIES ECONOMETRIC PROCEDURES

Chung Yan Sam^{1*}, Robert Mcnown² & Soo Khoon Goh¹

¹*Centre for Policy Research & International Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Penang, Malaysia*

²*University of Colorado, Boulder, CO, 256 UCB, 80309, United States*

Abstract

Many Taylor rule empirical studies do not follow proper econometric procedures. To a large extent, unit root testing, cointegration tests, and some diagnostics are ignored. Evidence shows the Taylor rule is an unbalanced regression, involving a mixture of $I(1)$ and $I(0)$ variables. Spurious regressions may occur if cointegration is not found. In addition, empirical Taylor rule models often include lags of the dependent variable and equation residuals are serially correlated. The presence of lags of the dependent variable and residual autocorrelation together will cause biased and inconsistent least squares estimators, which robust standard error will not correct. We re-examine two recent papers on the Taylor rule. We point out the problems and questionable procedures in these studies. We then demonstrate how autoregressive distributed lag methods can overcome these issues effectively. Inadequate analysis of the time series properties of the individual series and diagnostic checks of the estimated equations can often lead to invalid conclusions about the empirical validity of the Taylor rule.

Keywords: *Taylor Rule, Augmented ARDL Bounds Test, Cointegration, unbalance regression, robust standard error, model misspecification.*

MFAC2022_007

HOW DO PRIOR FIRM PERFORMANCE AND OWNERSHIP CHANGE AFFECT THE SHORT-RUN FIRM PERFORMANCE OF DUAL-LISTING EVENT IN THE HONG KONG MARKET? EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM CHINESE COMPANIES.

Wing Kwong, CHAN & Ei Yet, CHU

Graduate School of Business, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang, Malaysia

Abstract:

This study aims to assess how the prior firm performance and ownership change affect the initial abnormal return and short-run cumulative abnormal returns due to the dual-listing event of Chinese companies in the Hong Kong market. 23 Chinese companies that have been listed in the China A-share market about one year before their dual-listing in the Hong Kong market from 2003 to 2019 are selected for this study. The study results show that the more is foreign investment, the more aggressive is the issuers' pricing strategies, and the less is the initial abnormal return and short-run cumulative abnormal returns. The sales of state-owned shares to the market only affect the short-run cumulative abnormal returns, not the initial abnormal return. Moreover, prior firm performance is not a determinant factor in issuers' pricing strategies and does not affect the initial abnormal return and short-run cumulative abnormal returns. However, the effect of foreign ownership change and state ownership change in cumulative abnormal returns disappear on day 7 right after the dual-listing event in the Hong Kong market.

Keywords: *Abnormal Return, Agency Cost, Cross-Listing, Firm Performance, IPO, Legal Bonding, Ownership.*

MFAC2022_011

AN INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY FROM STEP N BY USING SENTIMENT ANALYSIS AND PREDICTIVE MODEL IN THE NEW CONCEPT LIKE GAMEFI AND SOCIALFI TOGETHER

Eik Den Yeoh & Tinfah Chung

HELP University, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Abstract:

Cryptocurrency (Crypto) investment depends on the reliable and fast information obtained by investor to make better decision. Investors can experiment with a modern strategy to make decision by applying sentiment analysis and artificial intelligence to predict crypto trends based on social media and financial news data. Sentiment analysis is a technique to assist them to make better decision based on understanding of how investors, gamers, and creators interact to determine the profitability of an outcome. The SocialFi and GameFi for this paper research mainly discussed about StepN. Social Finance (SocialFi) & Game Finance (GameFi) is an innovative technology in blockchain. This is emerging technology for cryptocurrencies that is possible for gamer to earn extra rewards with walk to earn in their social lifestyle, and investor could invest to trade the cryptocurrency. StepN¹ is the first team to effectively implement a virtual world and real world together which is move and earn concept. The platform's unique is bring GameFi and SocialFi together and initiative intends to nudge millions toward a better lifestyle, combat climate change, and link the public to Web 3.0 (Lyllah, 2022). To discover StepN's trend, the approach was created mostly in Python and uses a number of libraries for preprocessing, sentiment analysis models such as Finance Bidirectional Encoder Representations Transformers (FinBERT), and prediction models (E(x)treme Gradient Boosting (XGBoost)). This involved the use of sentiment analysis techniques on finance news, Discord community discussion and Discord announcement from StepN. Data Collection, preprocessing, classification, and predictive are the four components of the proposed framework. The time period that this paper focus on will be extracted data from March 2022 to April 2022.

Keywords: *Metaverse, Investment, Cryptocurrency, Sentiment Analysis, Machine Learning, Behaviour Finance, Play-2-Earn, FinTech*

MFAC2022_012

CORPORATE DIVERSIFICATION OF REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT TRUSTS (REITS) IN A POST-PANDEMIC WORLD: LESSONS FROM MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORELing-Foon Chan ¹, Calvin W.H. Cheong ^{1,*} & A.N. Bany-Arifin ²¹ *Department of Economics and Finance, Sunway University*² *Department of Accounting and Finance, School of Business and Economics, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Malaysia.***Abstract:**

Corporate diversification is a strategy that enables corporations to expand their core business into other businesses. Corporate finance literature indicates that diversified firms negatively impact financial performance compared to non-diversified firms. In developed countries like the United States (US) and Japan, the majority of the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are more specialised; however, two-thirds of Malaysian REITs (M-REITs) are diversified. This study aims to bridge the gap by looking at M-REITs and Singapore REITs (S-REITs) that help moderate the effects of growth opportunities, corporate diversification, and financial performance. This study utilizes the Entropy Index for corporate diversification and the Dynamic System Generalized Method of Moments (DSGMM) to analyse samples of REIT firms in Malaysia and Singapore being the market leaders of REIT in the ASEAN region from 2009 to 2020, covering pre and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have nascent markets and are not included in this research. Panel data for corporate diversification, which uses Price Index (PI) as performance measurement, reflects significant levels from 1% to 10% for All-REITs, M-REITs and S-REITs pre and during the pandemic. Corporate diversification affects a corporation's financial performance for all periods and is measured by PI. However, based on Tobin's-Q ratio, the results vary. All-REITs and M-REITs are significant at 1% to 10%, except for S-REITs. The moderating effect of growth opportunities on corporate diversification and corporate financial performance measured by PI is significant at 1% to 5% for All-REITs and S-REITs. However, M-REITs do not have sufficient data to highlight significance at the 10% level. Further testing on the moderating effect of growth opportunities on corporate diversification and corporate financial performance measured by market value through Tobin's-Q ratio showed that All-REITs, M-REITs and S-REITs are significant at 1 to 10% levels. The moderating effect of growth opportunities plays a vital role in M-REITs and S-REITs performances.

Keywords: *Real Estate Investment Trusts, Corporate Diversification, Growth Opportunities, Financial Performance, Malaysia, Singapore*

MFAC2022_013

EARNINGS RESPONSE COEFFICIENT: A NEW PERSPECTIVE

Sook Yin, Choo, Mohamed Ariff, Calvin W. H. Cheong*

*Sunway University***Abstract:**

Empirical research in accounting had its beginnings from Ball and Brown's (1968) seminal study on the *size* of the earnings impact on stock prices at the time firms report earnings reports to stock exchanges. Accounting numbers are prepared as per reporting standards of a country, but there was no empirical verification of how items in financial statements affect formation of a firm's stock price. Findings from their 1968 study proved the Efficient Market Hypothesis and provided the foundations of event study methodology that is today entrenched in finance literature. No study to-date has been able to prove the 1:1 relationship between a dollar change in earnings to a dollar change in stock price. This study looks into, (a) idiosyncratic errors arising from estimating the relationship at firm-level data; and (b) behaviour of rational investors re-pricing the expected dividend effect on to stock prices around the time of earnings announcements. This paper looks at the daily prices of the top 100 companies in Malaysia during the period 2010 to 2020, inclusive. Using an efficient market, the Earnings Response Coefficient predicated is computed and the earnings-to-stock-price relationship identified with newer methodology. Cross-sectional regressions to estimate the coefficient are expanded to include cointegration tests to reveal long-term relationship using individual stocks as well as portfolios of stocks to remove idiosyncratic errors-in-variables. Further improved results are expected using earnings minus dividends as perhaps the correct specification. From a re-testing of the EPS disclosure effect on stock prices show how a better methodology applied to the EPS-to-stock returns produced much improved results.

Keywords: *Earnings response coefficient; Share prices; Seasoned issues; Cumulative abnormal return; Earnings per share; Dividends per share; Portfolio aggregation*

MFAC2022_016

CORPORATE CASH HOLDING AND FIRM'S VALUE UNDER THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC SHOCKS

Shien Zhi Chan & Phaik Nie Chin*

Graduate School of Business, Universiti Sains Malaysia

Abstract:

This study examines the effect of a firms' cash holdings on firms' value, including the optimum level of cash holding and whether the COVID-19 pandemic moderates the relationship between cash holdings and firm's value. The study employs a static panel data regression model on an unbalanced panel data of Malaysian Public Listed Corporations (PLCs). The sample period is from 2010 to 2020 in which 2010-2019 is considered as pre-COVID-19 crisis and 2020 is during COVID-19 crisis. The findings conclude that first, there is a positive linear relationship between cash holding and a firm's value. Second, there is no optimum level of cash holding for Malaysian PLCs. Third, the COVID-19 pandemic positively moderates the relationship between cash holding and a firm's value. This study is one of the few papers that explored the relationship between cash holding and firm's value in developing countries. The study added the COVID-19 pandemic shocks, which has not really been explored in the current literature. This study provides insights to corporate management that cash holding is important to improve firm performance, and maintain firm's value during a global health crisis such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

Keywords: *Cash Holding, Firm Value, COVID-19, Firm Performance, Capital Structure, Health Crisis*

MFAC2022_017

**OIL DEPENDENCY AND HAPPINESS IN NET OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES:
IS IT A CURSE OR BLESSING?**

Ly Slesman

Centre for Advanced Research (CARE), Universiti Brunei Darussalam,
Jalan Tungku Link, Gadong BE1410, Brunei Darussalam

Abstract

The resource curse hypothesis postulates that countries endowed with and depend on abundant natural resources would tend to underperform in socioeconomic and development outcomes than countries with fewer natural resources. Recently, a few studies argued that this curse is also manifested in lower life satisfaction or happiness. Focusing on 31 net oil-exporting/oil-rich countries over the 2006-2019 period, we find that oil rents (and aggregate and disaggregate resource rents) have no adverse effect on happiness or subjective well-being. This contradicts recent studies using a global sample. We further contribute to this debate by examining the channels of resource curse or blessing, if any, along with income, unemployment, inflation, levels of human development, and governance. We discover that oil rent enhances the positive marginal effects of income on happiness. We find no evidence of this conditional effect through other channels. Rich in oil or natural resources is not necessarily a curse on happiness, but, if any, it is a blessing through income-generating well-being.

Keywords: *Resource Blessing; Resource Curse; Happiness; Subjective Well-being; Net Oil-Exporting Countries*

MFAC2022_019**Mitigating Effect of Multicollinearity from Algorithmic Trading via Neural Networks: A Study on the MYR/USD Exchange Rate**

Steven Mun Hong Leow, Khean Thye Bea, Jireh Yi-Le Chan & Wai Khuen Cheng
Universiti Tunku Abdul Rahman

Abstract:

Algorithmic trading is extensively studied in the neural network field thanks to the abundance of data available. On the flip side, the amount of data presents problems such as multicollinearity that adversely affects forecast performance. Multicollinearity is especially prevalent in financial data due to the interrelated nature of the data. Multicollinearity refers to the phenomenon where linear relationships exist between two or more independent variables. The existing feature selection methods are not effective enough in solving such a problem due to the potential loss of essential and relevant information. Feature selection methods negate the effort of collecting valuable and, oftentimes, expensive data. Therefore, we proposed a methodology to reduce the effect of multicollinearity in neural network models in this study. The proposed methodology is known as the Multicollinearity Reduction Module (MRM) and is based on correlation-embedded attention to mitigate multicollinearity without removing features. The motivation for MRM is to allow the model to learn the relevance and redundancy between the input data and how much attention it should pay to each variable in different circumstances. Therefore, this study aims to mitigate the effects of multicollinearity without removing any variables. This study compared the performance of LSTM models with and without the MRM. Empirical results showed that MRM does provide incremental improvement in predicting the MYR/USD exchange rate and is statistically significant. Performance metrics such as return, accuracy, and f1-score are also discussed.

Keywords: *algorithmic trading; multicollinearity; Multicollinearity Reduction Module; attention neural network; MYRUSD*

MFAC2022_020**IMPACT ON BANK-SPECIFIC AND MACROECONOMIC FACTORS ON LIQUIDITY OF DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN COMMERCIAL BANKS IN MALAYSIA**

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Abstract:

This paper aims to examine the effect of bank-specific and macroeconomic determinants on bank's liquidity in Malaysia for 18 commercial banks (10 foreign and 8 domestic) during the period of 2009 to 2020. The banks' sample was divided into two sub-samples (foreign and domestic). Additionally, this paper is also to get a better understanding of the difference between the liquidity risk of the foreign and domestic banks. Empirical analyses were carried out using the secondary data extracted from banks' annual report, World Bank and Bloomberg. Static panel regression is employed to examine the differences in the liquidity determinants. The result indicated that leverage (LEV), bank size (SIZE), exchange rate (EXCR) and financial crisis (CRISIS) are the primary determinants of domestic banks (DB). Meanwhile, leverage (LEV), bank size (LNSIZE), government deficit financing (GDF) and financial crisis (CRISIS) are the major factors that affecting the liquidity of foreign banks (FB). On practical standpoint this study brings evidence and knowledge for bankers, investors, depositors, regulators and those concerned in this topic about the factor that may affect the liquidity of domestic and foreign banks in Malaysia. The major implication is that when financial crisis is expected to happen in future, bank can use our model to estimate the amount of liquidity in order to survive. Thus, it enables banks to make decision concerning the issue on liquidity and communicate it to the government to solve it together to increase the chance of surviving.

Keywords: *Foreign and Domestic Banks; Macroeconomic; Liquidity; Basel III; Financial Crisis; Bank Specific.*

MFAC2022_021

Cash Waqf Giving Behavioural Intentions in Negeri Sembilan: An Extension of the Theory of Planned Behaviour

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Abstract:

This study was conducted to understand the social-psychological toward one's intention in cash *waqf* giving behaviour by applying the Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB) construct that consists of attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control as the variable. Around 220 responses received from *waqif* (donors) in Negeri Sembilan were then analysed using the Statistical Package of Social Science (SPSS). The result shows that all of the variables including attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control have a significant positive relationship with cash *waqf* giving intention. This study provides a few ideas for the *nazir* (cash *waqf* collector) to improve their performance and collect more funds for cash *waqf*.

Keywords: *Nazir, waqif, cash waqf, Theory of Planned Behaviour (TPB)*

MFAC2022_022

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE FIRMS' STOCK RETURNS IN THE TRAVEL, LEISURE, AND HOSPITALITY SECTOR DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract:

The spread of COVID-19 has caused most nations to implement travel restrictions and decrease their economic activities to reduce the transmission of the virus. Meanwhile, mobility restrictions and lower economic activities have affected the tourism industry drastically. The objective of the study is to investigate the factors influencing stock returns in the travel, leisure, and hospitality sector during the COVID-19 period. The results suggest that exchange rates and global daily COVID-19 cases influence equity returns of travel and tourism industry. Further, vaccination rates are significant and positively correlated with daily stock returns of tourism-related companies listed on the Malaysian stock bourse using a pooled OLS method.

Keywords: COVID-19; Vaccination rate; Tourism, Stock returns

MFAC2022_023

**EMPLOYEE TURNOVER AND THE CREDIT RISK OF MICROFINANCE INSTITUTIONS (MFIs):
INTERNATIONAL EVIDENCE**

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Abstract

Purpose: In today's competitive world, credit risk is a serious concern for lending institutions such as microfinance institutions (MFIs) due to its impact on their institutional and financial viability. Considering a relatively high employee turnover rates facing by the microfinance industry in recent years, this study aims to examine the impact of employee turnover on the credit risk of MFIs.

Design/methodology/approach: We have collected 9-year data (from 2010 to 2018) of 2,272 unique MFIs from 123 countries from the World Bank databases and analyzed using Pooled Ordinary Least Squares (POLS), Fixed Effects Model (FEM) and Random Effects Model (REM) along with some endogeneity corrected techniques.

Findings: The findings revealed a positive impact of employee turnover on the credit risk, which means that higher employee turnover will results in a high credit risk. Furthermore, after addressing the issue of endogeneity using the two-step system Generalized Method of Moments (GMM) and Hausman-Taylor (HT) techniques, our findings mostly remain consistent and robust, therefore, underscores the importance of mitigating employee turnover rates in the microfinance industry.

Originality: The study has uniquely evaluated the nexus between employee turnover and risk taking of MFIs by using a relatively recent and global data. The findings will enable managers to make appropriate decisions to mitigate credit risks.

Keywords: *Microfinance Institutions, Employee Turnover, Credit Risk, Institutional Sustainability.*

MFAC2022_024

**BANK LOAN AND FINANCING DIVERSIFICATION, MARKET STRUCTURE, AND STABILITY IN A
DUAL-BANKING SYSTEM**

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Abstract:

We investigate the impacts of bank loan and financing diversification and market concentration on stability amid a changing banking market structure due to the rapid penetration and growth of an intrinsically different banking type. Examining a sample of 24 conventional and 18 Islamic banks in Malaysia from 2003 to 2019, we find significant differences in the above dynamics between the two bank types. For conventional banks, moderate and high levels of diversification weaken stability, particularly in less-concentrated markets, while lower levels improve it. For Islamic banks, however, stability seems to be irresponsive to financing diversification, suggesting that diversification plays no role in their risk-taking activities. Furthermore, while market concentration impairs the stability of conventional banks, the effects on Islamic banks' stability are favorable. Interestingly, the rapid growth of Islamic banking, which had cannibalized market share and increased competitive pressure on conventional banks, appears to have enhanced overall banking stability. Additional analyses suggest that these dynamics have a temporal dimension and depend on the bank size. Regulators and policymakers would therefore be well advised to exercise caution in their calls for diversification and Islamic banking expansion policies.

Keywords: *Loan and financing diversification, market concentration, banking, financial stability*

MFAC2022_025

IMPROVING THE MALAYSIAN STOCK MARKET INDEX'S PREDICTABILITY VIA SEQUENTIAL TRANSFER LEARNING SENTIMENT ANALYSIS

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Forecasting stock movements is a significant and challenging task. Recently, the rapid development of technologies has driven big data collection and resulted in a boom of variables and data points. The massively available data presents opportunities to reveal the unexplained variability in the stock market and facilitate the prediction. However, there are a large proportion of data exists in the form of natural language, which is unstructured and consists of inherent meanings. Although human experts can easily understand the underlying implication of texts, it is not feasible for experts to process every news upon release. Based on this, the natural language processing (NLP) approaches provide ways to automatically analyze the texts and interpret the meaning behind them. This study focuses on a sentiment-based stock forecasting approach to analyze the sentimental information of news for prediction. Due to limited text-based financial forecasting study in Malaysia context, this paper attempted to examine the incremental improvement contributed by sentiment features to improve KLCI's predictability. The methodology improvement will be taken in different two aspects. Firstly, this study developed the sentiment analyser based on sequential transfer learning to extract the sentiment features from financial news. Secondly, this paper adopted a recent novel neural network module, the Multicollinearity Reduction Module (MRM), to help mitigate the multicollinearity problem caused by the added sentiment information. Empirical results show that news sentiment features extracted from the Malaysian financial news combined with MRM do provide incremental improvement in predicting the KLCI index price movement and are statistically significant. The Malaysian financial news sentiment information extracted by the proposed methodology is effectively improving the financial predictive performances when use in conjunction with other market data.

Keywords: *Natural language processing; Deep learning; Stock forecasting; Sentiment Analysis; Pretrained model; Malaysia Stock Market*

MFAC2022_026

BOARD DIVERSITY AND ESG: AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA AND THAILAND

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Abstract:

This paper examines whether board diversity (i.e. nationality, gender, age, generational age and independence) impact on ESG disclosure in Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. We also examine if ESG disclosure impacts firm performance. Our results suggest that board independence is important in Australia and Malaysia, less so in Thailand, but not Indonesia. Diverse nationality mix mattered most in Australia. More females gave support to ESG initiatives in Australia and Malaysia, but more males did so in Indonesia. Board member age counted only in Australia for Social and the overall ESG score. Older board members backed ESG initiatives particularly in Australia and Malaysia, as did 'Board Boomer II' generation in Thailand. Generation X directors fostered Environmental and Social for all countries. Hence, a diverse board does matter in regards to ESG. ESG disclosure had limited impact on Tobin's Q performance, but no impact on ROA for our countries.

Keywords: *board diversity, gender, board age, ESG, performance*

MFAC2022_027

FOREIGN CURRENCY DERIVATIVES AND SHARI'AH COMPLIANT FIRM VALUE: EVIDENCE ON PRE AND POST IFRS 7

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Abstract

This study examines the effect of foreign currency derivatives on Shari'ah compliant firm value on hedging decision pre and post IFRS 7 implementations. To meet this objective, Generalized Method-of-Moment estimator (System-GMM) is employed on a set of panel data from 2000-2017 that comprised of 59 non-financial Shari'ah compliant firms engaged in derivative. This study concludes that the implementation of IFRS disclosure requirements has influenced the foreign currency derivatives and Shari'ah compliant firm's performance. Thus, this suggests that Shari'ah compliant firms have to report their derivatives activities in their financial reporting as required by the accounting standard set by regulators to reduce information asymmetry and promote good corporate governance. This study offers new evidence on risk management using derivatives and the IFRS disclosure requirement plays an important role in ensuring that the firm has to report their hedging activities.

Keywords: Risk management, foreign currency derivatives, IFRS, hedging, firm value, Shari'ah compliant firms

MFAC2022_029

MONETARY POLICY COMMITTEE (MPC) STATEMENTS AND POLICY RATE: CENTRAL BANK OF MALAYSIA

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Abstract:

This study explores the nature of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) statements released by the Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM), the Malaysian central bank between May 2004 and November 2020. It also covers their predictiveness on policy rate decisions. The data are constructed from the content of 106 MPC statements through text mining method with 12 hawkish and dovish words, respectively. There is empirical evidence of the predictiveness of the content of MPC statements on the overnight policy rate (OPR) decisions. More the hawkish words, most likely decision to rise OPR is announced, but an inverse story for the dovish words. The monetary stance of the BNM is relatively hawkish when Tan Sri Zeti Aziz was governor. The Hawkish-Dovish indicator is found to be reasonable for understanding the BNM's monetary conduct. This study acknowledges that the transparency in the BNM's monetary communication is feasible.

Keywords: Dovish; Hawkish; Monetary Policy Committee (MPC); Malaysia; Overnight policy rate.

MFAC2022_030

LEGAL GOVERNANCE OF FINTECH RISKS IN MALAYSIA

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Binus University

Abstract

This paper explores the relationship between legal governance and fintech risks in Malaysia. This paper review previous literature on legal governance of fintech risks by various journal within 2017 until 2021. The adoption of fintech is still new in Malaysia. The financial sector is challenged by fintech. Fintech itself also has risks that cannot be ignored. Specifically, under the strict access control of the financial industry, fintech companies are unable to directly put fintech into use without obtaining corresponding financial-business admission. On the other hand, the entity status and rights and obligations of fintech companies in the financial legal system are unclear so far, their participation in financial activities may face uncertainty in legal evaluation. Besides, once the fintech with highly integrated technology and business has any technical failure in the application process, which causes harming of financial consumer interests. It would usually be difficult to have a clear division of legal liabilities between the technical entity and the business entity. Thus, it is also easy to cause disturbance in bearing legal liabilities.

Keywords *fintech, legal governance, fintech risks*

MFAC2022_033

FACTOR AFFECTING THE SHARE VALUE OF ISLAMIC BANKS IN INDONESIA AND THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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Abstract:

The existence of Islamic banks is undoubtedly no stranger to people's lives today. Islamic banks have become one of the financial alternatives for the community in addition to conventional banks, and even Islamic banks are sometimes a priority for the community in choosing financial institutions. There is because Islamic banks use a profit-sharing system (*profit and loss Sharing*), *dividing* profits or losses according to the agreement at the beginning of the contract. In other words, Islamic banks do not harm either party in carrying out the implementation and financial management. In addition, it is also to avoid *usury* originating from bank interest, which is unlawful in Islamic economics. This study looks at the effect of positive cases of COVID-19, the price of gold and crude oil on the stock value of the banking sector, especially Islamic banks in Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, from February 2021 to February 2022. The data for this research study were obtained from daily stock data. There are 6 banks, 4 banks from Indonesia, and 2 banks from the United Arab Emirates, through a website that provides information on stock price activity data, namely yahoo!Finance. Then, the researchers also took data on the price movements of gold and crude oil through the yahoo! Finance and collect data on the number of positive cases of COVID-19 for the people of Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates through the Our World in Data website, which has obtained reliable information from the government websites of each country. The research method used is quantitative. This study indicates that changes in gold prices and the number of Covid-19 cases in the two countries, namely Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates, do not affect changes in Islamic bank stock prices. In contrast, crude oil prices influence changes in Islamic bank stock prices.

Keywords: *COVID-19 Pandemic, Islamic bank shares, Crude Oil, Gold*

MFAC2022_034

STOCK VALUATION: EXPLORING THE ACCURACY AND EXPLAINABILITY ON BANKS VERSUS NON-BANK FIRMS

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Abstract:

This study is motivated by lack of recent empirical evidence to support the validity of stock valuation theories in Finance domain as to their ability to (i) first explain and (ii) also forecast fairly accurately forward prices of two classes of shares using two most commonly used theories in practice. This paper extends the same objectives to study non-bank firms by comparing with the banking firms. The validity of two popular theoretical valuation models are examined: (1) Price Earnings Multiples Model; (2) Residual Income Model, both widely used in banking for which evidence exists in the literature, but not for non-bank firms. and other industries are the focus of this study. Among the vast literature on stock valuation, the focus has been on the much larger number of non-banking firms on the explain ability but not the accuracy of forecasts of these theories, the latter being a motivation for undertaking this study.

Keywords: *Equity valuation, Valuation models, Bank stocks*

MFAC2022_035

BANK OWNERSHIP AND NON-PERFORMING LOANS: A CASE STUDY OF ISLAMIC AND CONVENTIONAL BANKS IN MALAYSIA

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²*Universiti Tun Abdul Razak, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.*

Abstract:

Purpose - This study assesses the non-performing loans of conventional and Islamic banks as well as the influence of ownership on the non-performing loans of conventional and Islamic banks.

Design/methodology/approach - This study utilised data of 26 conventional banks and 16 Islamic banks from Malaysia from 2012 to 2020. A Random Effect model was used to investigate the difference between conventional and Islamic banks' non-performing loans as well as the influence of ownership on non-performing loans of conventional and Islamic banks.

Findings - Results showed no significant differences for non-performing loans of conventional and Islamic banks. Foreign Islamic banks shows higher non-performing loans in comparison to domestic Islamic banks. However, there were no significant differences for non-performing loans between foreign conventional and domestic conventional banks.

Originality/value – Influence of ownership on non-performing loans differs for Islamic and conventional banks.

Keywords: *Non-Performing Loans, Foreign Banks, Islamic Banks, Ownership*

MFAC2022_036

**DIVIDEND POLICIES OF SHARIAH COMPLIANT AND NON-SHARIAH COMPLIANT FIRMS:
EVIDENCE FROM MALAYSIA**

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Abstract:

Do shariah-compliant firms pay more dividends than non-shariah compliant firms? And which firm is more likely to pay a dividend? Using data from Malaysia from 2010 to 2019, this paper demonstrates that shariah-compliant firms do not significantly pay higher dividends than the non-shariah compliant firms' counterparts. The results are robust to the alternative measures of dividends. Despite no significant differences in terms of which types of firms pay more dividends, the study discovers that shariah-compliant firms are more likely to pay dividends than non-shariah compliant firms' counterparts. The financial characteristics of shariah-compliant firms, such as low debt and account receivable level, probably contribute to the likelihood of dividend payouts.

Keywords: *Islamic finance, shariah-compliant, dividend policy, Malaysia*

MFAC2022_037

**DO JUDICIAL EFFECTIVENESS, PROPERTY RIGHTS, AND GOVERNMENT INTEGRITY IMPACT
CORRUPTION? EVIDENCE FROM ASIA-PACIFIC COUNTRIES**

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Abstract

Purpose- Rule of law is essential in reducing corruption in a country. This study investigated the factors contributing to corruption in 41 of the most competitive countries in the Asia-Pacific region by focusing on judicial effectiveness, property rights, and government integrity. The moderating role of regulatory quality was also considered in the attempt to explain the relationship between rule of law and corruption.

Research methodology- This study used pooled OLS regression and GMM-dynamic panel for the robustness test on data of 41 Asia-Pacific countries spanning from 2013 to 2021.

Findings- Property rights and government integrity were found to be negatively significant in explaining corruption. In contrast, the interaction between rule of law and regulatory quality had a significant positive association with corruption. The findings bring to light Asia-Pacific countries' need for more effective control of corruption.

Practical implication- The authorities should work towards enhancing the countries' image as corruption-free nations by creating a stable economic and political environment and preserving macroeconomic stability through strengthened rule of law.

Originality- Previous research looked at ASEAN and South Asian countries, but little attention was given to Asia-Pacific countries in examining the relationship between rule of law and corruption.

Keywords: *judicial effectiveness, property rights, government integrity, rule of law, economic freedom, corruption.*

MFAC2022_038

DETERMINANTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL AND GOVERNANCE (ESG) DISCLOSURES IN THE MALAYSIAN BANKING SECTOR: AN EMPIRICAL INVESTIGATION.

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Abstract:

Substantial challenges are growing between banks and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) practices in Malaysia. The Central Bank of Malaysia has implemented several policies and initiatives that pose implications for the ESG disclosure of the banks. This study aims to empirically test the determinants of ESG disclosure regarding the banking sector for the period 2010-2019. The hypotheses are developed through the reconciliation of stakeholder and legitimacy theories and are applied to 37 commercial banks using hand-collected datasets gathered from the annual reports and ESG reports. Using content analysis and robust regression, the results are consistent with the proposed theories for bank size and board size showing positive and significant relationships with ESG disclosure levels. However, ownership concentration and board independence are significantly negative, while financial factors are always not significant. The discussion of these results identifies the underlying causes and presents directions for future research.

Keywords: *ESG, disclosure, reporting, Bank, Stakeholder, Legitimacy, CSR, Sustainability*

MFAC2022_040

DOES UNCERTAINTY INDICES IMPACT THE CRYPTOCURRENCY MARKET? AN ARDL APPROACH

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Abstract:

The purpose of this research is to investigate the effect of geopolitical risk, economic policy uncertainty and US equity market uncertainty on cryptocurrencies from December 2017 until May 2021, utilizing an autoregressive-distributed lag (ARDL) approach. Based on the ARDL bound test, the results show that the geopolitical risk, economic policy uncertainty and US equity market uncertainty cointegrated with the Ethereum and Binance Coin. The geopolitical risk and US equity market uncertainty has a statistically significant negative effect on Ethereum while geopolitical risk affect the Binance Coin negatively. Hence, the geopolitical risk and US equity market uncertainty plays a vital role in the Ethereum prediction and geopolitical risk plays an important role to forecast the Binance Coin. The Ethereum investors may focus on the changes in geopolitical risk and US equity market uncertainty to predict the Ethereum return and Binance Coin investors focus on the geopolitical risk.

Keywords: *Geopolitical Risk, Economic Policy Uncertainty, US Equity Market Uncertainty, Cryptocurrency, ARDL.*

MFAC2022_042

ISLAMIC DONATION CROWDFUNDING MODEL AS FINANCING ALTERNATIVE FOR YOUTH ENTREPRENEURS IN MALAYSIA: A QUALITATIVE ASSESSMENT BY EXPERTS

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Abstract

Most youth entrepreneurs are classified as high-risk entrepreneurs due to their failure to meet financial requirements such as providing collateral and a guarantor, insufficient cash flow, lack of credible credit history, and is too small to be of interest to most angel investors and venture capitalists. Lack of access to financing will impede a company's potential growth, thus, alternative sources of financing are needed by youth entrepreneurs. Islamic crowdfunding has been promoted as a potential financing option for riskier entrepreneurs because of its advantages, such as convenience, limited due diligence, collateral-free, and usury-free contracts. It provides access to Sharia-compliant financing through the use of internet-based ways to raise funds from the general public. The study aims to evaluate experts' opinions on the Community-Based Crowdfunding Model (CBC4YE) according to three themes, namely CBC4YE model as the alternative financing mechanism, CBC4YE model operationalisation, and CBC4YE model challenges. The researcher performed this evaluation by interviewing experts from various fields across different institutions, such as academicians, crowdfunding experts, policymakers, and Shariah scholars. Data collected from the interviews were analysed using thematic analysis. The interview findings supported the CBC4YE model's suitability as an initial model for mitigating the financial constraint faced by youth entrepreneurs in Malaysia. The Hibah and Qard contract is legally allowed and does not burden the youth entrepreneurs. It is expected to accelerate youth entrepreneurs' business capabilities, leading to a better return. In terms of its sustainability, the fund sources from big corporations and government, together with the youth generating fund, are primary sustainability drivers. Meanwhile, trust challenges, consider the main challenges in transforming this proposed model into reality. The study findings will expand the existing crowdfunding and youth entrepreneurs' literature, particularly in Malaysia. It will provide a new qualitative inquiry on the topic of access to financing among youth entrepreneurs.

Keywords: *Youth Entrepreneurs, Islamic Crowdfunding, Thematic Analysis, CBC4YE Model*

MFAC2022_043

THE EFFECT OF LOCKDOWN, ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE AND NATIONAL RECOVERY PLAN ANNOUNCEMENT ON THE MALAYSIAN STOCK MARKET

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Abstract:

This research aims to investigate the effect of lockdown, economic stimulus package and national recovery plan announcements during the Covid-19 pandemic on the Malaysian stock market. The study employs an event study methodology. A sample of 13 sectorial indexes are selected. The sample period taken for the study is from January 2, 2019 to October 29, 2021. The results of the study suggest that all events i.e., lockdown, economic stimulus packages and recovery plan announcements have significantly affect the stock market. Nevertheless, the impact varies across time periods. For example, the first three Movement Control Order (MCO) 1.0, 2.0 and 3.0 announcements have significantly affect the indexes negatively, while the Total Lockdown (TL) announcement at a later period lead to a positive impact. Similarly, in the early stage of economic stimulus package (ESP) announcements, a positive reaction is reported, while the opposite results are found for the later ESP announcements. Finally, this study reports that most indexes respond positively to the National Recovery Plan (NRP) 2, 3 and 4 announcements, but negatively to the first NRP announcement. This is because during the first NRP announcement, no clear plan was highlighted and at the same time the confirmed cases are still high. However, after the announcement of NRP2, investors realized that the Malaysian government is serious in battling the unanticipated financial market impacts due to the pandemic. Hence, their actions had regained investor confidence. Findings of this study have important implications for policymakers and investors. Handling and managing stock market during the pandemic requires a sensible strategy, in which officials should quickly notify publics of their intended plan without causing panic or any feeling of insecurity. For investors, these results are useful for them to manage their investment portfolio and risk.

Keywords: *COVID-19, Lockdown, Stimulus Package, Recovery Plan, Malaysia*

MFAC2022_044

THE EFFECT OF AUDITOR MORALITY ON PROFESSIONAL SKEPTICISM: EVIDENCE FROM INDIVIDUAL-LEVEL AUDITORS IN CHINA

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Abstract: This paper investigates the relationship of morality on professional skepticism for auditors, and whether this relationship is affected by audit firm reputation, client fraud risk, client importance, and audit firm tenure. We hand-collect data on philanthropic participation by auditors who signed audit reports for A-share listed companies in the Chinese Shanghai and Shenzhen Stock Markets from 2008 to 2018. We use regression models and propensity score matching to find whether audit morality is associated with professional skepticism. This study uses philanthropy to measure morality and uses the probability of issuing modified audit opinions as a proxy for professional skepticism. We find that auditors who participate in philanthropy have a higher degree of professional skepticism, indicating that auditor morality is significantly positively associated with their professional skepticism. This influence is present among high-reputation audit firms, less important and high-fraud-risk clients, and audit firms with long-standing clients. In addition, clients audited by auditors with higher morality have a lower probability of financial restatement and fraud. After using propensity score matching to solve the endogeneity problem, our conclusions remain valid.

Keywords: *Morality; Professional Skepticism; Review Auditors; Philanthropy*

MFAC2022_045

ADOPTION OF METAVERSE IN SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) COUNTRIES - VIETNAM, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA

Chan Hock Leong, Julian & Tin Fah, Chung
HELP University, Malaysia

Abstract

Massive support has been poured into blockchain start-ups through initiatives and programs such as the Blockchain Innovation Initiative. Developing nations of Southeast Asia (SEA) have yet fully launched themselves into this new arena. Central Banks in the region have issued guidelines to prevent cryptocurrency exchanges from advertising to the public. Although investors are still free to buy and trade cryptocurrencies, central banks in these countries discourage the use of cryptocurrency for speculative trading. In contrast, the case for playing lucrative crypto games such as Axie Infinity, where active players can earn up to US\$15 per day, may provide these countries the incentive to kickstart many of the business opportunity in Metaverse gaming, also known as the Play-to-earn (P2E). Metaverse is a potential hype where users or creators alike are able to reap benefits from it, both socially and economically. The international audience has started riding on the back of Metaverse's success. But it also begs to see where developing countries in Southeast Asia (SEA) are at with their respective development within the Metaverse space. This research intends to understand the development of Metaverse in developing countries in SEA – Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia. Through understanding the development of Metaverse in these countries, these countries can properly position themselves to reap the most benefit out of this hype. It also has the potential for these countries to become a key player globally if it is found that the country does have competitive advantage in this space and necessary development incentives should be rolled out aptly. This research will contribute towards a new segment of Metaverse research where little to no literatures has been found. Most literatures on Metaverse are on defining what is Metaverse and identifying the prospect of Metaverse. A survey of content analysis in articles from newscip, periodicals and magazines will be undertaken here. This study intends to analyse how Metaverse will contribute to the success of diffusing a sustainable growth of Southeast Asian countries of Vietnam, Indonesia and Malaysia using data collection, frequency analysis, and topical analysis from the user, media and researcher perspectives.

Keywords: *Metaverse, Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence, Cryptocurrency, Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Marvel Cinematic Universe, Dystopian nightmare*

MFAC2022_046

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ISLAMIC BEHAVIOURAL FINANCE IN MALAYSIA AND GCC SHARIAH-COMPLIANT STOCKS

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Abstract:

This study examines the mediating effect of investors' sentiment on the relationship between herding and risk-averse behaviour in the Shariah-compliant stocks in Malaysia and GCC countries. Panel data and quantile regressions are adopted, and the research timeframe is 2017 to 2021. The result shows that SDGs 4, 8, 10, 11, and 13 significantly and positively correlate to Malaysia, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar stock returns. For Saudi and UAE, SDG 7 is the only variable significant to stock return. The result implies a full mediation as the SDGs have caused the changes in investors' sentiment and subsequently triggered the investors to herd and become risk-averse. The impact of SDGs is more pronounced in the upper and lower quantiles of the returns of Malaysia, Saudi and UAE, as well as the median quantile of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman and Qatar. The result of this study contributes to policymakers, regulators and practitioners in identifying the best SDG practices that assist the Shariah-compliant stocks in Malaysia and GCC countries to gain a better stock return, investors' sentiment and behaviour. The results assist the governments in the impact and benefits of adopting SDGs in different Islamic countries.

Keywords: *Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), Herding, Risk-Averse, Islamic Finance, GCC countries*

MFAC2022_047

FOOD CRISIS AND THE RELEVANT MUAMALAT CONTRACTS

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Abstract

Food crisis and food security have been global issues of late. Panic rise when India announced banning wheat exports in May following a scorching heatwave which curtailed output and local prices hit an all-time high amid strong export demand. The Indian ban could drive up global prices to new peaks and hit poor consumers in Asia and Africa. Food crisis usually produces widespread scarcity of food in a society. It is usually caused by numerous factors such as crop failure, population outbreak, government policies, and apathy in terms of food production. Such crisis usually results in hunger, starvation, and malnutrition in the society. From the perspective of *maqasid shariah*, overcoming food crisis falls under *dharuriyyat*. In specific, it is regarded as a measure needs to be taken under the protection of human's life (*hifz al-nafs*). Malaysians are lucky to inhabit fertile lands but the popularity of agrobusiness and agricultural activities are diminishing among the local youth. Idle and abandoned lands are easy spots in every rural district and suburban alike. This paper will use a common explanatory method to give a suggest and clarify several contracts or *aqad* in *mu'amalat* related to profit sharing of land management and share-cropping scheme. It includes *ijarah*, *muzara'ah*, *mukhabarah*, *musaqah*, *waqaf* agricultural land, and finally a hybrid contract which is new to scholarly discussion, *muzara'ah muntahiya bittamlik* (MUMBIT). It is hope that food crises can eventually be overcome with some highlights on land management in Islamic economics.

Keywords: Food crisis; Muzara'ah; Musaqah; Mukhabarah; Waqaf; Muzara'ah muntahiya bit-tamlik; MUMBIT; Agricultural aqad.

MFAC2022_049

FINANCIAL LITERACY, FINTECH AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION – POLICY NEXUS IN MALAYSIA

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***This study is funded by the Ministry of Higher Education, Malaysia through the Fundamental Research Grant Scheme FRGS/1/2020/SS01/HELP/02/1*

Abstract

Over the past few decades, financial inclusion has become one of the critical cornerstones of the policies adopted by national governments across the globe. Digital technologies, in particular, have developed at a quick pace in many sectors of the global economy, yet it can be seen that there is still room for increased use of these technologies in society. To disseminate digital technologies in society, a strong emphasis on financial literacy and risk management must be directed. Not only that, greater emphasis needs to be placed on how to use legal and regulatory frameworks to comprehend and use digital technologies to achieve greater financial inclusion. As such, this requires the creation of ethical and responsible digital financial practices to protect the users while improving financial literacy and awareness among society, allowing all users to better grasp digital financial products. Financial inclusion, according to the OECD (2018) report, plays a critical role in the financial development agenda and helps to eliminate poverty and income inequality in society while also boosting the inclusive economic growth of a country. Despite major disparities across geographical boundaries and genders, between 2011 and 2014, account ownership among Malaysians rose from 71% to 81%, indicating significant progress in broadening access to formal financial services in Malaysia. Additionally, between 2014 and 2017, account ownership in Malaysia climbed even further and increased from 81% to 86%. This phenomenon raises the question of what other critical aspects will contribute to closing the gap and overcoming the aforementioned issues. Specifically, what is the role of financial literacy in driving the adoption of FinTech and financial inclusion in Malaysia? To begin with, in highlighting the significance of the nexus of FinTech, financial literacy, and financial inclusion, this study employed a multi-dimensional framework on the Global Findex databases as the main source of data to discover the causes impacting financial inclusion in Malaysia. The multi-dimensional approach and Probit regression (a type of logistic regression) are employed in this study, aiming to better grasp how age, gender, income, education, and employment status could influence the country's level of financial inclusion. This study investigates and compares individuals' access to formal accounts, savings, and loans by collecting small-scale data in Klang Valley during the COVID-19 pandemic to triangulate the findings and analysis of this study. Furthermore, account ownership, financial service usage, skills, knowledge, behavior, attitude, and demographics were used to collect primary data that underpins the understanding of how financial behavior (i.e., perceived usefulness, ease of use, and financial literacy), which is moderated by digital literacy, affect individuals' desire to adopt and use financial technology in Malaysia. The findings through Structural Equation Modelling (SEM) indicate that perceived usefulness and ease of use are mediated by attitude as the main drivers of individual propensity to adopt and use FinTech in Malaysia. Not only that, but financial literacy was also found to have a positive impact on individuals' intention to adopt financial technology. Individuals' characteristics, according to the World Bank Findex data (2017), may play a critical role in explaining the use of formal accounts compared to formal savings and loans. In addition, individuals' characteristics were found to have a big impact on the barriers to financial inclusion and the use of alternative sources of borrowing—this aligned with the findings in this study, showing age, gender, income, education, and employment status could influence whether individuals should have a bank account or not. To add, the Probit regression showed that individuals' characteristics have a positive significant impact on influencing whether individuals would borrow or apply for a loan from financial service providers in Malaysia. Finally, the outcomes of this small-scale study provide useful insights into establishing effective strategies, particularly for industry practitioners, to bridge the gap in boosting FinTech adoption in Malaysia.

Keywords: *Financial Literacy, Financial Inclusion, Fintech, Probit Regression, Multi-dimensional Index*

MFAC2022_054

FROM OUTBREAK TO VACCINATION: AN ANALYSIS OF COMMERCIAL PROPERTY MARKET REACTION TO COVID-19 IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the performance of commercial property market in Malaysia. Differ from previous studies that focus on the first wave of Covid-19 erupted in March 2020, we examine how commercial property market reacted to the resurgence of Covid-19 cases and government's subsequent responses (lockdowns, fiscal support, and vaccination program) in dealing to the threat of COVID-19 pandemic. We find abnormal returns of listed property companies, REITs, and hotel operators to decrease following the implementation of first nationwide lockdown. Subsequent nationwide lockdowns however do not exert significant impact on abnormal returns. Moreover, we find 1-day window abnormal returns during the first and third nationwide lockdown to increase with increases in Covid-19 cases. This suggests that investors believe in these nationwide lockdowns in slowing down the spread of COVID-19 virus. In addition, we document positive impact of blanket loan moratorium announcement and the change in vaccination rate on abnormal returns.

MFAC2022_055

VERIFYING WHAT MACROECONOMIC FACTORS HELP DRIVE TRADE OPENNESS GLOBALLY: A STUDY OF 101 ECONOMICS

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Abstract

Noting that there is little research linking trade-openness, this paper reports exceptionally useful findings of significant key macroeconomic factors long suspected but not verified as the key driving force of trade-open economies. The researchers accessed several databases at the university library and in transnational organizations to pinpoint what drivers account for greater economic growth of highly open economies while not so-fully open economies experience low growth. In terms of test methodology, we applied the Akaike Information Criterion to ensure the model used is not under- or over-specified while advanced econometric techniques are the latest relevant for tools; pooled, panel and fixed-effect models to produce robust results. The key factors correlated with trade openness are gross national savings, foreign direct net investment, per capita income and total foreign reserves that positively affects exchange rate stability. Thus, five factors are together driving trade openness. These results are consistent with theories on economic growth, experiences of trade-open countries. That the exchange rate is highly correlated with trade-openness (Adam Smith) comes via the creation of trade surpluses - working through the Philip's Curve effect as well as (Fisher's) parity theorems. These findings are meaningful as addition to literature on trade openness in this global study spanning a quarter century.

Keywords: *Trade Openness, Per capita income, Gross national savings, Foreign direct net flow investment, Exchange rate, Foreign reserves*

MFAC2022_056

THE EFFECT OF NON-PERFORMING LOANS (NPLS) ON BANKING INSTITUTIONS FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

This study covers Banks and financial institutions that provide loans and advance to all economic and social sector and thus face multiple complications among which nonperforming assets (NPA) hold important position. All those factors which have potential to influence the banking profitability and performance require correction. Socio - economic factors such as Recession, Inflation, GDP Growth, Interest Rate, Energy Crises, Unemployment, Exchange Rates, War and Terrorism which have direct impact on economy and influence banking and financial institutions performance, thus require effective and protective solution which is possible only after in depth investigative analysis carried out to find the factors impacting performance and multiplying NPA. The scope of this study is very broad as it covers entire socio - political and economic sector along with its successful survival. The unfolding events during the global financial crisis 2008 have brought forward the issues concerning the stability of financial institutions. This includes the vulnerability of financial intermediation especially the banking sector, towards external shocks which in turn resulted in the subsequent increase in the credit risk exposure of banks' loan portfolio. Despite the heterogeneity in the level of spread and the severity of repercussions from the crisis across countries, where advanced economies were predominantly affected, emerging economies (including Malaysia), on the other hand, has remained relatively unscathed. However, the development in the international financial system such as to combat the crisis will continue to pose challenges to Asia. This includes, both in maintaining the soundness of financial system as well as stability of macroeconomic fundamentals. In order to examine the effect of NPL on financial institutions' performance, the regression analysis was carried out using relevant econometric techniques. The analysis was used to identify the major variable non-performing loan (NPL) that have an impact on basic earnings power (BEP), return on total asset (ROTA), return on common equity (ROCE), profit margin (PM). Using relevant econometric tests, such as the unit root test, bound test, short run and long run ARDL model and the ECM model. The analysis includes the coefficient of determination R², standards error of coefficients, T-statistics and F-ratio carried out in order to assess the relative significance, desirability and reliability of model estimation parameters. A thorough comparative analysis was also done by segregating financial institutions into conventional and Islamic based banks. We found that NPL has the most significant effects on banks performance mostly in the short-run. The magnitude of the effects however, are similar between Islamic and conventional banks as NPL is a widespread phenomenon of systematic market risk.

Keywords: *NPL, ROA, ROE, Profit Margin, BEP, ARDL*

MFAC2022_057

RISK AVERSION OF POLITICAL CONNECTION FIRM

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Abstract

The risk aversion is time-varying, but little attention to the firm-specific effect on the risk aversion. We investigate the political connection firm specific effect of risk aversion under high-low risk conditions in equity market. We use several popular measures of risk aversion and construct a new risk aversion index. And we find that the risk aversion is lower for politically connected firm (PCON) than non-politically connected firm (non-PCON). During high-risk condition, political connection further shows significant lower risk aversion. These results highlight the detrimental effect of PCON on the firm's risk aversion when market environment in high-risk condition. The results may provide a new view on the firm-varying risk aversion, and the drivers of risk aversion in equity market under high-low risk conditions.

Keywords: *Political connections, risk aversion, weekend effect, firm characteristics, government-linked firms*

MFAC2022_058

FACTORS INFLUENCING THE PERFORMANCE OF FIXED DEPOSIT OF BANK RAKYAT IN MALAYSIA

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Abstract

Malaysia has been successful in implementing dual banking systems in their field in attracting more depositors. In the context of Islamic Banking, there are other operating institutions whose conduct the modus operation using the Islamic principles. One of it is Bank Rakyat which was established in 1954 under the Cooperative Ordinance 1948 and the biggest Islamic cooperative bank in Malaysia. In the aspect of popularity of their product schemes, the demand towards products and services are well recognised especially the fixed deposit. By no surprises, the fixed deposit under Bank Rakyat is one of the best 12 month FD issued to date. The problem here, even with the higher demands, the deposited schemes they offered aint any guaranted by PDIM. Majority of the study normally emphasizing of bank specific variables including macro-economic conditions, market structure and institutional development over the demand of bank product and therefore required some alter direction over the box. Thus, this study was conducted with the aim to discover the factors influencing the performance of fixed deposit at Bank Rakyat. To date, a sample size consisting 5 years yearly data have been gathered and summarized for Bank Rakyat from 2016 until 2020 to the variables of inflation rate, based financing rate and profit rate. The data then been analysed using multiple regression. It was revealed that inflation rate and based financing rate are significant in determining the performance of fixed deposit while profit rate is insignificantly related.

Keywords: *Cooperative Bank; Profit Rate; Inflation Rate;Based Financing Rate;*

MFAC2022_059

IMPLICATION OF LEGAL AND CULTURAL FACTORS ON MANAGERIAL RISK-TAKING OF MILITARY CEOS: EVIDENCE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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Abstract

This paper examines how imprint formed through past military experience persistently affects CEOs' risk-taking and how subsequent interplay with the country-specific institutional factors may alter the risk behaviour. Using a sample of 90 countries around the world, we investigate the influence of military imprint and implication of legal origin and national culture in which the firm are domiciled on the risk-taking of military CEOs. We find that military imprint instils a sense of aggressiveness on military CEOs to undertake riskier corporate policies. We further find that socialist countries and masculinity culture strengthen the influence of the imprint and foster greater risk-taking propensity, while French law countries weakens the risky behaviour. Interestingly, there is no solid evidence showing that common law countries and low uncertainty avoidance culture strengthening the risk-taking of military CEO. Our study shed new insight on the role of institutional setting to the significant difference in the military effect between military executives in U.S. and around the world.

MFAC2022_060

THE EFFECTS OF UNTRACEABLE CLAIM AND RECEIPT ON USER SATISFACTION ON THE E-FILING TAX RETURN IN MALAYSIA: A CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

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Abstract

To solve concerns with the manual filing method, the Inland Revenue Board (IRB) established the e-government programme, which includes Electronic Tax Filing (ETF), at the start of 2006. The government of Malaysia tries to enhance the relationship between taxpayers and tax officials by ensuring a transparent and accurate execution of the law that encourages intentional compliance. It is commonly known that electronic filing is essential for individuals and organisations to increase their competitiveness, save time, and cut costs. Still, putting in place an information system is only deemed successful if users continue to utilise it after initial adoption. In earlier Malaysian studies on user satisfaction, using an e-filing system was found to have a strong association with a person's perception of risk. Even though there is a perceived risk, taxpayers are increasingly using e-filing, and research of untraceable claim and receipt is still under-explored, as it is a component of user happiness. Thus, the purpose of this article is to investigate the effects of untraceable claim and receipt on user satisfaction in Malaysia's e-filing system. The survey will be given to salaried taxpayers in five of Malaysia's major cities who have used the e-filing system at least once. The samples were selected at random from various taxpayers who entered the Inland Revenue branch.

Keywords: *e-Filing; tax; user satisfaction; untraceable claim and receipts.*

MFAC2022_061

FINANCIAL LITERACY ELEMENTS ON SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AMONG BUMIPUTERA SMES IN SELANGOR: MEDIATION EFFECTS OF I-FINTECH ADOPTION

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Abstract

i-FinTech is devoted to companies or entrepreneurs that combine financial services with recent, advanced technologies that comply with Shariah. However, SME's usually have limited resources in finance, skilled entrepreneurs, in-house knowledge or management. This study aims to identify whether financial literacy elements influence the adoption of i-FinTech and subsequently lead to sustainable entrepreneurship among Bumiputera SMEs in Selangor, Malaysia. A quantitative technique was employed through the use of 88 surveys distributed using convenience sampling method to Bumiputera SMEs' entrepreneurs. The data is analysed using mediation analysis through SPSS Process Macro Model 4. The results shows that i-Fintech adoption is positively and significantly influence by financial literacy and digital financial literacy. Contrary, financial management behavior is negatively influence i-Fintech adoption. Further, this study reveals that i-Fintech adoption has a complementary mediation role in the association between financial literacy and digital financial literacy towards sustainable entrepreneurship. This result indicates that Bumiputera entrepreneurs who possesses both financial literacy and digital financial literacy are more likely to adopt i-FinTech, and finally end up contributing significantly to sustainable entrepreneurship. The findings should help entrepreneurs, i-Fintech service providers, researchers and regulators to have better understanding of the dynamics between the potential of i-FinTech and sustainable entrepreneurship. It is suggested that SMEs to continue to take advantage of i-fintech in carrying out their business activities to avoid the impact of business downturn and the smooth running of their business.

Keywords: Financial Literacy, Financial Management Behavior, Digital Financial Literacy, i-FinTech Adoption, Bumiputera SMEs, Sustainable Entrepreneurship

MFAC2022_062

UNDERSTANDING THE SENTIMENT ON GIG ECONOMY: GOOD OR BAD?

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Abstract:

The emergence of the 'gig economy' is driven by the rise of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0). This paper aims to explore the behaviour of consumers concerning gig economy services through the analysis of social media comments. Three online app-based gig companies, i.e., Grab, Foodpanda and Airbnb, were considered in this study. Twitter, Reddit, and YouTube were used as the data collection platform where customers' comments related to all three companies were scraped using Python. In a hybrid approach, the combination of Lexicon-based and machine learning was applied to the comments fetched for the companies. Vader Lexicon was used to classify the comments into positive, negative, and neutral sentiments. Then, the comments were further classified into three machine learning algorithms: Support Vector Machine, Light Gradient Boosted Machine and Logistic Regression. Results suggested that gig economy services in Malaysia received more positive sentiments (52%) than negative sentiments (19%) and neutral sentiments (29%). Based on the three algorithms used in this research, LGBM has been the best model with the highest accuracy of 85%, while SVM has 84% and LR 82%. Further, the comments were analysed based on the positive and negative sentiments concerning the gig economy services, and recommendations for business were provided. The results of this study reveal the value of social media analysis and show the power of text mining and sentiment analysis in extracting business value and providing insight to businesses. Suggestions and research implications to businesses and policymakers were provided to help them build strategies to develop and maintain this new economy.

Keywords: gig economy, social media, sentiment analysis, hybrid approach

MFAC2022_063

RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS COMPLEXITY AND AUDIT FEES: INFLUENCE OF AUDITOR REAPPOINTMENT TENURE

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Abstract

This study examines the relationship between related party transactions (RPTs) and audit fees in Malaysia. The RPTs are classified according to their complexity, either complicated RPTs (RPT-complex) or simple RPTs (RPT-simple). This study also examines the effect of the auditor reappointment tenure as a moderating factor on the relationship between RPTs complexity and audit fees. This study uses multivariate panel data regression on 2,915 year-observations of companies listed in Malaysia during the period 2013–2017. The findings find that RPT-complex and RPT-simple have a positive and significant relationship with audit fees. The findings support the argument that auditing RPTs, either complicated or simple RPTs, require substantial audit efforts, leading to increased audit fees. Moreover, the study results show that auditor reappointment tenure can mitigate the relationship between RPT type, i.e., RPT-complex and RPT-simple, audit fees. These findings indicate that auditor reappointment tenure enhances the auditor's experience and skills, thereby improving the auditor's efficiency in auditing RPTs. The findings suggest that the regulators and practitioners must note that ensuring financial reporting does not consist of any material misstatement risk arising from the RPTs complexity requires substantial audit efforts. Consequently, the auditor may charge higher audit fees. In contrast, the auditor reappointment tenure can effectively improve the auditor's efficiency as a monitoring mechanism for insiders who misuse the RPTs complexity. Complexity nature of transactions may increase the potential it becomes abusive. The auditors have to spend extensive audit efforts to identify the presence of related parties and RPTs. This study contributes to the literature by examining the RPTs complexity on audit fees and the importance of the auditor's skills and experience with a client in mitigating the relationship between the RPT complexity and audit fees.

Keywords: Auditor tenure, related party transactions, audit fees, audit effort, audit quality

MFAC2022_064

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN ENVIRONMENT INNOVATION AND WEALTH DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE BASED OF GREEN FINANCE

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Abstract: In this study, the corresponding relationship between China's economic development and green finance was studied. The research question of this study is influencing factors of China's green economy. Therefore, this study aims to verify China's economic growth and environment, energy consumption, health and technological progress affect the green economic under the base of finance from 1970 to 2020, and the corresponding variables were agricultural technology, carbon dioxide emissions, and industrial wastewater discharge standards. In the end, the results indicated that the environmental variables would help in promoting China's economic growth, and other variables have a negative relationship with economic growth in China.

Keywords: Green finance, China's economic growth, Innovation, Environment

MFAC2022_065

Impacts of Corporate Governance Mechanisms and Ownership Structure on Capital Structure: A Case Study of Chinese Dual Listed Companies.

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Abstract

This case study aims to examine the impactful effects of corporate governance mechanisms and ownership structure on the capital structure of Chinese dual-listed companies that have core business in China and list their shares in the China A-share market and the Hong Kong market simultaneously during the period from 2003 to 2019. The selected companies are divided into non-financial companies and financial companies. Their respective datasets are analyzed separately. For non-financial Chinese dual-listed companies, both independent director ratio and CEO duality are found to have a negative influence on the long-term debt ratio. While the board size is negatively related to the short-term debt ratio only. Both foreign ownership and state ownership are positively related to long-term debt ratio but are negatively related to short-term debt ratio. However, the state-control firm attribute has a positive influence on the short-term debt ratio only. For financial Chinese dual-listed companies, foreign ownership has a positive influence on the long-term debt ratio. While state ownership has a negative influence on the long-term debt ratio. However, independent director ratio, board size, CEO duality, and the state control firm attribute do not influence the long-term debt ratio.

Keywords: *cross-listing, capital structure, corporate governance, ownership structure, debt ratio, agency theory.*

MFAC2022_066

Determinants of Hedging Decisions in State-Owned and Private Manufacturing Firms on the IDX

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the determinants of hedging decisions in state-owned and private manufacturing firms on the IDX. Based on the previous research from Mediana & Muharam (2016), several determinant factors of hedging decisions were identified, namely liquidity, leverage, firm size, profitability and public ownership. The analytical method used is logistic regression analysis using a sample of 175 state-owned and private manufacturing firms from 2018-2020. The results of the analysis show that only liquidity and firm size have a significant influence on hedging decisions, which are negative and positive, respectively. The implication that can be taken is that when the firm makes a hedging decision, the firm needs to reduce liquidity or invest in working capital. On the other hand the firm needs to increase firm size through its fixed asset investment activities. Result of this study supports the optimal hedge ratio theory of Carter (2003).

Keywords: *Liquidity, Leverage, Firm Size, Profitability, Public Ownership, Hedging*

MFAC2022_067

E-WASTE PRACTICES POST-PANDEMIC COVID-19: THE CASE OF MALAYSIAN TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES

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Muhammad Jamil & Rapih Mohamed
Universiti Utara Malaysia

Abstract

Malaysian government has been proactive in pursuing green growth for sustainability and resilience. The attention is now shifted to e-waste due to the surge in demand for electric and electronic devices especially after the pandemic Covid-19 hit. Focusing on Malaysian public listed technology and telecommunication companies, this study aims to identify the types of e-waste generated, how e-waste is being managed and the difference in e-waste practices between the two industries. This study found that screens and monitors and small IT and telecommunication equipment as the most e-waste generated by the two industries, whilst the least e-waste generated is industrial e-waste and temperature exchange equipment for technology and telecommunication industries accordingly. Moreover, both industries managed their e-waste by showing a high level of adherence to authorities' rules, regulations and guidelines. Lastly, there is no significant difference between the two industries in managing their e-waste.

Keywords: *e-waste; practices; technology; telecommunication; Malaysia*

MFAC2022_068

WILL INVESTORS WILLINGLY MOVE THEIR FUNDS FROM BANKS DEPOSIT AND STOCKS/BONDS TO EQUITY CROWDFUNDING?

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Abstract

In recent years, there have been growing studies regarding equity crowdfunding for SME financing. Equity crowdfunding schemes require extensive investor participation, mainly small investments each. The question is whether those small investors are willing to move their funds from traditional forms of investment such as deposits and gold to online-based equity crowdfunding. We identified project-related and investor-related variables. This study aims to identify the effect of project-related variables and investors-related variables on investors' intention to shift their investment from bank deposits or stock/bonds to equity crowdfunding in Indonesia. Project-related variables are financial return and business viability, while investor-related variables are trust, project attachment, liking, and investors' age. This study used primary data we collected using a self-filled closed questionnaire distributed online. After removing unqualified data, we generated 114 data to analyze. Data were processed using multiple linear regression. We found that the financial return variable positively and significantly affects investors' willingness to switch their investment from bank deposits and stocks/bonds to equity crowdfunding. We also found that the trust variable significantly and positively affects investors' intentions to switch funds from bank deposits, but there is not enough evidence that investors will move funds from stocks/bonds to equity crowdfunding. Meanwhile, there is not enough evidence that other factors (business viability, project attachment, liking, and investor age) affect investors' intention to switch investments from banks' deposits and stock/bonds to equity crowdfunding. Nevertheless, the explanatory power for the model is moderately low, which is 26,4% to move from deposits and only 12,5% to move from stock/bond.

Keywords: *equity crowdfunding; intention to move investment; financial technology; Indonesia.*

MFAC2022_069

**BREAKING THE 'GLASS CEILING':
THE REACTION OF MALAYSIAN INVESTORS TO THE APPOINTMENT OF FEMALE DIRECTORS**

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Abstract:

The fifth goal under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) is to achieve gender equality, which includes an effort to ensure women's effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making. The present scenario in Malaysia's financial market however raises a question of whether predominant male investors are willing to break the 'glass ceiling' and accept the nomination of women into executive positions in public listed companies. This study examined the market reaction towards the appointment of female directors by utilizing event study analysis on the announcement effects of female directors' appointments. Evidence from the study shows that investors react positively in the first 3 days after the announcement; thus, denying the skepticism of female directors. Also, the speed of price adjustment reestablished evidence of semi-strong form efficiency in the Malaysian stock market. Next, we apply the binomial logistic regression to predict the dichotomous relationship between the positive average abnormal return (AAR) with the specific factors in the announcement (the directorate, age, family relationship and industry), which helps to determine the criteria influencing the affirmative reaction of investors. The analysis found that age is the only significant factor that positively influences the investors' reaction to generating positive abnormal returns. This study contributed to the current research on the market's reaction toward a female board of directors' appointment while indirectly providing general insights on the issue of gender equality in Malaysia. It also provides evidence of a semi-strong form market in Malaysia while acknowledging the significance of age as a decisive factor influencing the positive market reaction.

Keywords: *Female Director, Event Study, Announcement Effect, Gender Equality, Market Efficiency*

MFAC2022_070

**LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL MARKET SENTIMENT EFFECTS ON DIVIDENDS AND LEVERAGE
OF CHINA A-SHARES**

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ABSTRACT

The purposes of this study is to (1) the constructed local market sentiment and international market sentiment to cooperate with the Fama French five-factor (FF5), Fama French three-factor (FF3), Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM), and single-Index model (SIM) to study A shares to see whether the international market sentiment improves the explanatory power. (2) analyzes and studies dividend-paying companies, non-dividend companies, and low-leverage and high-leverage companies. (3) Find the best model to explain stock returns in dividend-paying, highly and low-leveraged companies. The time frame is 2004-2021, and the conclusion finds that local market sentiment is more significant. China A shares are not significantly affected by international market sentiment. Among dividend, non-dividend, and highly leveraged companies, FF5's ability to explain A shares is not as good as that of FF3 model

Keywords: *Dividend, Leverage, Market Sentiment*

MFAC2022_071

IMPLEMENTING SCIENTOMETRIC ANALYSIS IN THE REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON BUSINESS ZAKAT PAYMENT WITH NVIVO 12

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Abstract

The objective of this study is to identify apparent research themes related to business *Zakat* Payment and to forecast future research direction based on Scopus citation data analysis. In order to meet this objective, the Scopus research paper on Business *Zakat* Payment was systematically analyzed using NVIVO 12 and VOSviewer scientometric measurement. Here, co-word or co-occurrence analysis was used to identify code and key themes. In obtaining Scopus citation data analysis on business *zakat* payment, the Scopus database was queried with the following code, (TITLE-ABS-KEY “business *zakat* payment”) which returned 15 documents. The retrieval was done on 18th May 2021 and the result was most likely to increase over time. Co-word or co-occurrence of key terms was analyzed using VOSviewer software and the content analysis was analyzed using Nvivo 12. This resulted in a total of 15 articles and citation data being exported from Scopus on the query of business *Zakat* Payment and from the initial result, 5 journals were selected from the expanded query process. They were Global Journal Al Thaqafah, Humanities and Social Sciences Reviews, International Business of Supply Chain Management, Iop Conference Series Earth and Environmental Science and Journal of Critical Reviews. Finally, the paper also highlighted potential future research direction on the business *Zakat* Payment.

Keywords: *Zakat Payment, Scientometric, Co-word Analysis, Scopus, VOSviewer, NVIVO 12*

MFAC2022_073

Effectiveness of E-Audit Implementation in Indonesian Audit Board

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Abstract

The research aims to find out the effectiveness of e-audit implementation of the Indonesian Audit board (BPK). This research was conducted on the auditors who have used e-audit in conducting financial audits. The research was carried out by giving questionnaires to 225 auditors in four BPK regional offices; namely Jakarta, West Java, Central Java, and East Java. The results show various levels of the effectiveness of e-audit implementation among the auditors from the 4 regional offices. The test results of the effectiveness show that 74% on average indicates that the implementation of e-audit is quite effective in supporting state financial audits. The results show that there are different levels of the effectiveness of the e-audit implementation; this means there is a need to increase the socialization of the use and implementation of e-audit in order to support a state financial audit. Future researches are expected to examine the factors that influence the difference of the effectiveness level of e-audit implementation in BPK. A broader examination of types of e-audit systems used by BPK will increase the general understanding of the research results.

Keywords: *e-audit; Effectiveness; Indonesian Audit Board*

MFAC2022_074

Will adding crypto and NFTs on portfolio result in a better performance?

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Abstract

The price movements of cryptocurrencies and NFTs that skyrocketed in 2021 raised questions for financial practitioners worldwide. Can cryptocurrencies and NFTs be used as modern investment alternatives? If so, can its use as an investment instrument improve portfolio performance? This study aims to explore the impact of adding cryptocurrencies and NFTs to the Indonesia Stock Exchange (IDX) stock portfolio. We use Markowitz's modern portfolio theory to build an optimal portfolio with the Sharpe ratio maximization and standard deviation minimization approach. As the base scenario, we build an optimum portfolio of risky assets using (a) five highest market capitalization stocks, (b) five technological stocks, and (c) five finance sector stocks. We use data from January 1, 2018, to May 31, 2022, divided into three categories: (a) the whole period, (b) before the pandemic period (January 1, 2018-March 8, 2020), and (d) after the pandemic period (March 9, 2020-May 31, 2022). However, due to a lack of available data before the pandemic, adding NFT coins to the portfolio only after the pandemic period. We found that adding cryptocurrencies to the optimum stock portfolio increases portfolio performance in terms of return, standard deviation, and Sharpe ratio for three bases portfolios and the period categorize. However, the increase in portfolio performance was more dominant in the period before the COVID-19 pandemic. On another side, we found that adding an NFT coin to the optimum portfolio shows a different result. No indication of increasing portfolio performance after adding the NFTs coins for each portfolio type and each period categorize.

Keywords: *Investment Portfolio, Blockchain, Cryptocurrency, Non-Fungible Token*

MFAC2022_075

GOOD CORPORATE GOVERNANCE EFFECT ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY OF SHARIA BANKING IN INDONESIA

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Abstract

This study aims to prove empirically the effect of good corporate governance on corporate social responsibility, in which good corporate governance refers to the audit committee, board independence, government ownership, and institutional ownership. The object of this research was Islamic Commercial Banks which are mostly owned by State-Owned Enterprises (BUMN) or Regional-Owned Enterprises (BUMD). The sample selection was carried out using the purposive sampling method. Based upon the sample criteria applied in this study, there were six Islamic banks with 30 observations. The secondary data was collected from the annual report of the six Islamic banks. The data was processed using statistical test of multiple regression models. The results of this study indicate that board independence and government ownership affect the corporate social responsibility of Islamic banking in Indonesia. Meanwhile, the audit committee and institutional ownership did not affect the corporate social responsibility of Islamic banking in Indonesia.

Keywords: *CSR; Audit Committee; Board Independence; Government Ownership; Institutional Ownership*

MFAC2022_077

DIVERSIFICATION OPPORTUNITIES OF THE US AND MALAYSIA ISLAMIC STOCK INDICES AND COMMODITIES: EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE FROM MGRACH-DCC AND WAVELETS TECHNIQUES

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Abstract

The COVID-19 outbreak and the Russia-Ukraine conflict have inflicted damage on both economic and non-economic sectors throughout the world. This article examines the impact of COVID-19 and the Russia-Ukraine crisis on commodities (such as crude oil, gold, and Bitcoin) and the United States (US) and Malaysia's Islamic stock indices return (ISIR). The research aims to assess the influence of the epidemic and war, and their potential effect on commodities and Islamic stock market volatility and correlation. This research analyses data from August 2014 to April 2022 to cover the COVID-19 and Russia-Ukraine war at its apex. Furthermore, the MGARCH-DCC and wavelet coherence approaches are used in this study to capture better the volatility and correlation of the variables' price movement and identify diversification opportunities for all variables under review. The empirical results show that gold remains the best commodity during the uncertainty phase, as it is among the least volatile and least correlated with US and Malaysia ISIR. Diversification on the lower scale below 32 days and 128 - 256 days investment intervals would benefit investors who invest in US and Malaysia ISIR and gold since the correlation between the variables is low during that time. Bitcoin has some diversification potential, but owing to its high volatility, great caution should be exercised when utilising Bitcoin as a portfolio diversification instrument. However, if Bitcoin's prices stabilise in the future, it may be considered a great diversification tool. The research also sheds light on the necessity for applicable methodology and up-to-date data to better evaluate the effect of economic shocks on commodities and Islamic stock market indexes in order to find diversification opportunities.

Keywords: *Portfolio diversification benefits, Bitcoin, Gold, Crude Oil, Islamic Stock Index Returns (ISIR), CWT, MGARCH-DCC.*

MFAC2022_078

OPERATING CASH FLOWS, BOARD CHARACTERISTICS AND ADOPTION OF IR 4.0 TECHNOLOGIES

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Abstract:

Using 954 public listed firms traded on Bursa Malaysia in 2019, this study proposed that the adoption of IR4.0 technologies is a form of firm innovation and could be observed via four categories: (i) the hiring of key personnel with IR4.0 experience, (ii) the appointment of chief information officer (CIO), (iii) the establishment of the technology committee, and (iv) the acquisition of IR4.0 technology. Logistic regression model is employed to estimate the relationship between the operating cash flows and the adoption of IR 4.0 technologies. Then, board characteristics which act as the corporate governance mechanisms are introduced as the moderators. Our study found empirical evidence of the positive relationship between operating cash flows and firm innovation, as represented by the adoption of IR4.0 technologies. Board size and board independence positively moderate the relationship between operating cash flows and the adoption of IR4.0 technologies, indicating that the board of directors is a crucial resource that connects the firms with external contingencies (following resource dependence theory). In contrast, multiple directorships and busy boards are negative moderators, highlighting the importance of effective board monitoring to alleviate agency costs and improve firm innovation (following agency theory). Chairman-CEO duality is not a significant moderator but has a direct negative impact on firm innovation. This study reveals insights on welcoming the fourth industrial revolution and improving firms' corporate governance policies.

Keywords: *operating cash flows, board characteristics, adoption of IR 4.0 technologies, firm innovation, agency theory, resource dependence theory*

MFAC2022_079

LITERATURE REVIEW FINANCING TO INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACTOR IN THE ISLAMIC BANKING
(TINJAUAN PUSTAKA PEMBIAYAAN KEPADA KONTRAKTOR INFRASTRUKTUR PADA BANK ISLAM)

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Abstract

The terms construction and contractor seem similar, infrastructure construction is a basic need that must be properly provided, in order to provide it, the most important entity to work for it is the contractor. This paper aims to analyse the topic of study in academic articles authored by scholars about financing the infrastructure construction sector by Islamic banks, in particular infrastructure contractors. Many papers related to financing by Islamic banks discuss fiqh, law, and economic aspects. Only a few are related to financing objects, such as the construction, manufacturing, and trading industry. The method of the paper is a qualitative study and was conducted by screening three databases namely Scopus, Ebscohost, and ProQuest from 2001 to 2021. The search was initiated by using three combinations of keywords: Islamic banks, contractors, and infrastructure. The result found that there was a gap in the theoretical knowledge and practical knowledge in infrastructural financing in the Islamic banking industry of contractors. Many papers discuss construction financing using Islamic finance and Islamic banks in the full-phase construction segment rather than discuss the contractors' financial needs.

Keywords : *Contractor Financing, Islamic Banks, Islamic Finance, Literature review.*

MFAC2022_080

Corporate Governance and Bank Performance: The Moderating Role of Competitive Intensity on Kuwait Banks

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Abstract

Purpose: The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between corporate governance variables and performance of listed banks in Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE). The study also introduces the influence of competitive intensity into the relationship between corporate governance and performance as moderating variable.

Design/Methodology/Approach: This study examines the relationship between corporate governance by using three variables namely board of directors' size, board of directors' composition, and board of directors' number of yearly meetings. Performance measurements are accounting-based performance measured by return on assets (ROA) and return on equity (ROE). Furthermore, the study introduces the importance of competition in the banking sector by presenting competitive intensity, measured by bank concentration ratio (BCR), as a moderator that could impact the relationship in this study. Sample selection includes listed banks in Kuwait stock exchange (KSE) which consist of 10 banks covering the period from 2013 until year 2019. This study applies panel data regression analysis to examine the relationship between corporate governance on the performance of listed banks in Kuwait. The data required in this study were derived from banks annual reports, financial statements, and Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) website.

Findings: Results of the study, at 5% level of significance, show that board of directors' size has significant positive relationship on ROA while board of directors' composition and meetings have insignificant relationship with accounting-based performance measurements. Furthermore, the findings of competitive intensity as moderator shows that board of directors' meetings have negative association with both accounting-based performance measurements (ROA and ROE).

Research Implications/Limitations: The study has the following limitations (1) It focuses on the listed banks in Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) which ends up with sample size of 10 banks (2) The study covers the period post the issuance of new corporate governance regulations in Kuwait and comparing the result with periods prior new regulations is difficult due to lack of information. This study can assist in future research in this field through (1) urge new research to expand the sample size by studying corporate governance practises for listed companies in Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) (2) a comparison study can be conducted between banks in Kuwait with other countries.

Practical implications: Practical implications of the study can assist in the following ways (1) Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK) might benefit from the results of this study in the development of regulations related to corporate governance (2) results might provide a comprehensive guideline to the management officials in the banks by knowing the impact of corporate governance variables on performance (3) investors might benefit by identifying the important corporate governance variables for Kuwaiti banks and how banks adhere to the rules of corporate governance set by the Central Bank of Kuwait (CBK).

Originality: This study was exclusively sourced from the first author PhD. thesis.

Keywords: *Corporate governance, accounting-based performance, competitive intensity*

MFAC2022_081

FINANCIAL FRAGILITY AT COUNTRY LEVEL USING CREDIT RATING SCORES: A MULTI-COUNTRY ANALYSIS

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Abstract

This report is about significant macroeconomics variables significantly correlated with financial fragility as measured and tested using panel regression methodology. The yet precisely defined fragility that appeared journals after the 2007-9 Global Financial Crisis is defined with reference to the credit rating scores of countries (sovereigns) for some 111 countries. By statistically relating the scores on fragility with a set of theory-suggested macroeconomic factors, we find the following variables are the drivers of fragility: Foreign Direct Investment; Government Spending; Government Debt; Lending Rate; National Savings Rate; Gross National Income. These results hold up in increasingly refined techniques: Pooled OLS, least square dummy variable (LSDV) and Fixed Effect models. As a robustness test, we tested the little-applied new fragility index called Financial Stability Index or FSI, the scores on credit rating scores are significantly correlated. These results follow as key findings on defining fragility in terms of credit rating scores and then discovering the five key drivers of financial fragility.

Keywords: *Financial fragility; Credit rating; Macroeconomics; Economic growth; Inflation; Foreign direct investment; Government spending; Government debt; Lending rate; National savings rate; Gross national income*

MFAC2022_082

THE EFFECT OF CEO EARLY LIFE EXPERIENCES ON CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN CHINA: THE MODERATING ROLE OF CEO POWER

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Abstract

Existing empirical and theoretical literature provides excellent insight into many aspects of CEO characteristics and CSR, including influence of CEO early life experience. This study further explores the moderating effect of CEO power on CEO early life experience and CSR. We focused on public listed companies in China over a sample period of 2010 to 2019 with 6,008 firm-year observations. We follow the literature to define early life experiences from three dimensions: CEO experience of Great Famine era (1959-1961), CEO military service experience and CEO family economic condition (poor or rich). We find firm with CEOs poses these three early life experiences tends to have higher CSR performance. We further use structural power, expert power, ownership power and prestige power to measure CEO power and find that CEO with higher power positively generally enhance the effect of CEO early life experiences on CSR. The results remain even with a battery of robustness tests including changing the dependent and independent variables, controlling for sample selection bias via Heckman Selection Model and Propensity Score Matching (PSM) methods.

Keywords: *CSR, Early life experiences, CEO power*

MFAC2022_084

IMPACT OF FINANCIAL INCLUSION ON FIRMS' DEFAULT RISK IN DEVELOPING NATIONS

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Abstract

This paper examines the impact of financial inclusion (i.e., access to credits) on firms' default risk in sixteen developing nations. The application of the two-step system generalized method of moments reveal that financial inclusion has a significant negative impact on firms' default risk in the full sample. Moreover, financial inclusion has a significant negative impact on firms' default risk in the three regional sub-samples (i.e., Africa and Middle-East, Latin America, and Asian nations). The results are also robust to different estimation methods. The results suggest that financial inclusion initiative that increase firms access to bank credits to fund profitable investments decrease default risk.

Keywords: *Financial inclusion, firms' default risk, system-GMM, developing nations*

MFAC2022_085

A MILLENNIAL-CENTRIC APPROACH FOR ACCEPTING FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS USING BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY AND CRYPTOCURRENCY

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Abstract

To increase knowledge of the perspective of accepting financial transactions using blockchain technology and cryptocurrency among millennials is one of the agenda of the financial sector industry players. Although this issue is important, the number of studies related to financial acceptance using blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies among millennials is still lacking in this country. To overcome this problem, the main goal of this study is to measure the usability of blockchain technology by examining the behavioral intention factors that influence cryptocurrency transactions among millennials in Malaysia. A survey was conducted among millennials in Malaysia. A total of 110 questionnaires were collected from the respondents and were usable for further analysis. The Partial Least Squares Structural Equation Modelling (PLS-SEM 4.0) is used to analyse the model. Findings indicate four components (security and control, transaction processing, perceived usefulness, and attitude) drive millennials to adopt blockchain technology-based applications. The findings of this study also revealed the most influential factor on the acceptance of financial transactions using cryptocurrency, which is the attitude factor with a variance value of 71.6%. Implications of the study indicate that there are several factors that influence the acceptance of financial transactions using blockchain technology and cryptocurrencies. Therefore, identifying the factors of acceptance of financial transactions is very important to be studied so that industry players can see the tendency of millennials to use cryptocurrency. This study proposes a new integration model: The Technology Acceptance Model (TAM) and new external variables regarding blockchain adoption characteristics such as security and control and transaction processing.

Keywords: *TAM, Blockchain, Behavioral Intention, Security and Control, Transaction processing, Perceived usefulness, Perceived ease of use, Attitude*

MFAC2022_086

**DIVERSIFICATION BENEFITS OF BITCOIN DURING, AND POST- COVID-19 OUTBREAK:
EVIDENCE FROM ASEAN-BASED INVESTORS BASED ON A MULTIVARIATE-GARCH APPROACH**

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Abstract

This study intends to measure portfolio diversification benefits of ASEAN-based equity investors into the largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation, Bitcoin, during the Covid-19 outbreak. The portfolio diversification benefits are analysed from the perspective of conventional and Islamic equity investors. The study uses daily data for the period March 2020-June 2022, which covers the entire Covid-19 pandemic until its recent transition into endemic phase. Empirical results revealed Bitcoin provide the most diversification benefit for Vietnamese-based conventional and Islamic equity investors. Overall, Islamic indices despite recording higher volatilities, exhibit lower correlation with Bitcoin than conventional indices

Keywords: *ASEAN, pandemic, Bitcoin, Islamic index, diversification*

MFAC2022_087

The Disclosure Issues of Integrated Report: A Systematic Literature Review

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Abstract

While systematic literature review (SLR) has contributed considerably to the emerging field of integrated reporting (IR), they have made limited contributions to the area of IR quality. Assessing the quality of integrated reports is vital in showcasing the transparency and reliability of corporate information. Hence, this study reviewed the existing literature to identify the disclosure issues of integrated reports prepared by its adopters. Guided by the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses (PRISMA), this study systematically reviews 36 articles extracted from the two leading databases, namely Scopus and Web of Science (WoS). Based on thematic analysis, four disclosure issues were identified, namely; adherence to reporting framework, ESG disclosures, characteristics of reported information, and reporting form. Two themes further produced four sub-themes each. The intense review revealed that the IR adopters ignore the IIRC framework principal reporting requirements and the reports' structure. Results of this study may; i) enhance the understanding of the specific disclosure areas that need improvement in preparing the integrated reports; ii) notify the IIRC as the framework issuer to revise their reporting framework and iii) formulate an appropriate plan that assists adopters preparing high-quality reporting.

Keywords: *Integrated Reporting Quality, Disclosure Issue, Integrated Reports, IIRC, Systematic Literature Review*

MFAC2022_088

THE INFLUENCE OF BOARD SIZE AND BOARD INDEPENDENCE ON TRIPLE BOTTOM LINE REPORTING

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to examine the association between board size, independence and triple bottom line (TBL) reporting. The TBL report consists of three level components such as environment, social and economic indices. The sample consists of Top 50 listed companies from year 2018 to 2020 in Tadawul Stock Exchange. Regression analysis is then used to investigate the association between board characteristics and TBL reporting, along with its separate components. We found that significant negative associations of TBL with board independence, social bottom line with board size and board independence. This indicates that board independence would negatively influence the TBL disclosure of the companies. The study finds that neither board independence nor board size is linked to TBL reporting, based on the social bottom line. Companies are encouraged to embrace TBL reporting. This suggests that businesses should raise the quality of their reporting while making sure voluntary disclosures reflect an accurate and fair view in order to preserve a positive connection with their stakeholders.

Keywords: board size, board independence, Triple Bottom Line, Saudi Arabia listed firms.

MFAC2022_089

Gold, Silver and Copper as a Hedge against Inflation: A Seemingly Unrelated Regression (SUR) Approach.

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Abstract

This study aims to analyse the characteristics of gold, silver, and copper as a hedge against inflation in high- and low-inflation countries. We propose a seemingly unrelated regression framework, a panel data technique used to estimate a system of each equation where the error terms are highly correlated. Gold, silver, and copper exhibit considerable evidence of a strong hedge in high-inflation countries. In contrast, these metals are not a store of value in low-inflation countries. These findings indicate that these metals can secure investment during high inflationary periods. Therefore, when inflation increases, the return of gold, silver, and copper increase as well. Due to different markets and economic situations, as well as the measurement of inflation, this study finds different results on the role of gold, silver, and copper as an inflation hedge in high inflation countries, compared to low-inflation countries.

MFAC2022_090

WHAT MATTERS MOST IN ISLAMIC BANKING DISCLOSURE PRACTICES?

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Abstract

Corporate disclosure has been one of the major areas discussed in accounting research. It is a tool to discharge a company's accountability and transparency. This study explores what information should be provided by Islamic banks based on the degree of importance as part of its disclosure practice. Questionnaires were distributed to the Islamic banking regulators, practitioners and academicians in accounting and Islamic banking areas to obtain a clear picture on the important information that should be disclosed by Islamic banks. The results confirm that financial information is still the most important information followed by Shariah compliance information and other information like social activities and corporate governance information. Unfortunately, this contradicts some prior studies highlighting Shariah compliance and other social information is more important.

Keywords: *Disclosure practices, Content analysis, Disclosure elements, Islamic Banks*

MFAC2022_091

Asset Allocation and Performance of Malaysian Civil Service Pension Fund

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Abstract

Managing pension assets for defined benefit plans is a dynamic optimisation process between the strategic allocation and the future liabilities obligations. A pension fund's optimal asset and liability structure will eventually determine the pension fund's performance. This study examines the Civil Service Pension Fund, or Malaysia Incorporated Retirement Fund (KWAP). Using the data from 2007 to 2018, our results show: First, KWAP has invested in five main asset classes. Its asset allocation strategy shows an increased risk tolerance with greater weight in equities. Second, real estate is the most performing asset class that contributes the highest ROI, followed by equities. Third, the investment performance of KWAP has deteriorated since 2007 as measured by Sharpe Ratio and M-squared. Fourth, the KWAP is still conservative based on the efficient frontier. It invests mainly in domestic fixed income and local equities. As a policy implication, the KWAP should diversify into an international portfolio as recommended by Capital Market Line.

Keywords: *Pension Funds; Pension Scheme; Malaysia; Investment Performance; Asset Allocation*

MFAC2022_092

EQUITY RISK PREMIUM AND VOLATILITY: MODELLING SENTIMENT OF COVID-19

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Abstract

The research intends to investigate how volatility and uncertainties of COVID-19 pandemic influence market risk premium. We construct a COVID-19 sentiment index using three popular COVID-19 indicators to capture market sentiment during the COVID-19 pandemic period. The time range of data covers the first and second wave of COVID-19. In this study ARMA-GARCH model is employed to analyse stock markets in the developed economies such as the United States, United Kingdom and 4 major European economies from Germany, France, Italy, and Spain. Although we do not find a direct relation between COVID-19 sentiment index on market risk premium, the finding shows that COVID-19 sentiment index and other volatility measures play significant influence on the variation in market risk premium. The study would enrich the extant of literature and has implication on asset pricing and strategic portfolio investment.

MFAC2022_094

Corporate Diversification of Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) in a Post-Pandemic World: Lessons from Malaysia and Singapore

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Abstract

Corporate diversification is a strategy that enables corporations to expand their core business into other businesses. Corporate finance literature indicates that diversified firms negatively impact financial performance compared to non-diversified firms. In developed countries like the United States (US) and Japan, the majority of the Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs) are more specialised; however, two-thirds of Malaysian REITs (M-REITs) are diversified. This study aims to bridge the gap by looking at M-REITs and Singapore REITs (S-REITs) that help moderate the effects of growth opportunities, corporate diversification, and financial performance. This study utilizes the Entropy Index for corporate diversification and the Dynamic System Generalized Method of Moments (DSGMM) to analyse samples of REIT firms in Malaysia and Singapore being the market leaders of REIT in the ASEAN region from 2009 to 2020, covering pre and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thailand, Vietnam and Indonesia have nascent markets and are not included in this research. Panel data for corporate diversification, which uses Price Index (PI) as performance measurement, reflects significant levels from 1% to 10% for All-REITs, M-REITs and S-REITs pre and during the pandemic. Corporate diversification affects a corporation's financial performance for all periods and is measured by PI. However, based on Tobin's-Q ratio, the results vary. All-REITs and M-REITs are significant at 1% to 10%, except for S-REITs. The moderating effect of growth opportunities on corporate diversification and corporate financial performance measured by PI is significant at 1% to 5% for All-REITs and S-REITs. However, M-REITs do not have sufficient data to highlight significance at the 10% level. Further testing on the moderating effect of growth opportunities on corporate diversification and corporate financial performance measured by market value through Tobin's-Q ratio showed that All-REITs, M-REITs and S-REITs are significant at 1 to 10% levels. The moderating effect of growth opportunities plays a vital role in M-REITs and S-REITs performances.

Keywords: *Real Estate Investment Trusts, Corporate Diversification, Growth Opportunities, Financial Performance, Malaysia, Singapore*

MFAC2022_095

YOUNG INVESTORS' PERCEPTIONS TOWARD AMANAH SAHAM BUMIPUTERA FIXED-PRICE UNIT TRUST IN SABAH

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Abstract

The focus of this research is to investigate the major factors that influence young investors' of selecting Amanah Saham Bumiputera fixed-price unit trust. In this study, intention focuses on young investors selecting Amanah Saham Bumiputera as one of their wealth accumulation platforms. Using the theory of planned behaviour (TPB) as a baseline theory, this study proposes attitude, subjective norm and perceived behavioural control and awareness as factors influencing the intention to select Amanah Saham Bumiputera (ASB) unit trust. Using a sample of 150 respondents among young Bumiputera investors, this study tested the causal pathway of young investor's perception towards intention to choose Amanah Saham Bumiputera fixed-price unit trust. SmartPLS software was used to conduct the analysis and it was found that all hypotheses have positive relationship towards intention to choose Amanah Saham Bumiputera fixed-price unit trust. This research adds to the body of knowledge in offering theoretical support of TPB and broadening the understanding on the field of unit trust. Also, the findings provide practical implications that can be lent by potential investor to seek investment opportunity in the future.

Keywords: *Amanah Saham Bumiputera unit trust, attitude, subjective norm, perceive behavioural control, intention to choose ASB fixed-price*

MFAC2022_096

EXPLORING THE COMOVEMENTS AND INTERCONNECTEDNESS OF PETROLEUM MARKETS WITH GLOBAL EQUITY MARKETS: AGGREGATE AND SECTORAL ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The aim of this study is to assess the comovements and spillovers between petroleum prices and Global Islamic equities using daily frequency data spanning from 2000M01 to 2022M02. The paper focuses on aggregate as well as sectoral Islamic stock indices obtained from Thomson Reuters Datastream and employs MGARCH-DCC, Wavelets and Interconnectedness techniques to assess the dynamics between oil and equities over the sample period. The findings have important implications for diverse investors as well as policy makers for decision making.

Keywords: *Islamic Finance, interconnectedness, comovement, crude oil, oil price shocks, stock market returns*

MFAC2022_097

COVID-19 DYNAMICS AND FINANCING OF CASH FLOW SHORTAGES: EVIDENCE FROM FIRM-LEVEL SURVEY

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Abstract

This study investigates the effects of Covid-19 dynamics (i.e., productivity shocks, credit agreements, closure strategy, employee welfare, online activity adoption, and economic policy response) on the financing structure of firms using a unique cross-country firm-level survey database covering 28 countries. How these dynamics are addressed depends largely on how the firm finances its cash flow shortages through equity finance, government grant, retained earnings, bank loans, non-bank loans, and account payable. Using a logit regression estimation technique, we find that firms that temporary closure business operations due to the pandemic outbreak are more likely to secure government grants and non-bank loans to finance cash flow shortages. The adoption of online sales and delivery services has significant negative effects on account payables and government grants whereas it has positive effects on retained earnings and bank loans. The use of equity finance increases as firms adopt remote work arrangements for their employees while it decreases the use of government grants and non-bank loans to finance cash flow shortages. However, we do not find evidence that firms filed for insolvency or bankruptcy have the access to any financing sources except that it reduces the amount of non-bank loans such firms have access to. Firms do not benefit from government (national or local) support and wages subsidies in accessing equity finance and bank loans but benefit from fiscal exemptions or reductions to finance both sources of finance to reduce cash flow shortages. We also provide evidence that the level of economic development (developed vs. developing) matters for firms to have access to various sources of finance in addressing cash flow shortages. We find evidence of the “spare tire” effect of the capital market as equity finance dominates the financing structure across sampled firms in health crisis periods.

Keywords: *Productivity shocks; employee welfarism; closure strategy; online activity adoption; economic policy response; financing structure*

MFAC2022_098

FINTECH INNOVATION, STABILITY AND EFFICIENCY: EVIDENCE FROM MALAYSIAN BANK INDUSTRY

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Abstract

The rapid development of digital finance is reshaping the business model of the traditional bank industry and bringing challenges to it as well. Based on an unbalanced panel of data constructed by 36 banks in Malaysia from 2006 to 2020, this study examines the impact of financial technology on banks' stability and efficiency. We find that, compared with Islamic banks, FinTech innovation significantly improves the stability of commercial banks, and it also improves the entire sample banks' efficiency calculated by the DEA-Malmquist method. These baseline results are affirmed by the GMM approach to mitigate potential endogeneity issues. Furthermore, the impacts of FinTech innovation on banks are heterogeneous. The big-sized and high-profit banks enjoy the benefits of improving their stability level from FinTech development. However, for the small-sized and low-profit banks, FinTech innovation contributes more to improving their efficiency.

Keywords: *FinTech innovation, Stability, Efficiency, Risk-taking, DEA-Malmquist*

MFAC2022_099

Sanctions and market reaction: Evidence from the Russia-Ukraine conflict

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Abstract

Drawing from hegemonic stability theory (HST) and prior literature on the effects of war on stock returns, we examine the stock markets' reactions to the economic and financial sanctions during the beginning of Russia's invasion on Ukraine. A short-term event study is employed, and we document that the stock market places higher valuation for firms located in countries that sanction Russia. This result is consistent with the prediction of HST. In addition, the higher valuation is stronger if firms are politically connected or located in countries with lower geopolitical risks.

Keywords: Russia; Ukraine; event study; stock market; market return; war; sanction

MFAC2022_100

**CORPORATE RISK TAKING AND CASH HOLDINGS:
THE MODERATING EFFECT OF INVESTOR PROTECTION**

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Abstract

This paper investigates the association between corporate risk taking and cash holdings and whether investor protection moderates this association. The perspectives of the precautionary savings and agency theory are employed in setting the views on the link between corporate risk taking, investor protection and cash holdings. Based on analysis that use 104,687 firm-year observations from 58 countries through 2011-2020, the findings indicate that firms with higher risk incentives exhibit lower cash holdings while firms in countries with high levels of investor protection are shown to have lower cash holdings. However, the negative association between corporate risk taking and cash holdings is attenuated for firms in stronger investor protection countries as compared to those in weaker investor protection countries. Our findings are robust to various specification tests, such as those that employ alternative variables and cater for the global economic crisis effect. Overall, the findings reveal that the strength of country-level investor protection moderates the negative association between corporate risk taking and cash holdings. These findings provide insights into the way country-level governance, through the strength of investor protection, mitigates the agency costs in high risk-taking firms in relation to their cash management.

Keywords: Corporate risk taking; corporate cash holdings; investor protection; corruption

MFAC2022_101

ANALYZING THE DOUBLE CROSSOVER MOVING AVERAGES STRATEGY BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD

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Abstract

Trading is a business, not an investment. Traders focus on minor to secondary trend, while investors focus on primary trend. Trading timeframe is crucial in technical analysis. As such trader who trades with minor trend timeframe, must have a trading strategy. We aim to examine the impact of moving averages double crossover strategy on traders' profit factor based on minor and secondary trend timeframe before and during lockdown periods. We adopt Dow Theory for this study as a trend should be in effect until it gives a definite signal for a reversal. We use the Nasdaq Composite Index by entering at golden crossover and exiting at dead crossover, for a five-year period respectively from 2018 to 2022 as our sample study, in which 2018 to 2019 (before lockdown), 2020 to 2021 (during lockdown) and 2022 (after lockdown). By using trading profits, we back tested three strategies of double crossover moving averages that are i) EMA5 crossover EMA10, ii) EMA5 crossover EMA20 and iii) EMA20 crossover EMA50. A non-parametric analysis of independent samples was used. The result shows that there is a significance difference among those three strategies before the lockdown period, but no significance difference during and after the lockdown period.

Keywords: *technical analysis, double crossover moving averages strategy, minor trend, lockdown*

MFAC2022_102

Determinants of Pension Fund's Required Return: A Scenario-based simulation of Civil Service Pension Fund

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Abstract

This study examines the required return to fund a defined pension benefit of the Civil Service Pension Fund, managed by KWAP. Based on the four variables, contribution rate, retirement age, life expectancy, and length of service, this study simulates 648 scenarios of required return corresponding to the years of service and post-retirement benefits. Our findings show: First, the minimum years of service for the pension eligibility shall be increased to 20 years. Second, the Government shall increase the contribution rate to at least 13% per worker to KWAP. Third, there are no significant changes in the required rate of return even though the Government extended the retirement age from 55 to 60. Hence, extending the retirement age will not reduce the pension cost. Fourth, this study shows that the contribution period is more crucial than the post-retirement period for the Government to sustain the pension fund. Lastly, there is a need for the Government to set a minimum funding ratio for the KWAP pension fund to ensure its long-term sustainability. As a policy suggestion, the current pension fund needs refinement as to ensure long-term sustainability.

Keywords: *Public Pension; Malaysia; Investment Performance; Internal Rate of Return; Scenario Analysis; Simulation*

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