

Report on the Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting and Economics Symposium 2005

Guangzhou, China

7 - 8 January 2005

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting and Economics Symposium was held this year at the prestigious Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou. Known for its beauty and pleasant climate, Guangzhou provides the ideal setting for Symposium participants to enjoy the outdoors when not in conference. Now in its sixth year, the Symposium has gained recognition throughout the local and international communities. Not merely known to academics, the APJAE symposium has built a marked reputation among government officials and business people, many of whom were in attendance at the Symposium. Participants included more than sixty professors and over one hundred doctoral students representing several universities from within the United States and Canada, Europe, Asia, and Australia.

The Symposium Opening Ceremony was chaired by **Professor Xinchun Li**, Dean of the Management School of Sun Yat-Sen University, **Professor Da Ren Huang**, President of Sun Yat-Sen University, Professor Judy Tsui, Dean of the Faculty of Business of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, **Professor Hua Wang**, Vice President of Jinan University, **Professor L. K. Chan**, Dean of the Faculty of Business of the City University of Hong Kong, and **Professor Ferdinand A. Gul**, Head and Chair Professor of the School of Accounting and Finance of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University. The ceremony was attended by a great number of people including academics and businesspeople easily surpassing the 250 mark.

The **Corporate Governance Forum** followed the ceremony with three panelist presentations moderated by **Dr. Daochi Tong**, Vice Director for China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC). **Dr. Liangqi Lin**, Senior Vice President and CRF of Asia Pacific Philips Lighting, discussed “Multinational Companies in China: Making Changes or Being Changed?”

Professor Jerold Zimmerman of the University of Rochester presented a talk on “Why the ‘Balance’ in the Balanced Scorecards?” and **Mr. Zhi-min Yuan**, Director of the Guangzhou Kingfa Sci. & Tech. Co. Ltd., spoke of “Corporate Governance in Chinese Private Companies: Problems and Solutions.” Each presentation was followed by a brief question and answer period.

The first round of paper sessions succeeded the Corporate Governance Forum. Dr. Jong-Hag Choi of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology discussed “Audit Quality, Legal and Disclosure Environments, and Analysts’ Forecast Accuracy: Some International Evidence.” Dr. Sidney Leung of CityU was chairman and Professor Agnes Cheng of the University of Houston was discussant. Dr. Xiaohong Liu of HKUST, talked about “Voluntary Disclosure of Disaggregated Earnings Information.” From CityU, Dr. Andrew Yim was chairman and Dr. Bin Srinidhi was discussant.

Dr. José Moreira of the Universidade do Porto analyzed “Earnings Management to Avoid Losses: The Asymmetric Incentive Underlying Good and Bad News.” Dr. Neale O’Connor of CityU was chairman and Professor Ross Watts of the University of Rochester was discussant. Dr. Yihong He of Monmouth University talked about “Bankruptcy Prediction of Small Firms in Individual Industries with the Help of Mixed Industry Models.” From CityU, Dr. Stephen Lynn was chairman and Dr. Francis Kim was discussant.

Professor Zoltan Matolcsy of the University of Technology Sydney presented findings on “The Compensation-Performance Relation in China for State Dominated Enterprises and Non-State Dominated Enterprises.” Dr. Peter Cheng of PolyU was chairman and Dr. Shimin Chen of Lingnan University was discussant.

The first day of the Symposium closed with dinner served on a spectacular night cruise through the Pearl River. Running between the four established campuses of Sun Yat-Sen University, the Pearl River offers a magnificent view of the University. With conifers and green lawns covering most of the campuses, SYSU conveys an image of peace and concentration for serious study in a pleasant, excellence-oriented atmosphere.

The next day, the Symposium began with concurrent paper sessions. A total of twenty-two papers were presented, with ten of them presented in Chinese. Concurrent paper sessions allow academics to present their findings in a setting similar to that of main paper sessions. The sessions are presided by a moderator and a discussant for each paper and scholars receive important feedback to later improve or expand their research.

Presenters of concurrent sessions represented a number of international universities including Carnegie Mellon University, University of Western Australia, Singapore Management University, Goa Institute of Management, Stockholm University, University of Andalas, and Université du Quebec à Montréal. Discussants and

moderators were affiliated with PolyU and CityU.

The second round of paper sessions ensued with Dr. Ken Y. Chen of National Cheng Kung University giving a talk on “Auditor-Client Negotiation, Independence, and Audit Quality.” Dr. Li Jiang of PolyU was chairman and Professor Yaw M. Mensah of Rutgers University was discussant.

Dr. Stephen M. Courtenay of Nanyang Technological University followed with a talk on “The Impact of Increased Voluntary Disclosure on Market Information Asymmetry, Informed and Uninformed Trading.” Professor Michael Firth of PolyU was chairman and Professor Eli Bartov of New York University was discussant. The last paper presented at this year’s Symposium featured Dr. Sakthi Mahenthiran of Butler University, discussing “The Factors that Cause Companies to Be Suspended from the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange.” From PolyU, Dr. Ben-Hsien Bao chaired and Professor Jeong-Bon Kim was discussant.

Symposium presentations concluded with a **Research Seminar**. Professor Stephen H. Penman of Columbia University discussed “Cash Accounting and Accrual Accounting for Equity Valuation” and Professor Ross Watts of the University of Rochester gave a lively tutorial on “What Makes a Paper Publishable?”

The Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting and Economics Symposium 2005 concluded with dinner at the **Tianlun International Hotel** where guests were honored with a traditional Chinese Opera performance by SYSU students. Dressed in traditional Chinese Opera make up and costume the students highlighted the evening with a solid performance commemorating Chinese cultural sovereignty.