**Report on the China Journal of Accounting Research Symposium 2010**

**Beijing, China**

**17-18 December, 2010**

The 4th Annual Research Symposium of China Journal of Accounting Research (CJAR) took place from December 17 to 18, 2010 in Beijing, China. The Symposium was jointly hosted by Sun Yat-Sen University, City University of Hong Kong, and Central University of Finance and Economics, under the sole sponsorship of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). More than sixty faculties and doctoral students from Mainland China, Hong Kong, and United States attended the conference.

The Symposium began on the morning of December 17 with a welcome speech of **Professor Meng Yan**, Dean of the School of Accountancy Central University of Finance and Economics, and followed by greeting words of two CJAR co-editors, **Professor Wei Minghai**, Assistant President of Sun Yat-Sen University, and **Professor Jeong-Bon Kim**, Head of Department of Accountancy, City University of Hong Kong. **Ms Josephine Yau**, Deputy Director, Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants, also addressed the welcome ceremony. All speakers extended their sincere thanks to accounting **scholars from the related academic fields** for their continuous and tremendous support to CJAR, and encouraged them to actively submit papers to and participate in the future conferences. Since 2011, CJAR will be published by Elsevier, the world’s leading publisher of scientific books and reference works, and in this regard, CJAR is well recognized as the first refereed academic journal of accounting in the English language in China. The co-editors further expressed their determination to get CJAR included in the journal list of Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) in the following three to five years.

The Symposium was organized into three parts: practitioner forums, plenary sessions, and paper presentation and discussion sessions.

Following the brief opening ceremony, the Symposium started off by covering two practitioner forums. **Dr. Wang Pengcheng**, Partner and Industry Co-leader Beijing, Deloitte's Global Financial Services Industry (GFSI), was invited to speak first. His presentation title was “Review of Major Accounting Issues Relating to Financial Institutions”. **Dr. Wang Jianxi,** Executive Vice President and Chief Risk Officer, China Investment Corporation (CIC), delivered the second speech titled “Risk Management and Accounting”.

In the following one and a half days, two world-renowned accounting researchers were invited to hold two plenary sessions. On the afternoon of December 17, **Professor James Ohlson** from New York University lectured on “Accruals: How They Should be Conceptualized and Measured”. He started by developing “accrual” concepts and then showed how the concepts link with assets and liabilities on consecutive balance sheets as well as with the basic accounting equation. He proceeded to integrate the net accrual with issue of a firm’s earning quality and role of accounting conservatism. Among the remaining topics, he discussed how to conceptualize diagnostics to assess whether or not a period’s accrual is likely to be biased upwards or downward, which gave rise to consideration of how to construct accruals that may be more informative than GAAP accruals and the role of value-relevance studies to assess the information content of accruals.

The morning plenary session on December 18 was held by **Professor Pierre Jinghong Liang** from Carnegie Mellon University. In his speech of “Accounting Theory, Evidence and Practice”, he encouraged young scholars to learn, use and contribute to accounting theoretical research, in that he believed that “theory is important because it is the successful interaction between theory and empirical work that ultimately advances an academic discipline”.

The third part of the Symposium was paper presentation and discussion sessions. After several rounds of double-blind refereeing and selection, 8 papers including 4 Chinese papers and 4 English papers were finally accepted for presentations. The research topics covered corporate governance, financial reporting quality, corporate financing and investment, and other areas. The authors from Hong Kong University, City university of Hong Kong, University of Aberdeen, Tsinghua University, Shanghai Lixin University of Commerce, Central South University, Nanjing University, and Sun Yat-Sen University presented their papers.

To promote high-quality papers, the Symposium invited highly regarded scholars in the field to serve as discussants, and allocated enough time for the authors and discussants to present and exchange their ideas. Thanks to the more-time session arrangement and the quality work of the paper presenters, the discussants, and the other participants, the Symposium presentations progressed very lively and attracted a lot of dynamic and interesting discussions. The feedbacks received by the Symposium organizers praised, beside the high level of the presentations and of extensive exchange of ideas, a very motivating and constructive atmosphere during different sessions.

CJAR, co-edited by the Department of Accountancy, City University of Hong Kong, and the Accounting Department, Sun Yat-sen University, is the first double-blind refereed journal of accounting in the English language in China. Operating in the mode of regular international academic journal, CJAR is to be published by Elsevier, the world’s leading publisher of scientific books and reference works, since 2011. Three issues are expected to publish in 2011 and by 2012 CJAR will be published quarterly.

The annual CJAR Research Symposium serves the following two objectives: 1) To encourage active submissions of quality papers to CJAR; the papers accepted for presentation in the Symposium, subject to a 2-3 rounds of refereeing and selection process, will be scheduled for future publication in CJAR. 2) To provide an interactive platform for scholars interested in China-related accounting issues to exchange interesting research ideas and to promote worldwide recognition of high-quality theoretical and empirical research of an indigenous nature about China.

The 5th Annual CJAR Research Symposium will take place in Xiamen, China in November 2011. Co-organized by City University of Hong Kong, Sun Yat-sen University and Xiamen University, the 5th Symposium will again bring together top scholars to present high quality research important to Asia and China.