**Report on the China Journal of Accounting Research Symposium 2011**

**Xiamen, China**

**18-19 November, 2011**

The 5th Annual Research Symposium of China Journal of Accounting Research (CJAR) was held on November 18-19, 2011 in Xiamen, China. The Symposium was jointly hosted by Sun Yat-Sen University, City University of Hong Kong, and Xiamen University, under the sole sponsorship of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA). More than one hundred faculties and doctoral students from Mainland China and Hong Kong attended the conference.

CJAR, focusing on publishing China-related accounting research, funded by Sun Yat-Sen University and City University of Hong Kong in 2008, 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 published by Elsevier, the world’s leading publisher of scientific books and reference works. Three issues are expected to publish in 2011 and since 2012 CJAR will be published quarterly. The co-editors of CJAR are determined to get CJAR included in the journal list of Social Science Citation Index (SSCI) in the following three years.

The Symposium began on the morning of November 18 with welcome speeches delivered by Professor Wei Minghai, Sun Yat-Sen University, Professor Su Xijia, China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), and Professor Liu Feng, Xiamen University. Mr Tommy Wong, Executive Director of Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants (HKICPA), also addressed the welcome ceremony. All speakers extended their sincere thanks to accounting scholars from the relatedacademicfields for their continuous and tremendous support to CJAR and encouraged them to actively submit papers to and participate in the future conferences. In fact, CJAR, organizing one Research Workshop every summer in Hong Kong and one Symposium every winter in China mainland (in total five symposiums to date), has been well recognized as an interactive and influential platform for researchers interested in China-related accounting issues to exchange ideas.

The Symposium was organized into two parts: plenary session and paper presentation and discussion session.

Following the brief opening ceremony, the Symposium started off by inviting Professor Joseph Fan from Chinese University of Hong Kong to hold a plenary session. His speech was titled “Study on Family Firms”. In the hour-long speech, he systematically summarized his experience in doing research on family firms. He believed that good family firm research will turn out as long as the researchers in this area keep exploring. He especially encouraged young researchers to start with real-life cases, instead of literature and models. Understanding what is happening in real life is the key to finding good topics and promising projects.

The second part of the Symposium was paper presentation and discussion sessions. Subject to several rounds of double-blind refereeing and selection, 8 papers including 3 English papers and 5 Chinese papers were finally accepted for presentations. The research topics were widely spread in the areas of dividends policy, corporate financing, risk investment, executive compensation, government audit, bank loan, and etc. The authors from Chinese University of Hong Kong, Xi’an Jiaotong University, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Chongqing University, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Sun Yat-Sen University, Nanjing University of Finance and Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics presented their papers over the following one and a half days. 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. Compared to other domestic conferences, CJAR Symposium distinguishes itself not only in the high level of the presentations and of extensive exchange of ideas, but also in its featuring insightful comments from experienced researchers. The discussions from Professor Chen Shimin, Oliver Li Zhen, Ding Yuan, Yue Heng, Chen Zhihong and others are very instructive and helpful.

The annual CJAR Research Symposium serves 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.

A Special Issue of CJAR Symposium on “Large Shareholders, Corporate Governance and Accounting” will take place in Shanghai, China on March 29-30, 2012. Co-organized by City University of Hong Kong, Sun Yat-Sen University, and China Europe International Business School (CEIBS), the Symposium aims to bring top researchers from all over the world together to explore different aspects of large shareholders and their impact on corporate governance and accounting.