

Editorial

Editorial for Volume 2 Issue 1 of *Business and Management Theory and Practice*

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In Volume 2, Issue 1 of the journal *Business and Management Theory and Practice*, authors explore hot topics including decision-making strategies, supply chain management technologies, environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, and corporate carbon emissions. The purpose of this editorial is to offer an analysis of two articles from this issue, “Corporate carbon disclosure: Methods, motivations, and impacts” and “Research on the impact of ESG performance on the investment efficiency of enterprises”, stressing their salient features and ramifications for further study and application.

1. Commentary on “Corporate carbon disclosure: Methods, motivations, and impacts”

In the article “Corporate carbon disclosure: Methods, motivations, and impacts”, Li et al. [1] offer a comprehensive review of the methods, motivations, and impacts of corporate carbon disclosure. In a world grappling with the consequences of climate change, the accurate and transparent reporting of carbon emissions has become a cornerstone for corporate sustainability efforts. The systematic literature review reveals a diverse range of disclosure methods, including reputation evaluation, index methods, content analysis, and the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) questionnaire method. Each of these approaches has its strengths and limitations, emphasizing the need for standardized frameworks that enhance comparability and transparency across firms.

The paper underscores the multifaceted motivations behind corporate carbon disclosure, ranging from regulatory requirements and stakeholder pressure to a firm’s desire to enhance its reputation and reduce financing costs. The economic consequences of carbon disclosure are also explored, showing its positive impact on corporate innovation, competitive advantage, and firm value. These findings highlight the strategic importance of carbon disclosure in shaping corporate behavior and driving sustainable development.

2. Commentary on “Research on the impact of ESG performance on the investment efficiency of enterprises”

Zhang and Li [2] delve into the relationship between ESG performance and corporate investment efficiency, providing fresh insights into how sustainable practices can enhance financial outcomes. By analyzing data from China’s A-share listed companies, they demonstrate that ESG performance significantly optimizes investment efficiency, particularly in mitigating overinvestment. This finding

challenges the traditional view that sustainability and profitability are mutually exclusive and underscores the value of integrating ESG factors into corporate decision-making processes.

The paper further explores the impact of individual ESG dimensions, revealing that environmental and social responsibility performance are particularly effective in suppressing overinvestment. Additionally, the paper shows that the positive impact of ESG performance on investment efficiency is more pronounced in non-heavily polluted industries, suggesting that firms operating in environmentally sensitive sectors may derive greater benefits from ESG practices.

3. Implications for future research and practice

These papers contribute to the expanding body of knowledge on corporate sustainability, offering valuable insights into the practices and strategies that underpin environmentally responsible and socially just businesses. The emphasis on carbon disclosure and ESG performance highlights the critical role of transparency and accountability in driving sustainable corporate behavior.

Looking ahead, several avenues for future research emerge from these contributions. First, there is a pressing need to develop a standardized framework for measuring carbon disclosure, addressing the current diversity and lack of comparability across studies. Second, further research is warranted to examine the long-term effects of ESG performance on investment efficiency, beyond the short-term impacts explored thus far. Third, a deeper understanding of the industry-specific challenges and opportunities associated with ESG integration is essential to inform tailored corporate strategies.

Conflict of interest: The author declares no conflict of interest.

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