

Agency Theory in Auditing:

Alternative Agency Relationships for Offshore Audits and Audit Quality

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Abstract

Agency theory has been applied to many aspects of Auditing. Auditors of multinational companies often engage other auditors as agents to conduct a significant part of their audit work for their foreign clients. Using a sample of U.S.-listed Chinese companies, we examine and compare the audit quality for firms audited by U.S. auditors under alternative agency relationships with other auditors in China. Our findings enrich the applicability of agency theory in Auditing and offer useful implications for financial statement users, audit firms, regulators and public policy makers regarding the quality of audits involving other auditors under alternative agency relationships.

About the Speaker

Professor Chan obtained his bachelor's degree in Accounting from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, his Master of Accounting Science degree from the University of Illinois and PhD in Business Administration from the Pennsylvania State University. He is also a Fellow (FCPA) of the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs.

He was a chair professor of accountancy at several leading universities in Hong Kong and had served as Head of Department/School Director of Accountancy in these universities. I was also the Dean (Academic Dean) of the Business Faculty at Lingnan University for 5 years and as an elected Council Member of Lingnan University for 12 years.

He has a wide range of experience on academic accreditation. He had served on HKCAAVQ accreditation panels for major self-financed institutions in Hong Kong. He also served on university panels handling UGC quality assurance reviews and AACSB accreditations.

Chairperson: Professor Annie Bligh,
Provost cum Acting Director of Research

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