



Editorial Note



Dear Readers,

It is with immense pleasure that we present the first issue of the Asian Journal of Finance. This issue, as we close another remarkable step, is a testament to Asia's dynamic and evolving financial landscape, and beyond. Our journal continues to be a pivotal platform for high-quality research that addresses both regional and global financial challenges.

This issue features a range of insightful articles and book reviews that delve into critical areas of finance, including market dynamics, risk management, actuarial practices, financial regulation, sustainable finance, and investment strategies. Notably, we highlight several papers that delve into the implications of emerging technologies on financial markets and the evolving role of sustainable finance in shaping economic policies across Asia, including Sri Lanka. This first issue of Volume One brings out new knowledge in the finance sector by critically investigating some crucial contemporary issues in the finance sector. The first article focuses on a timely and important topic, sustainable environmental reporting, by emphasizing an insightful narrative of a company's impact across economic, environmental, and social dimensions.

The first article has investigated the factors affecting environmental sustainability reporting in the Sri Lankan hotel sector. The author identifies government pressure, stakeholder pressure, leadership traits, audit committee meetings, and return on assets as the main factors that affect sustainability reporting practices in the Sri Lankan hotel industry, providing implications for further research. The second article examined the characteristics of audit committees and earnings management for Sri Lankan companies listed on the Colombo Stock Exchange. The study's findings reveal that audit committee independence and meetings have a significant impact on the earnings management of listed companies in Sri Lanka, thereby deepening our understanding of the interactive role of audit committee characteristics. The third article attempts to explore whether intellectual capital influences a firm's financial performance, focusing on the non-listed, export-orientated manufacturing firms in Sri Lanka. Ultimately, the study's findings assist firm managers and policymakers in formulating strategic decisions that prioritize the sales of export-orientated manufacturing firms. The fourth publication included a critical review of the book *Actuarial and Financial Risks in Life Insurance, Pensions, and Household Finance*, which offered a fresh perspective on this topic. The reviewers value the knowledge that Luca Regis imparts to readers, encouraging them to employ sophisticated strategies to achieve financial success while mitigating associated financial risks. The reviewers recommend this book to anyone interested in learning more about the world of investment, as well as anyone searching for a reliable financial resource, as it provides equally relevant information to those with high and low incomes.

We extend our deepest appreciation to our dedicated authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. Your rigorous scholarship and insightful feedback ensure that the Asian Journal of Finance remains at the forefront of academic finance research. We are also pleased to report that our journal has seen a notable increase in citations, reflecting the growing influence of our published work in the global academic community.

Looking ahead, we are excited to announce several new initiatives for the coming year. This includes a special issue on FinTech innovations and their impact on traditional financial systems, as well as an expanded outreach program to engage with finance professionals and policymakers across Asia. Our goal is to further bridge the gap between academic research and practical application, fostering a richer dialogue between scholars and practitioners.

We value your continued support and engagement with our journal. Your feedback is crucial as we strive to enhance the relevance and impact of our publications. Together, we look forward to exploring new frontiers in finance and contributing to the advancement of knowledge in this ever-evolving field. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication.

Warm regards,

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