

ABSTRACTS**1. PERFORMANCE OF VENTURE BACKED AND NON VENTURE BACKED IPO: EVIDENCE FROM CANADA AND THE UK**

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ABSTRACT

This study analyses data of both Ventures backed and Non-VC backed IPOs in both Canada and the UK over a ten-year period from 1996 to 2005. We use value-weighted 90-days cumulative returns to test the short-term performance of IPOs, and examine whether the VC backed IPOs perform better than Non-VC backed IPOs in Canada and in the UK. In comparing the two countries we find evidence of similarities and differences between the two countries in terms of the short-term performance and industry selection. In the case of industry specific firms there appear to be some strong relationship to performance

Keywords: *Venture Capital, IPOs, Stock Performance*

2. REGIONAL AND GLOBAL FINANCIAL INTEGRATION OF THE GULF CO-OPERATION COMMUNITY COUNTRIES

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ABSTRACT

This paper focuses on the extent of financial integration achieved in the Gulf Cooperation Community of nations, comprising of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Saudi Arabia and UAE. The analysis is not limited to a mere look at openness to capital flows. Five measures of financial integration are discussed and resorted to for making a comparison of the levels of financial integration achieved by the various members of the GCC region. It is seen that the rankings made using different tests of financial integration do not match always. Also, the progress made towards regional financial integration is sometimes seen to be not compatible with the level achieved in terms of global financial integration. By and large, Bahrain and Saudi Arabia emerge as the most financially integrated countries in the region, with the banking hub Bahrain clearly the most financially integrated to global markets.

Keywords: *Financial integration, Gulf Cooperation Community, Global markets*

3. STOCK PRICE PERFORMANCE OF INITIAL PUBLIC OFFERINGS: THE THAI EXPERIENCE

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ABSTRACT

In this paper I investigate the long-run stock returns after initial public offering (IPOs) in Thailand in the post-1997 Asian financial crisis. Based on a sample of 123 IPO firms listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) between 2000 and 2005, I find that the average initial return on the first-trading day is 19.97 percent. Using buy-and-hold abnormal returns, I find that the IPO firms underperform a market index by 38.74 percent in three years. This is substantially large compared with the underperformance of IPOs in the U.S. reported by Ritter (1991) and the underperformance of IPOs in Germany reported by Stehle, Ehrhardt, and Przyborowsky (2000). In addition, there is substantial variation in the long-run underperformance across industries. Using the multiple regression analyses, I find that services firms appear to have the worst long-run performance.

Keywords: Abnormal Return, Event Studies, Initial Public Offerings, Thailand

4. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE OF MEXICAN ADR'S TRADED ON US EXCHANGES SURROUNDING THE 1995 PESO CRISIS

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ABSTRACT

I analyze eight common financial ratios for seven large Mexican firms from diverse industries that had ADR's listed on American stock exchanges from 1992 through 1998. This period encompasses Mexican entry into NAFTA, and the subsequent Peso and Asian Financial Crises. The balance sheets for the firms were relatively unaffected. However, for most of the firms relative share price, profitability and asset turnover were all adversely affected by the crises.

Keywords: Mexico; North American Free Trade Agreement; Peso Crisis; Asian Financial Crisis

5. OPTIMAL PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICE: A CASE STUDY OF THE SWEDISH UNEMPLOYMENT FUNDS

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ABSTRACT

During a period, an Unemployment Fund (UF) handles members and beneficiaries, at a cost. In this, they are more or less efficient. Four optimizations indicate that the aggregate cost may be reduced by as much as 35 per cent. In the process, the inefficient UFs are identified. Moreover, the reason for inefficiency is also investigated, since the economical efficiency (CRS) is separated into production-mix efficiency, technical efficiency (VRS), and scale efficiency. The results indicate both an optimal production mix and scale. This information can be used in the discussion of future structural change.

Keywords: Unemployment Fund, Efficiency, Entrepreneurship

6. PUBLIC INVESTMENT AND ECONOMIC GROWTH IN NIGERIA: AN AUTOREGRESSIVE MODEL

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ABSTRACT

The objective of this study is to look at the direction and strength of the relationship between public investment and economic growth in Nigeria, using time series data from 1975 to 2004. The study examines the unit root problem and cointegrating properties of the data. The unit root problem was tested for by using Augmented Dickey Fuller (ADF) and Philip Perron tests. Then the effects of stochastic shocks of each of the endogenous variables are explored using Vector Autoregressive (VAR) model. Also Granger causality test was carried out. The disaggregated analysis of public expenditure was also carried out. Results show that public expenditure impacted positively on economic growth and that there was no link between gross fixed capital formation and GDP. The disaggregated analysis shows that only 37.1% of government expenditure is devoted to capital expenditure while 62.9% share is to current expenditure.

Keywords: *Public expenditure, VAR model, cointegration, Impulse Response Function, Forecast Error Variation Decomposition*

7. OPTIONS ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT IN PRESENCE OF THE IMPERFECTIONS (DELAY EFFECT)

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ABSTRACT

Guided by the analogy of wave propagations, we aim to propose an extended version of Black and Scholes model by introducing a delay effect (dynamic imperfection). These formulae are simple and have the potential to explain some deviations with respect to the standard Black-Scholes model. Compared to the classical model of Black and Scholes, this approach presents a more accurate result for the analysis of the stock market options.

Keywords: *Econophysics, options, Black and Scholes, Dynamic imperfection, delay effect, Derivatives*
