An Experimental Study Affects Of The Financial Characteristics On The Financial Information Transparency Extent Of Listed Companies On The Vietnamese Stock Market

Vo Van Nhi
Faculty of Accounting and Auditing.
University of Economics Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Le Thi My Hanh
Faculty of Accounting.
Ton Duc Thang University, Vietnam.

Abstract

This study aimed at building a scale assessing the transparency extent of financial information of the companies currently listed on Vietnamese stock market from the investors' opinions. The analysis uses the disclosure and transparency scores extracted from a survey instrument designed to rate disclosure practices of listed companies by using the OECD Principles of Corporate Governance 2004 on "Disclosure and Transparency". In addition, the study also examined the influence of factors reflecting the financial characteristics such as firm size, financial leverage, audit firms, asset efficiency and return on equity on the transparency extent of financial information of the listed companies on Vietnamese stock market. The results showed that the transparency extent of financial information of the listed companies on the Vietnamese stock market is just average good. Factors such as financial leverage, audit firms and return on equity had influence on the financial information transparency extent.

Keywords: *Transparency, financial information, factor influence, firm size, financial leverage, audit firm, asset efficiency, return on equity, listed companies, Vietnam.*

INTRODUCTION

As stated in the sustainable development report (Nikki&Christine, 2013),sustainable development index of the Southeast Asian countries, including China and India in the period of 2008 - 2012 showed that the sustainable development index of Vietnamese financial market had been a horizontal line for 5 years and the lowest in the surveyed countries. This meant that the development of the Vietnamese stock market in particular, the financial market in generally had not been sustainable yet.

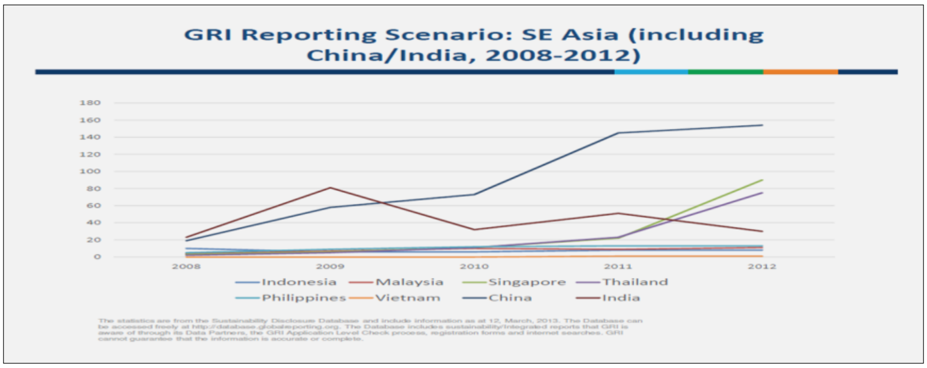

Figure 1: Sustainable development index of Vietnam and some Southeast Asian countries (including China and India)

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

It can be seen from a deep analysis that compared to the emerging stock markets; the Vietnamese stock market had too many fluctuations. Despite having spent almost 15 years in operation, there was no stability in which many problems have been posed for the information transparency in general and financial information in particular of the listed companies. To obtain the stability of the market, in addition to a lot of the necessary conditions, it is required to have a transparency of financial information, which is one crucial factor for the development of a sustainable stock market.

The study was carried out with the effort to find out what factors reflecting the financial characteristics actually influence on the transparency extent of financial information so that conclusions and suggestions would have more convincing evidence. With this objective, the following part introduced the theoretical backgrounds and overview of the researched issues. The methodology and data research were provided in Part 3 and Part 4 presented the results of the study and discussions. Finally, Part 5 stated conclusions and recommendations.

THEORETICAL BACKGROUNDS AND OVERVIEW OF THE RESEARCHED ISSUES

Definitions of financial information and financial information transparency

Nivra (2008) defined that:

Financial information relates to cash flows, results and (balance sheet) positions associated with them. The information has a direct link with the financial registration system and can be historical or prospective. Financial information is expressed in monetary units and can be measured exactly.

Financial information transparency was the availability of specific information about the company to investors and shareholders outside (Bushman et al., 2004).In view of the information user, Kulzick (2004) stated that information transparency meant that information disclosure had to ensure information to be accurate, consistent, appropriate, adequate, clear, timely and convenient. OECD (2004), related to information disclosure and transparency, said that: “The corporate governance framework must ensure the timely and accurate information disclosure on all important matters concerning the company including the financial and operational status, ownership and corporate governance”. The issues OECD stated had significant theoretical implications in considering the transparency of information in general and financial information in particular. In view of a notarial accountant, for financial information to be useful and timely, the disclosure financial information had to be reliable, comparable, comprehensive and transparent (Zarb, 2006).

From the above-mentioned concepts, according to the authors’ opinions:

“**Financial information transparency** *is the provision of financial information must be reliable, timely, accurate, complete and consistent in the manner in which the public can access easily and conveniently*."

Measuring the transparency extent of financial information

There were many different ways to measure the transparency extent of financial information in the previous studies depending on the objectives and approaches of each study. The indicators used to measure the transparency extent of financial information in some previous studies such as T&D (S&P, 2002), CIFAR of IAAT (the study of Archambault, 2003; Bushman et al., 2004), surveyed results based on a questionnaire constructed according to OECD (the study of Cheung et al., 2005) or ITDRS built in Taiwan (the study by

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

Lin Y. et al., 2007) were based on certain criteria for scoring. However, in the scope of this study, the approach which was used to measure the transparency extent of financial information based on comments/evaluations from investors. Therefore, the authors used the OECD corporate governance principles and methodology to build the questionnaire. In addition, the research was also based on the elements of OECD's information disclosure and transparency to combine with the quality assessment criteria of financial information from the foresaid concept of financial information transparency, as a basis for comparison and construction of the questionnaire, in order to assess the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies according to comments of investors.

The factors influencing onthe transparency extent of financial information

Archambault J. and Archambault M. (2003) showed that the ownership, listing status, dividend policy, auditing, company size, business sector and export revenue influenced on the extent of information disclosure in general and the financial information in particular. Factors such as financial leverage and dividend policy did not affect the extent of information disclosure. Bushman et al. (2004) found that the financial information transparency related to the firm size. Specifically, the big-sized companies had a higher extent of financial information transparency than small-sized companies. Cheung et al.(2005) showed that factors such as company size, asset efficiency, asset values and long-term profitability of the companies affected the extent of information disclosure and transparency of listed companies in Hong Kong, but did not affect the companies in Thailand.

Study model and hypothesis

After researching models related to the financial information transparency and considering the factors affecting the information transparency relating to the financial characteristics in term of the company in combination of the characteristics of listed company in Vietnam to fit Vietnam's socioeconomic and cultural environment, the authors developed a research model. The proposed model with dependent variable was defined as the financial information transparency of listed companies and the independent variables were the factors affecting the financial information transparency of listed companies, including the following variables: the company size, financial leverage, financial results, asset efficiency, the audit firms.

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

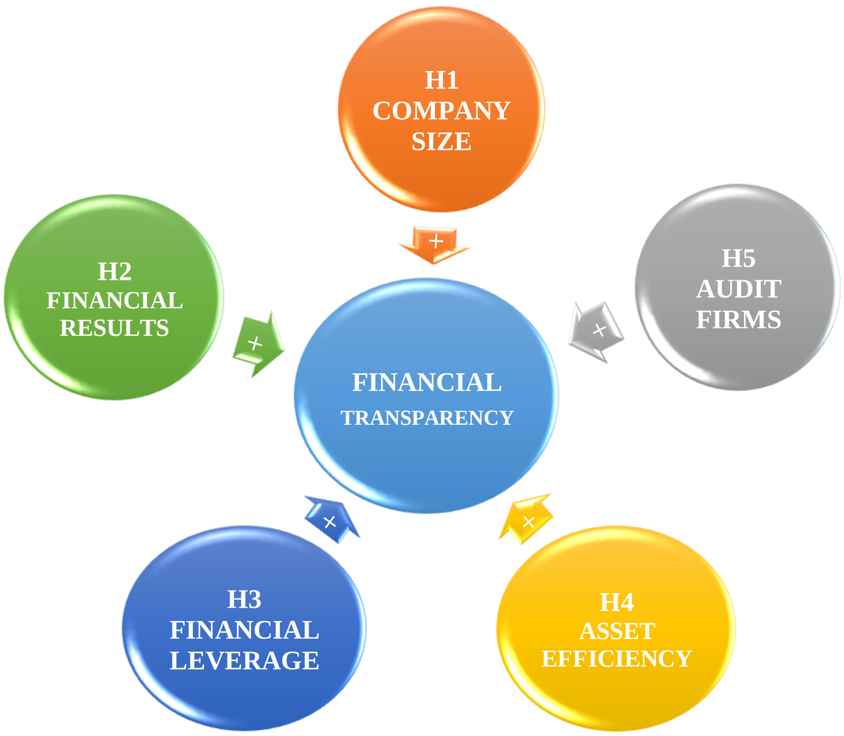

Figure 2: Study model

On this basis, the research hypotheses were proposed as follows:

Hypothesis H1: Big-size companies had more financial transparency than small-size companies.

Hypothesis H2: Companies had higher financial leverage; their transparency extent of financial information was higher.

Hypothesis H3: Companies with good profits were willing to disclose more information than companies with low profits.

Hypothesis H4: Companies had more effective use of assets; their extent of financial information transparency was higher.

Hypothesis H5: Companies were audited by one of the Big audit firms (Big 4), their audit conclusions were based on more reliable evidence, and more information were disclosed than other companies (Non Big 4).

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA

Research data

The sample consisted of listed companies on the Ho Chi Minh Stock Exchange (HOSE). On HOSE, the market capitalization was close to805.679billion VND, representingnearly90% of the total market capitalization, the transaction value accounted for84% of the whole market. (V*ietstock.vn on July, 2013*). In addition, HOSE was the main stock market in Vietnam (IFC, 2012). It can be seen that the choice of HOSE ensured there presentation, and might reflect the operations of the Vietnamese stock market.

On HOSE, there were 308 listed companies (HOSE's website on July 10, 2013). We excluded the listed companies started in 2012 and 2013 (because of short operation time,

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

insufficient information for the research) and 23 companies in the field of banks and finance (since their financial statements were prepared in accordance with their special regulatory environment). Of the 269 companies, the researchers selected 178 listed companies to include in the sample for the formal quantitative research.

Measuring the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies on Vietnamese stock market

To survey the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies according to the investors' assessment, a survey questionnaire about the transparency extent of 178 listed companies were delivered to investors in the listed companies surveyed. The number of questionnaires delivered was 3,000 questionnaires. Number of questionnaires officially used for the study is about 1,700.

Measurement of factor influence

The measurement of factor influence was selected on the basis of inheriting the measure of the previous studies with a limited selection of formulas which were more likely to produce similar results.

Table1: Measurement of factor influence

Factor influence	Measurement	Notes
Company size (SIZE)	✓ Asset ✓ Revenue ✓ Capitalized value	Hypothesis H1
Financial leverage(LEV)	Total debt due/total asset	Hypothesis H2
Return on equity (ROE)	After-tax profit/Equity	Hypothesis H3
Asset efficiency (ASS)	Net revenue/total asset	Hypothesis H4
Audit firms (AUD)	Big 4 or Non Big 4	Hypothesis H5

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

The assessments of the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies.

- ***The credibility and value of the scale of transparency of financial information of listed companies.***

The scale was designed to assess the extent of financial information transparency according to the investors' viewswith17questions. After3 times running Cronbach α, the results were shown in Table 2.

Table 2: Result of evaluating the reliability of scales – After running Cronbachα for three times

Reliability Statistics

Cronbach's Alpha (α)	The number of items
.78	13

Table 2 showed that the scale of financial information transparency of listed companies was composed by 13 observed variables after the third analysis with coefficient α = 0.78> 0.6 ensuring the necessary reliability. In addition, the correlation coefficients of the variables with total of remaining variables were >0.3. In general, the scale (including 13 questions) had enough reliability and a pretty good basis to measure transparency extent of financial information of listed companies in the research.

Results assessing the scale value* - exploratory factor *analysis (EFA)

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

Next, the authors continued to carry out the exploratory factor analysis (EFA) to determine the focused questions to clarify the assessments of the transparency extent of companies in the sample. In addition, EFA was carried out to determine whether the questions clarified each characteristics and concept of financial information transparency or not. The results were shown in Table 3.

Table 3: The test results of KMO and Bartlett's Test and evaluating scale value of transparency extent

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy	**.752**
Sig.	**.000**
Extracted variance	**70.883%**
Eigen-value	**4.530**

From Table 3: KMO was to test conditions of carrying out EFA that were satisfactory: KMO coefficient= 0.752> 0.5 and Sig. = .000 <0.05 with high significance level. Thus, EFA was appropriate to be implemented for these factors. In the next table, there were four factors that were extracted with a total extracted variance of 70.883% >60%. This showed that the overall scale that contributed to measurement of the transparency extent of the listed companies' financial information was larger than private parts and error. This proved that scales were a good explanation for measuring transparency extent of financial information of listed companies. In terms of load of observed variables, all observed variables had load factors varying from 0.467 to 0.984 (> 0.4).

- ***Descriptive statistics results***

Table 4 showed the statistic results of financial information transparency extent of listed companies in the research samples. The average of transparency extent of listed companies was 3.7 points, a fair good point. The gap between companies with the lowest transparency extent and the highest ones was pretty far.

A Deep analysis of transparency characteristics showed that the characteristics of completeness, consistency, reliability, timeliness and convenience of financial information had an average point similar to a general transparency extent, at a fair good point. However, the accuracy of the information had an average point that did not equal remaining characteristics, at a fair good point.

Table 4: Transparency extent of financial information of listed companies in the research samples

Variables (N = 178)	Minimum	Maximum	Mean
Transparency extent	2.8	4.4	3.72
Completeness - Consistency (Component A & B)	3.00	4.75	3.77
Accuracy (Component C)	1.50	4.75	3.57
Reliability (Component D)	1.00	5.00	3.70
Timeliness and convenience (Component E)	2.90	4.46	3.77

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

Testing of the research model

Hypothesis testing

The method of hypothesis testing was presented in Table 5as follows

Table 5: Summary of analysis technique and testing method of research hypotheses

No.	Variables	Measured variables	Hypothesis	Testing method
1	**Company size**	SIZE_1: Market value; SIZE_2: Total Asset SIZE_3: Total revenue	H1	The Pearson correlation coefficient Testing
2	**Financial leverage**	DEBT: Total Financial leverage	H2	The Pearson correlation coefficient Testing
3	**Return on equity**	ROE: Return on equity	H3	The Pearson correlation coefficient Testing
4	**Asset efficiency**	ASS: Total asset turnover	H4	The Pearson correlation coefficient Testing
5	**Audit firms**	AUD: Big 4 or Non_Big 4	H5	Independent T-test

Results of hypothesis testing

As stated above, the research mainly used parameter testing to perform hypothesis testing. Results of testing were presented as follows:

Hypothesis of size (H1)

Parameters and non-parameters testing was conducted with correlation coefficient of Pearson and Spearman with the results presented in Table 6as follows.

As shown in Table 6, results of correlation testing of size variable showed that Log Capitalized Value, Log Total Asset and Log Revenue had a positive correlation. However, only variable of Log Total Asset had correlation coefficient = 0.074 <0.1; significance was at 10%. Therefore, hypothesis H1 was only temporarily accepted with the reliability of 90% in the event that size was measured by total asset. That meant it could be initially concluded that there was a relationship between the transparency extent and the company size. This result was consistent with the results by Archambault (2003), Bushman et al (2004) and Cheung et al. (2006).

Table 6: Correlation of company size with the transparency extent

Variable		Log Capitalized value	Log Total Asset	Log Revenue
Parameter testing	Pearson correlation	0.018	0.109	0.03
	Sig. (1-tailed)	0.407	**0.074***	0.343
(*):*Correlation was in the sense of 5%*				

The financial leverage hypothesis (H2)

With parameters testing, this model conducted Pearson correlation coefficient and the results were presented in Table 7.

Table 7: Correlation between Financial Leverage Variable and transparency extent

Variables		Financial Leverage
Parameter Testing	Pearson correlation	0,133*
	Sig. (1-tailed)	**0,038**
(*): *Correlation was in the sense of 5%*		

It can be seen from Table 7 that there was a positive correlation between the financial leverage and transparency extent with a sense at 5%. Therefore, hypothesis H1 was accepted with reliability of 95%. It is concluded that companies had greater financial

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

leverage, the higher the extent of financial information transparency was. This result was consistent with the findings by Ahmed and Courtis (1999), Jaggi and Low (2000).

Hypothesis of Return on Equity (H3)

Pearson correlation coefficient was conducted in the parameter testing of the relationship between profit and the transparency extent with results presented in Table 8as follows:

Table 8: Correlation of ROE with the transparency extent

Variable		ROE
Parameter testing	Pearson correlation	0.117*
	Sig. (1-tailed)	**0.055**
*(*):*Correlation was in the sense of *5%*		

Table 8 showed that there was a positive correlation between ROE and the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies. At the significance of 10%, the Pearson correlation coefficient between ROE and the transparency extent was 0.055<0.1: meaningful correlation. Therefore, hypothesis H3: "Companies with good profits were willing to disclose more information than companies with low profits" was temporarily accepted. This result was consistent with the results of Lang and Lundholm (1993), Khanna et al. (2004).

Hypothesis of asset efficiency(H4)

Parameter testing on the correlation between asset efficiency and transparency was performed; Pearson coefficient results were shown in Table 9 as follows:

Table 9: Correlation of efficient use of assets with the transparency extent

Variables		Asset efficiency
Parameter testing	Pearson correlation	-0.154*
	Sig. (1-tailed)	**0.02**
*(*):*Correlation was in the sense of *5%*		

As showed Table 9,there was inverse correlation between asset efficiency and transparency extent with the value of Sig = 0.02<0.05: explanatory significance. There was a relationship between asset efficiency and transparency but it was inverse correlation meaning that it was in contrast with the hypothesis H4. This was inconsistent with the hypothesis H4. In other words the hypothesis H4 was refused.

Audit firm hypothesis(H5)

For this hypothesis (testing between quantitative and qualitative variables), the testing was conducted through the intermediary hypothesis:

Hypothesis H5a: *Transparency extent of companies audited by large audit firms (Big 4) and the companies audited by other audit firms (Non Big 4) are the same.*

Parameter testing was carried out by testing differences of Independent T-test; the results were shown in Table 10.

ISBN 978-602-17225-8-8

Table 10: Testing the differences between variables of companies audited by Big 4 and companies audited by Non Big 4 with transparency extent

Descriptive statistics				
Audit firms		Quantity	Average	
Non Big 4		129	**3.691**	
Big 4		49	**3.824**	
Transparency extent				
Levene Testing	Equal variances assumed	T-test	Equal variances not assumed	
Sig.	**.046**	Sig. (2-tailed)	**.002**	

The value of Sig. = 0.046 <0.05 of the Levene testing showed that the variance between the two types of audit firms are different. The t-test at the Equal variances had value Sig. = 0.002 <0.05 so hypothesis H5a is rejected, which means *"Transparency extent of companies audited by large audit firms (Big 4) and the companies audited by other audit firms (Non Big 4) are not the same".*

In addition, reviewing descriptive statistics: average values of transparency extent of companies audited by Big 4 are always larger than ones audited by Non Big 4. Therefore, H5 was accepted. This result was consistent with the findings by Fargher et al. (2001), Archambault (2003).

In conclusion, the following hypothesis was accepted:

(1) ***Hypothesis H1:*** *Big-size companies had more financial transparency than small-size companies.*

(2) ***Hypothesis H2:*** *Companies had higher financial leverage; their transparency extent of financial information was higher.*

(3) ***Hypothesis H3:*** *Companies with good profits were willing to disclose more information than companies with low profits.*

(4) ***Hypothesis H5:*** *Companies were audited by one of the Big audit firms (Big 4), their audit conclusions were based on more reliable evidence, and more information were disclosured than other companies (Non Big 4).*

Findings discussions

Testing results of the correlation coefficient between the dependent variables and each independent variable had an explanatory meaning. Thus, it could be concluded that there was a relationship between the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies with factors such as company size, financial leverage, return on equity and audit firms (Big 4 or Non Big 4). From the foresaid results, some discussions are provided as as follows:

- ***For the size of the company***: This factor is significant when the size is measured by total assets which shows that the companies have bigger size, they have more conditions for investing costs for a good accounting organization and information system establishment for the disclosure. The big-size companies tend to have larger investment firms than small-size ones since the information they published is usually more sensitive with more scrutiny from the public, investors and the government. Therefore, information they published are often paid more attention from analysts, financial experts and their financial statements are more likely to be scrutinized more carefully than those of small-size companies. In a

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8

nutshell, the companies with big size are forced to have more information transparency than companies with small size.

➢ ***For the financial leverage***: Many listed companies on the stock market, usually joint-stock companies, their debts mainly borrowed from banks or credit organizations. When they loan, one of the most important requirements that the credit department of the bank requires is that companies provide financial statements with full information. Thus, the firms with high debt ratio in the capital structure will receive more supervision of the involved parties than the businesses operating primarily inequity. According to the agency theory (Jensen & Meckling, 1976), agency costs will increase in correspondence with the debts in the capital structure of the company. Managers will persuade creditors to loan by disclosing more information to reduce interest expenses. Therefore, companies often try to create a financial information transparency in order to reduce the supervision cost of creditors and limit debt recovery or continue new loans.

➢ ***For factor of return on equity***: The companies with high profit would be willing to disclose more information. The companies that have a good profit will disclose more information so that their managers have the opportunity to enjoy more benefits from shareholders or receive bonuses from shareholders or to maintain their position(Jensen & Meckling, 1976). Furthermore, the companies with high profits often disclose much informative to attract the attention of the market and potential investors, and the value of their stocks will go up. Meanwhile, companies with low profits often published less information in order to conceal the reasons or inefficient operating status if profits are low. In addition, according to the theory of asymmetric information (Akerlof, 1970; Kyle, 1985), when listed companies have a healthy financial position, good business results and investment prospects they will actively provide more information to shareholders which is a signal to the market for investors to distinguish from good and bad stocks.

➢ ***For factor of audit firm***s: Correlation between audit firm factor and transparency extent of financial information shows that large audit firms try to build their reputation and quality as well as improve the usefulness of the financial statements by requiring their customers give more information. Choosing a large and prestigious audit firm is a method to reduce the cost of capital - agency cost and to increase supervisory role for behaviors that managers can do to adjust information for their benefits. Financial statements audited by a large and prestigious audit firm are reliable for information seekers due to the imbalance information between inside and outside objects of company (Akerlof, 1970; Kyle, 1985).

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The study results showed that, under the evaluations of investors, financial information transparency extent of listed companies on Vietnamese stock market only achieved a fair good extent. Upon judgment of investors, there were companies that were highly evaluated in term of transparency by investors, but there was lack of companies' transparency. The gap between companies with the lowest transparency extent and the highest ones was fairly far. This showed that there was uneven transparency extent of listed companies. Among the features that create financial information transparency, accuracy is the most underrated compared to characteristics of completeness, consistency, reliability, timeliness and convenience.

ISBN 978-602-17225-8-8

The correlation testing results showed that the factors reflecting the financial characteristics such as company size, financial leverage, return on equity, audit firm influenced on the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies on the Vietnamese stock market.

The influence of factors such as company size, financial leverage, return on equity, audit firm influenced on the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies is evidence and confirms the significance of the agency theory or further explanation of the meaning of asymmetric information in term of the Vietnamese stock market. The results also provided evidence of managers' Opportunism (when profit is high they are willing to provide information, whereas if the profit is low they tend not to disclose or not to provide the information transparency to concealed for inefficient operation which makes the profit fall). The results also confirmed the supervision of managers and creditors had an interaction: enhancing the supervision would make the process of information disclosure better and information transparency increase. The audit firms were also a positive factor in increasing the transparency extent of financial information of listed companies; therefore, the control of audit quality is an important factor in the process of finding a solution to the promotion of transparency from listed companies. In addition, the survey results also showed that Vietnamese audit firms were also highly appreciated. The gap in the average extent of transparency between the groups of listed companies audited by Big 4 and ones audited by Non Big 4 was not too large. This could be said that investors also had certain credibility to the auditing results of the audit firms outside Big 4. Therefore, the Vietnamese audit companies need to improve their quality of auditing in order to further improve the public trust in the audit results they performed. The study results also showed that company size had influences so the State Security Commission of Vietnam and the Ministry of Finance should periodically review the size criteria of companies to be listed on the stock market in the direction of increasing the size criteria since the research results indicated that only big enough listed companies can consider the benefits and expenses of investing in the good development and organization of accounting and supervision activities in order to improve/perfect the process of information disclosure.

References

Ahmed, K., & Courtis, J. K. (1999),"Associations between corporate characteristics and disclosure levels in annual reports: a meta-analysis", *British Accounting Review*, Vol.31, pp. 35–61.

Archambault, J., & Archambault, E. (2003),"A multinational test of determinants of corporate disclosure", *The International Journal of Accounting* 38 (2003), 173–194. Huntington, WV 25755, USA.

Basle Committee on Banking Supervision. (1998), Transparency Sub-group of the Basle Committee on Banking Supervision, *Enhancing Bank Transparency*, available at: http://www.bis.org/publ/bcbs41.pdf. (Accessed 14 March 2012).

Bushman R.,Piotroski J., Smith A. (2001a; 2004b), "What Determines Corporate Transparency?", Journal of Accounting Research 42, 207–252.

Cheung, S. L., Connelly, J. T., Limpaphayom, P., Zhou, L., (2005),"Determinants of Corporate Disclosure and Transparency: Evidence from Hong Kong and Thailand Determinants of Corporate Disclosure and Transparency", available at: www.scholar.google.com(Accessed 14 October 2012).

Fama. (1980),"Agency Problems and the Theory of the Firm", *The Journal of Political Economy*, 88(2), 288-307.

Fargher, N., Taylor, M., Simon, D. (2001),"The demand for auditor reputation across international markets for audit services", *International Journal of Accounting*, 36(4), 407–421.

ISBN 978-602-17725-8-8

Geogre, A. (1970),"The market for lemon: quality uncertainly and the market mechanism",*Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 1984,available at:<https://www.iei.liu.se/nek/730g83/artiklar/1.328833/AkerlofMarketforLemons.pdf> (Accessed 14 October 2013).

International Finance Corporation (World Bank Group), (2004),*OECD Corporate Governance Principles*.

International Finance Corporation. (2012), "Corporate Governance Scorecard 2012", *Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20433*, United State of American.

Jaggi & Low. (2000), "Impact of culture, market forces, and legal system on financial disclosures",*International Journal of Accounting*, 35(4), 495–519.

Jensen and Meckling. (1976). "Theory of the Firm: Managerial Behavior, Agency Costs and Ownership Structure",*Journal of financial Economics,* V. 3, No. 4, p. 305-360.

Khanna et al. (2004), "Disclosure practices of foreign companies interacting with U.S. markets", *Journal of Accounting Research* 42, pp.475-508.

Kulzick, Raymond S. (2004), "Sarbanes-Oxley (2004): Effects on financial transparency", *Society for the Advancement of Management,* Volume: 69(1)/2004.

Kyle A. (1985),"Continuous auctions and insider trading", *Econometrica* 53,pp 1315-1336.

Lang and Lundholm. (1993), "Cross—sectional determinants of analysts ratings of corporate disclosure"*, Journal of Accounting Research*, 31, pp.246-271.

Lin, Y. C., Huang, Shaio Y., Chang, Y. F., & Tseng, C. H. (2007),"The Relationship Between Information Transparency And The Informativeness Of Accounting Earnings", *Journal of Applied Business Research*, 2007 3rd Quarter, Vol. 23 Issue 3, pp.23.

Meek & Gray. (1995),"Factors influencing voluntary annual report disclosures by U.S., U.K., and continental European multinational corporations", *Journal of International Business Studies*, 26(3), 555–572.

Nikki McKean-Wood and Christine Koblun. (2013),"Global Reporting Initiative: Sustainability Reporting", Global Reporting Initiative - Financial Services Sector Supplement, ***Association of Chartered Certified Accountants***, Ho Chi Minh City, Viet Nam, 27 June 2013.

Nivra. (2008),"The non-financial information in progress. *A guide to the reporting and assurance of non-financial information in the public sector", NIVRA's NFI project*, available at: <http://www.accountant.nl/readfile.aspx?ContentID=67102&ObjectID=912087&Type=1&File=0000035411_Nonfinancial_information_in_progress.pdf>(Accessed 14 October 2013).

Standard & Poor's, (2002),"Transparency and Disclosure: Overview of Methodology and Study Result", *United States*, available at:<http://people.stern.nyu.edu/adamodar/pdfiles/articles/S&Pdisclosure.pdf> (Accessed 10 December 2013).

Vishwanath, T. & Kaufmann, D., (1999), "Towards transparency in finance and governance",*The World Bank.*

Wallace, R. S. Olusegun, Naser, K., Mora, A. (1994), "The relationship between the comprehensiveness of corporate annual reports and firm characteristics in Spain", *Accounting and Business Research*, 25(97), P.41–53.

Zarb B. (2006), "The Quest for Transparency in Financial Reporting: Certified Public Accountant", *The CPA Journal* 76.9(Sep 2006), pp. 30-33.

Zarzeski, M. T. (1996),"Spontaneous harmonization effects of culture and market forces on accounting disclosure practices", *Accounting Horizons*, 10 (1), pp.18–37.

Zhou, H. (2007),"Auditing standards increased accounting disclosure, and information asymmetry: Evidence from an emerging market", *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy* 26, pp. 584–620.

ISBN 978-602-19725-8-8