

The Relationship Between Firm Characteristics And Level of Corporate Social Responsibility Disclosure in Libyan Banks

BY

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is my original work except for quotations and citations which have been duly acknowledged and that it has not been previously or concurrently submitted for any other degree at University Utara Malaysia.

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of the study is to examine the relationship between bank characteristics which include bank size, ownership and profitability and level of corporate social responsibility disclosure in Libyan banks. This study employs the quantitative approach to examine the relationship between bank characteristics and the level of CSR disclosure in Libyan banks.

This study found that firm's characteristics influence the level of CSR disclosure information. Bank size, ownership and profitability were found to be positively significant associated with the corporate social responsibility (CSR) disclosure. This study provides crucial information for the understanding the benefit of CSR disclosure in the annual report in Libyan banks and extends the knowledge derived from previous studies in developing countries, especially Libya.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

Corporate social responsibility (CSR) has variously been described as a ‘motherhood issue’ (Ryan 2002) ‘the hot business issue of the naughtiest’ (Blyth, 2005) and ‘the talk of the town in corporate circles these days’ (Mees & Bonham, 2004). There are to be an infinite number of definitions of CSR, ranging from the simplistic to the complex, and a range of associated terms and ideas including ‘corporate sustainability, corporate citizenship, corporate social investment, the triple bottom line, socially responsible investment, business sustainability and corporate governance’ (Prime Minister's Community Business Partnership, 2007). There is one and only one social responsibility of business – to use its resources and engage in activities designed to increase its profits so long as it stays within the rules of the game, which is to say, engage in open and free competition, without deception or fraud. (Friedman & Turner 2006).

In July 2001, a Green Paper Promoting a European Framework for Corporate Social responsibility presented by the Commission of the European Communities provides a wider definition of CSR as a concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operation and in their interaction with their stakeholders on a voluntary base as they are increasingly aware that responsible behavior leads to sustainable business success.

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