

**ACC3616 Corporate Governance and Risk Management
(Semester 2, AY2016/2017)**

Teaching Team

Name	Role	Email	Office
A/P Mak Yuen Teen (MYT)	Lecturer	bizmakyt@nus.edu.sg	BIZ1 7-27
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Time and Venue:

Section	Time	Venue
A1	8 am -11 am on Thursdays	BIZ2 413B
A2	2-5 pm on Fridays	BIZ1 0204
A3	2- 5 pm on Thursdays	BIZ2 0201

Workload (hours per week):*

Seminar (Lecture/Case presentations):	3
Project, tutorial assignments, etc:	4
Preparatory work :	6

Modular Credits: 4

Pre-requisites: ACC1002 Financial Accounting
BSP1004 Legal Environment of Business

*Classes will consist of one three-hour session per week. Eight of the classes will be a combination of lecture and case presentations by students. The last week of classes will be for presentation of the case projects.

AIM

There are many definitions of corporate governance. One definition states that corporate governance involves “a set of relationships between a company’s management, its board, its shareholders and other stakeholders [and that which] provides the structure through which the objectives of the company are set, and the means of attaining those objectives and monitoring performance are determined” (OECD Principles of Corporate Governance, 2004). This module covers corporate governance from a multi-disciplinary perspective, including law, finance, accounting and economics; discusses the board’s responsibility over the governance of risk in the corporate governance process. Board consequently needs companies to have a sound enterprise risk management framework in place, supported by an adequate and effective system of internal control to address the key category of risks such as financial, operational, information technology and compliance risks. This module will discuss what an enterprise risk management framework entails, such as in risk assessment, and the key control principles practised in organisations. It will also discuss business ethical standards and the key business ethics programs found in organisations.

OBJECTIVES

- To enable students to understand the conceptual framework and key rules, regulations, and guidelines governing the corporate governance of companies in Singapore and internationally.
- To enable students to understand the impact the global forces, such as multilateral organisations, foreign governments, multinational corporations and global investors, on corporate governance
- To equip students with knowledge of key corporate governance practices, issues and challenges that is relevant to accountants, corporate executives and other industry professionals involved in corporate governance-related work
- To equip students with the knowledge of the board's responsibility over the governance of risk in organisations, and how enterprise risk management framework supports the board in the discharge of their responsibilities.
- To equip students with the knowledge of the key enterprise risk management process such as risk assessment and risk responses, and knowledge of internal control principles which are essential in providing a sound internal control environment.
- To enable students to understand ethical, corruption and fraud risks in Singapore and the region, and the role and limitations of anti-fraud, bribery and corruption programmes in mitigating these risks

POSITION OF THE MODULE IN THE OVERALL SYLLABUS

This module builds on and complements students' knowledge and understanding acquired through the several accounting modules (such as Financial Accounting and Assurance and Attestation), finance modules such as corporate finance and investments, and modules on the legal environment of business and corporate and securities laws.

LEARNING APPROACH

Corporate governance and risk management are very practical subjects. Companies and various stakeholders deal with corporate governance issues on a daily basis. In this module, students will be exposed to both the theory and practice of corporate governance. In addition to textbook readings and journal articles, many practical examples of corporate governance practices and issues will be discussed to ensure that students' knowledge is grounded in practice. Extensive use will be made of media articles and commentaries. The practical approach is reinforced through the involvement of lecturers and speakers who have extensive practical experience, videos/case studies involving real corporate governance issues, and projects requiring students to develop hands-on understanding of the corporate governance of companies.

ASSESSMENT

Group project: 30%^{*,**}

Class/tutorial participation (10%) and tutorial presentation (10%): 20%

Final test (open book): 50%^{***}

*Written group project report and powerpoint for presentation of project due on Mon, 10 Apr, 5 pm

**Presentation of group project in week beginning 10 Apr

*** Date and time to be confirmed

Please note that dates are subject to change.

KEY AREAS OF THE SYLLABUS

- Alternative “models” of corporate governance globally
- Forces impacting corporate governance of companies
- Internal and external governance mechanisms
- The corporate governance regulatory framework in Singapore (with some comparisons with other major countries)
- Singapore Code of Corporate Governance
- Corporate governance framework and key corporate governance issues in listed companies
- Key regulatory and governance issues in foreign listings, financial institutions, real estate investment trusts and business trusts
- Corporate governance framework of a listed company and the key players
- Roles and composition of board of directors and key board practices
- Executive and director remuneration
- The role of internal control and risk management in corporate governance
- Ethics, fraud, bribery and corruption
- Tone at the top, codes of conduct and whistleblowing
- Role and limitations of anti-fraud and anti-corruption programmes

PRESCRIBED TEXT

Corporate Governance Case Studies, edited by Mak Yuen Teen, CPA Australia (<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au>; <http://www.governanceforstakeholders.com>)

Corporate Governance Case Studies: Volume Two, edited by Mak Yuen Teen, CPA Australia (<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au>; <http://www.governanceforstakeholders.com>)

Corporate Governance Case Studies: Volume Three, edited by Mak Yuen Teen, CPA Australia (<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au>; <http://www.governanceforstakeholders.com>)

Corporate Governance Case Studies, Volume Four, edited by Mak Yuen Teen, CPA Australia (<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au>; <http://www.governanceforstakeholders.com>)

Corporate Governance Case Studies, Volume Five, edited by Mak Yuen Teen, CPA Australia (<http://www.cpaaustralia.com.au>; <http://www.governanceforstakeholders.com>)

Note: The above prescribed texts are available for free download from the above websites. Prescribed readings from them will be in the form of selected case studies used for class presentations and discussion.

SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS

Corporate Governance: Principles, Policies, and Practices, Bob Tricker, 2012, 2nd Edition, Oxford.

Corporate Governance Matters, D. Larcker and B. Tayan. 2015, 2nd Edition, Pearson.

Risk Governance Guidance for Listed Boards, Corporate Governance Council, 10 May 2012, Singapore

Note: The first two supplementary books are available in the library. Students are not required to purchase these books. The third book is available for download online.

OTHER SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS

As recommended for each topic

DETAILED SYLLABUS

1. Introduction and overview

- a. What is corporate governance and why is it important?
- b. Key corporate governance mechanisms
- c. Shareholder versus stakeholder models
- d. Key differences in corporate governance around the world

2. Corporate governance regulatory approaches, regulatory framework, rules and enforcement

- a. Regulatory approaches to corporate governance
- b. Overview of the corporate governance regulatory framework and key sources of CG rules
- c. The Singapore Code of Corporate Governance
- d. The “comply or explain” approach
- e. Implementation and enforcement of corporate governance rules

3. Overview of corporate governance issues in listed companies

- a. Corporate governance framework of a listed company and the role of key players
- b. Corporate governance challenges for different types of companies
- c. Corporate governance issues for foreign listings

4. Board of directors

- a. Board powers, duties and responsibilities
- b. Board composition – competencies and independence
- c. Board diversity
- d. Board leadership
- e. Board size
- f. Board committees
- g. Other key corporate governance practices

5. Executive and director remuneration

- a. Overview of rules, principles and guidelines
- b. Structure (mix) of executive remuneration
- c. Performance measures
- d. Different types of performance-based remuneration
- e. Risks associated with pay for performance
- f. Non-executive director remuneration

6. Responsibility of the board over the governance of risk

- a. Board responsibility over the governance of risk
- b. Board risk governance framework and SGX Listing Rules requirements
- c. Role of audit and risk committees
- d. Role of internal audit and external audit functions
- e. Integrated assurance

7. Enterprise Risk Management

- a. Internal control principles and enterprise risk management
- b. Risk management standards and ERM frameworks
- c. Overview of COSO ERM and integrated internal control frameworks
- d. Risk definitions – risk appetite, risk tolerance, and key categories of risks
- e. Risk management structure in organisations and the lines of defence

8. Risk management process

- a. Establishing the right tone from the top
- b. Establishing the context and objectives
- c. Risk identification, analysis and evaluation
- d. Risk mapping and prioritisation

9. Risk management process

- a. Understanding the concept of gross risks and residual risks
- b. Responding and treatment of risks
- c. Risk management tools and techniques

10. Control Activities

- a. Objectives of internal control
- b. Principles applicable to control activities, information and communication, and monitoring of controls
- c. Different types of internal controls
- d. Red flags and key risk indicators

11. Corporate Culture and Ethics

- a. Business ethics and risk culture
- b. Ethic values in the enterprise risk management framework
- c. Business ethics issues confronting organisations
- d. Business ethics programs in organisations

BIOGRAPHIES OF INSTRUCTORS

A/P Mak Yuen Teen

Mak Yuen Teen was founding director of the Corporate Governance and Financial Reporting Centre (CGFRC) and is Associate Professor of Accounting. In the last few years, he has held the position of Asia-Pacific Research Director in Watson Wyatt (now Towers Watson), a global consulting firm, and also the position of Head of Research at KPMG Singapore. He holds First Class Honours, Masters and PhD degrees in accounting and finance and is a fellow of CPA Australia.

Prof Mak served as Chairman of SATA CommHealth and was also Deputy Chairman of the National Kidney Foundation, joining the board after the NKF scandal before retiring at the end of 2011. He served as a member of the audit advisory committee of the United Nations Population Fund based in New York between 2006 and 2012, and is currently a member of the audit advisory committee of UN Women, also based in New York.

Prof Mak was a member of the Corporate Governance Committee which released Singapore's first Code of Corporate Governance for listed companies, and was a member of the Council on Corporate Disclosure and Governance (the predecessor of the Accountancy Standards Council) which set accounting standards and revised the Code in Singapore in 2005. He was a member of the Charity Council from its establishment in late 2006 until completing 3 terms in early 2013. Prof Mak chaired the subcommittee that developed and revised the code of governance for charities.

Prof Mak developed the Governance and Transparency Index (GTI) which rates the corporate governance of listed companies in Singapore, published by the Business Times, and was the Singapore expert on a project to develop an ASEAN corporate governance scorecard and ranking, which is driven by the regional securities regulators. He has chaired the investor relations award under the Singapore Corporate Awards organised by Business Times and the Singapore Exchange from its inception in 2006 until 2014. He is also a member of the Charity Governance Awards judging panel and the advisor to the Charity Council on the development of Charity Transparency Framework. He is also advisor for a new governance evaluation rating for listed SMEs in Singapore.

His report on improving the implementation of corporate governance practices in Singapore, commissioned by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and Singapore Exchange, was published in June 2007. He recently led a project on gender diversity in boards and senior management of Singapore companies and statutory boards, commissioned by the government, and made a number of recommendations to the Diversity Task Force. His book "From Conformance to Performance: Best Corporate Governance Practices for Asian Companies" was published by McGraw-Hill in 2005. He has published a primer on governance for social enterprises in Singapore commissioned by the Social Enterprise Association, and edits an annual collection of corporate governance case studies published by CPA Australia. In 2014, he was given the Corporate Governance Excellence Award by the Securities Investors Association (Singapore) [SIAS] for his contributions to corporate governance, and is only the second individual in the 15-year history of SIAS to receive the award. In 2015, he received an award from the Minority Shareholders Watchdog Group of Malaysia for his contributions to raising corporate governance standards in the region.

A/P Paul C G Gwee

To be added later

DETAILED LECTURE AND TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

Class	Week beginning	Lecture/Tutorial	Lecturer	Topics
1	9 January	Lecture	MYT	Lecture topic: Introduction and overview
2	16 January	Lecture	MYT	Lecture topic: Corporate governance regulatory approaches, regulatory framework, rules and enforcement
3	23 January	Lecture	MYT	Lecture topic: Corporate governance regulatory approaches, regulatory framework, rules and enforcement
4	30 January	Lecture/ Case presentations	MYT	Lecture topic: Board of directors Case presentations
5	6 February	Lecture/ Case presentations	MYT	Lecture topic: Board of directors Case presentations
6	13 February	Lecture/ Case presentations	MYT	Lecture topic: Executive and director remuneration Case presentations
Recess Week – 18 – 26 February				
7	27 February	Lecture/Case presentations	MYT	Lecture topic: Executive and director remuneration Case presentations
8	6 March	Lecture	PG	Lecture topic: Introduction to risk management/Board risk governance
9	13 March	Lecture/ Case presentations	PG	Lecture topic: Enterprise risk management Case presentations
10	20 March	Lecture/ Case presentations	PG	Lecture topic: Risk management process Case presentations
11	27 March	Lecture/ Case presentations	PG	Lecture topic: Control activities Case presentations
12	3 April	Lecture/ Case presentations	PG	Lecture topic: Corporate culture and ethics Case presentations
13	10 April	Presentations of Group Project	MYT/PG	Group project presentations