

**Disclosure of Environmental Information on
Annual Reports of Listed Companies in
the Stock Exchange of Thailand**

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Declaration

I, Muttanachai Suttipun, certify that the work completed is mine alone, that this work has not been submitted previously to qualify for an academic award, that the content of this study is the result of work which has been carried out since the official commencement date of the approved research programme, that any editorial work undertaken by a third party is acknowledged, and guidelines have been followed.

Muttanachai Suttipun

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Thesis Related Research Outcomes

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Abstract

While there are few articles about environmental disclosures by companies in Thailand, two such studies did find a contrasting pattern in Thai corporate environmental disclosures. Neither study discovered the underlying factors that trigger environmental disclosures in Thai corporate annual reports. Therefore, the purpose of this study was to investigate environmental disclosures in Thai corporate annual reports, and to test for possible relationships between environmental disclosures in annual reports and a variety of factors.

The population of this study was all companies listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand (SET) from 1997 to 2007. Content analysis by word count was used to investigate and measure environmental information contained in 75 sampled annual reports over the decade. McNemar's test, the Generalized Linear Model, the Paired T-test, and the Repeated Measure Model in SPSS statistics were used in the analysis of relationships.

The study found that environmental disclosures in Thai corporate annual reports increased by both the number of companies making disclosures and the amount of disclosures over the period of 1997-2007. An increase in environmental disclosures occurred after the environmental crisis of the tsunami. Differences were found in the percentages of companies providing environmental information between large and small companies and high and low profile companies. Disclosures were most commonly located in the annual report section entitled 'corporate governance'. The most popular form of visual disclosure was the photograph. There is a positive relationship between time and size of company with the amount of environmental disclosures.

Even though the study was subject to a number of limitations, it is the first one to investigate the factors influencing environmental disclosures by Thai listed companies and the effect of an environmental crisis on disclosures. Further study is suggested to explore corporate environmental disclosures in other media such as web sites or stand-alone reports, as well as the reasons for providing environmental information.