

ABSTRACT

Environmental sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region—particularly in developing countries—has become increasingly urgent due to escalating ecological pressures and the limited institutional and financial capacities of public corporations. This dissertation aims to evaluate the influence of corporate governance (CG), financial performance (FP), and the implementation of Environmental Management Accounting (EMA) on the environmental performance (EP) of publicly listed companies in Asia-Pacific developing countries over the 2013–2022 period. The study integrates three key theoretical frameworks—stakeholder theory, legitimacy theory, and the resource-based view (RBV)—to construct a comprehensive conceptual and empirical model.

Utilizing panel data from 596 firms across 21 developing countries reporting Environmental Accounting Cost (EAC), the study measures CG using the Corporate Governance Disclosure Score (CGDS), FP using Return on Assets (ROA), and EMA through three objective proxies: EAC, ISO 14001 certification, and the existence of environmental committees. Panel data regression with a Fixed Effects Model is employed, complemented by mediation analysis and robustness testing.

The findings reveal that sound corporate governance has a significantly positive effect on environmental performance, both directly and through the mediating role of EMA. Likewise, strong financial performance enhances a company's ability to adopt EMA systems, which in turn improves environmental outcomes. EMA is shown to serve as a strategic capability that bridges economic and social interests within corporate strategy.

This study offers important theoretical contributions by confirming that corporate sustainability is driven not only by external pressures but also by internal organizational strength. Practically, the findings provide actionable recommendations for firms and policymakers to strengthen governance systems, integrate EMA into strategic management, and develop ESG-based regulatory incentives. Moreover, this research fills a literature gap by offering empirical evidence from developing countries—contexts that remain underrepresented in global sustainability scholarship.

Keywords : *Corporate Governance; Financial Performance; Environmental Management Accounting; Environmental Performance; Asia-Pacific*