**Centre for Corporate Governance Research Conference Report**

10th International Conference on Corporate Governance: ‘Corporate Governance and Universal Acceptance: Taking Stock of Progress and Indicators of Future Trends’, 25th June 2012

**Introduction**

The Centre for Corporate Governance Research (CCGR) hosted its 10th International Conference on Corporate Governance: ‘Corporate Governance and Universal Acceptance: Taking Stock of Progress and Indicators of Future Trends’ on 25th June 2012.

The theme of this year’s conference examined the extent to which there is universal acceptance of corporate governance and included papers which discussed developments in some of the key areas of corporate governance. The Conference attracted widespread interest and conference delegates came from many countries across the globe, including India, the Netherlands, Canada, Portugal, Spain, United Arab Emirates, Hong Kong, Germany, and Japan to name but a few.

**Keynote Plenary Session**

The conference presentations covered a wide range of corporate governance areas. Three distinguished speakers presented in the keynote plenary session:

Julia Casson  
*Director, Board Insight Ltd*  
“Looking to the future… Corporate Governance Trends for the Next Year and Beyond”.

Chris Cowton  
*Dean, Huddersfield Business School*  
“Beyond Business: Issues in Pushing the Boundaries of the Governance Universe”.

Paul Lee  
*Director, Hermes Equity Ownership Services Ltd*  
“Universal Acceptance – the International Perspective”.
Keynote Plenary Speakers in the main lecture theatre, from left to right:
Ms Julia Casson, Professor Chris Cowton, Mr Paul Lee, Sir Adrian Cadbury.

Parallel Sessions

The parallel sessions consisted of over 20 presentations containing a wealth of papers covering many different dimensions of corporate governance:

Does country of origin matter? - An investigation into financial fraud committed by cross-listed foreign firms

The governance infrastructure of emerging market economies and the dual mode of foreign investment: A dual investor perspective

Corporate governance practices, shareholders’ rights and corporate performance in the GCC countries

Barriers to good governance in developing countries: The case of Bangladesh

Corporate performance and age diversity in board of directors

Can non-executive directors make a difference? A historical perspective

The personality of company directors and behavioural risks in corporate governance: Bridging the unidentified gap
Collibration as an alternative regulatory approach for remuneration governance: A contextual analysis of Australia

Hard or soft regulation of corporate governance?

Domestic investor protection and foreign portfolio investment

Board leadership structure and performance: A meta analysis

Golden shares in privatized firms: international evidence

The determinants of withdrawn shareholder proposals

When blockholders leave feet first: Does managerial ownership affect firm value?

Myths and realities of hedge fund activism: Empirical evidence across 25 countries

Corporate governance and firm value – Evidences from India

Contextualisation of corporate governance practice at industry level: An analysis of governance efforts in the football industry

Is it possible to prevent future audit failures? A critical analysis of the EU post-Enron law and regulations in terms of auditing

Board’s characteristics in the banking sector and the 2007-2008 financial crisis

Is audit failing the global capital markets?

The relationship between disclosure, information timeliness and corporate governance: A cross country study

Stock ownership structure and corporate social performance: Evidence from Japan

Corporate governance: A modern fantasy?
**Best Paper Prize**

There was a Best Paper Prize of £300. A Best Paper Prize Committee was established comprising Professor Bob Tricker (Honorary Professor, School of Business, the University of Hong Kong), Associate Professor Andrea Melis (University of Cagliari, Sardinia), and Professor Chris Mallin (Director Centre for Corporate Governance Research).

The Committee decided that the Best Paper Prize should be awarded to:

Dionysia Katelouzou

“**Myths and Realities of Hedge Fund Activism: Empirical Evidence Across 25 Countries**”.

The Committee felt that the standard of papers was particularly high this year and several other papers deserved ‘Highly Commended’ certificates which were awarded to:

Ahmad Ismail and Abed Al-Nasser Abdallah

“**Corporate Governance Practices, Shareholders’ Rights and Corporate Performance in the GCC Countries**”.

Lei Chen

“**Does Country of Origin Matter? An Investigation into Financial Fraud Committed by Cross-Listed Foreign Firms**”.
The Winners of the Best Paper Prize and one of the Highly Commended Papers
with Sir Adrian Cadbury from left to right:

Dionysia Katelouzou, Sir Adrian Cadbury and Lei Chen.

The conference reception was held in the Barber Institute of Fine Arts at the
University of Birmingham. The Barber Institute has been awarded the prestigious
title of “Gallery of the Year” by The Good Britain Guide. In addition to its permanent
collection of paintings by world renowned artists, the Barber featured an exhibition
titled “Facing the Music: 20th Century Portraits of British Composers”.