



ESG DISCLOSURE OF THAI LISTED COMPANIES

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Abstract

This study attempts to examine ESG disclosure for Thai listed firms. The study investigates the disclosure alternatives for ESG disclosure and the level of ESG disclosure in terms of hard and soft disclosure. The ESG disclosure Indices are based on an internationally recognized framework such as GRI. The samples were the Thai listed companies on the Stock Exchange of Thailand in 2018, with the total of 450 companies by the simple random sampling method. The statistics used for data analysis were descriptive statistics.

The results indicate that 19 percent of Thai listed firms chose to disclose ESG information on separating report such as sustainability report, while 81 percent reported in the annual registration statement (Form 56-1). By reviewing on separating reports for 30 firms, it found that the most disclosure topic for hard disclosure is the environmental performance index on energy consumption and renewables, while the least hard disclosure topic was the environmental performance index on compliance performance. In term of soft disclosure, it found that the most disclosure topic was the employee safety and health, while the least disclosure topic was the effective abolition of child labor. The mean value of ESG soft disclosure is higher than that of ESG hard disclosure, which indicates that, on average, sample companies slightly prefer soft ESG disclosure to hard ESG disclosure.

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