By Associate Professor Dr J Denoncourt

Nottingham Law School, UK

CONFERENCE THEME:

TITLE:
The Role of Corporate Governance as a Transparency Filter
to support Ethical Exploitation of Intellectual Property Rights

ABSTRACT:
Intangibles and intellectual property (IP) rights are increasingly at the epicentre of corporate governance for small and large companies. Modern corporate governance is progressively interacting and contending with the clash between commercial exploitation of IP rights and the contemporary goals of the IP system. This paper evaluates IP rights as a new theoretical dimension bubbling to the surface of traditional Anglo-American style corporate. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective, we provide concrete insights on how corporate governance can and should act as an important transparency ‘check and balance’ filter through which to clarify the nature of the commercial exploitation of IP rights. The foundation of Anglo-American corporate governance system is the timely, accurate and complete disclosure of material information, where reporting companies provide a comprehensive picture of the material risks they face. However, to be material, the issue arising must concern the company’s business prospects. Such material disclosures allow shareholders and investors to make informed investment and voting decisions on IP-related corporate social responsibility, decisions which need to balance surfing the new wave of ethical investing.