



ACCOUNTING BULLETIN

Faculty of Accountancy
UiTM Kedah



2021
Vol. 3

KOD JALUR / BARCODE

eISSN 2637-0646



9 772637 064007



ACCOUNTING BULLETIN

Faculty of Accountancy, UiTM Kedah
eISSN 2637-0646

The editorial board would like to express their heartfelt appreciation for the contributions made by the authors, co-authors and all who involved in the publication of this bulletin.

Published by: Faculty of Accountancy
Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah

Cover Designed by: Naqib Idlan Nadzri

Copyright @ 2021 Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM) Kedah.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, copied, stored in any retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission from the Rector, Universiti Teknologi MARA Kedah, 08400 Merbok, Kedah, Malaysia.

The views, opinions and technical recommendations expressed by the authors are entirely their own and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Faculty or the University.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL BOARD.....	i
FROM THE RECTOR'S DESK	ii
MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF FACULTY	iii
EDITOR'S NOTE	iv
Robotic Process Automation for Future Accountants: A Threat or Asset? <i>Wan Adibah Wan Ismail</i>	1-3
The COVID-19 Pandemic and Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs): A Humble Proposal. <i>Intan Marzita Saidon</i>	4-7
Are Millennials Whistle-blowers? <i>Nadzri Ab Ghani</i>	8-12
New Technologies: A Brief Introduction <i>Muhammad Hariz Hamid</i>	13-15
Is Tax Evasion Unethical? <i>Roshidah Safeei</i>	16-19
Integrated Reporting Epiphenomenon: Benefits and Challenges <i>Siti Sakinah Azizan</i>	20-23
Tax Auditors' Judgment and Decision Making <i>Nor Azrina Mohd Yusof</i>	24-26
ESG Reporting: Are We Ready? <i>Muhammad Hariz Hamid</i>	27-29
Accountants of the Future: What Skills will be in Demand in the Post-Pandemic Era? <i>Wan Nailah Abdullah</i>	30-32



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Enhancing Qualitative Characteristics of Useful Financial Information: Slant from Malaysian Companies Act 2016 <i>Muslimah Mohd Jamil</i>	33-35
Training Requirements of Directors in Malaysia <i>Noora'in Omar</i>	36-38
FinTech in the Post-pandemic Future <i>Wan Nailah Abdullah</i>	39-41
Contradistinction of Agency and Stewardship Theories: A Brief Discourse <i>Muslimah Mohd Jamil</i>	42-44



FinTech in the Post-pandemic Future

Wan Nailah Abdullah

Faculty of Accountancy, UiTM Kedah

wnailah@uitm.edu.my

COVID-19 pandemic has created economic crises worldwide. Despite generous aid programs provided by governments all over the world for their people, uncertainty prevails as the future economy remains a mystery. FinTech, an acronym for “financial technology”, that is used to augment, streamline, digitize or disrupt traditional financial services (Walden, 2020), is a sector that was performing great before the pandemic. FinTech is at the crossroads between surviving the crisis and abundance of opportunities in facing the future.

Current impact from the pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected various sectors in the global economy. Just like others, FinTech has also suffered financial downturn, involving retrenchment of employees, and downsizing. Increases in cost and difficulties in operation have hindered FinTech growth. Not limited to that, FinTech has also been embroiled with increasing risks of financial crime and cybercrime. In a survey, approximately 50 percent of FinTech companies have been facing adverse effects on their Statement of Financial Position (Worldbank, 2021). Nonetheless, there has been significant growth in many of the companies as well as a greater rise in demand for FinTech. Corporations, customers, and individuals have shown an increasing reliance on FinTech in dealings with their financial matters.

The pandemic has demonstrated how FinTech has proven its value in facing the financial turmoil created by the pandemic. For instance, bank and credit unions across Malaysia have been able to operate digitally when Suria KLCC was temporarily closed. Online transactions and dealings have replaced the long waiting times for accessing banks or utilities service providers.



The post-pandemic era

It is suggested that the economic recovery will appear simultaneously with brand new opportunities in favour of FinTech (Deloitte, 2020), particularly in e-commerce and digital financial services.

Digital finance

The statistics indicated that at present, 1.7 billion individuals worldwide do not use banks to keep their money (World Bank, 2021). Thus, FinTech will be the means to integrate these individuals into the global banking system. The health concern in the pandemic has made physical cash payments less practical, thus, making ways for greater digital payments and e-wallets. COVID-19 has induced cash decline due to concerns for transmission of the virus. The world's society viewed contactless as the safer way to pay, and that contactless payment will continue in post-pandemic (Summerfield, 2020). Hence, the industry is all set to integrate high-tech payments apps and systems to enable instant online payments, where businesses are increasingly integrating cashless payment systems in their operations.

Innovation and financial inclusion

Economic crisis created by COVID-19 has affected societies worldwide. However, the most affected people have been from the lower income groups. Excellent innovations turned up to lead the path for financial inclusion that cares for the poor and the oppressed. In Mexico, an application software has been used to ensure the poor neighbourhood receive basic income distribution (Kundariya, 2021). In the post-COVID-19 pandemic era, the world will need FinTech to pay attention to financial inclusion. Financial services will be more democratised when economically vulnerable populations are offered basic financial services that are fair and transparent (Deloitte, 2021).



This can be done through strategic collaborations involving FinTech and government agencies, retailers, and financial institutions (Deloitte, 2021). The post-pandemic future of FinTech is expected to incorporate the financial inclusion concept to receive higher practical implication and mileage (Kundariya, 2021).

FinTech is a major player in the global economy, which is still growing rapidly, widespread, and expected to stay intact in the future. The current COVID-19 pandemic has been a test for businesses to be ready in facing such a massive disruptive phenomenon. FinTech has acknowledged the importance of digitization and technology, agile and futuristic to stay intact and relevant in the post-pandemic and beyond.

References:

Deloitte (2020). FinTech: The next phase of FinTech evolution. <https://www2.deloitte.com/financial-services/articles>

Kundariya, H. (2021). The Future of FinTech 2021 and beyond. <https://www.planetcompliance.com/the-future-of-FinTech-2021-and-beyond/>

Summerfield, R. (2020). Role of FinTech in the post-COVID-19 world. <https://www.financierworldwide.com/role-of-FinTech-in-the-post-COVID-19-world#.YQ-tBogzZPZ>.

Walden, S. (2020). What Is FinTech and How Does It Affect How I Bank? <https://www.forbes.com/advisor/banking/what-is-FinTech/>

World Bank (2020). FinTech Market Reports Rapid Growth During COVID-19 Pandemic. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/12/03/FinTech-market-reports-rapid-growth-during-COVID-19-pandemic>