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BUILDING INTEGRITY, PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT: THE INFLUENCE OF ANTI CORRUPTION COMMITMENT ON CORPORATE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

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ABSTRACT

Environmental degradation poses a significant challenge globally, with Southeast Asia projected to face severe climate change impacts by 2050. This study investigates the influence of corporate anti-corruption commitment on environmental performance in ASEAN-5 countries (Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, and the Philippines) from 2017-2022. Using data from 108 listed companies, the research examines how anti-corruption policies affect environmental management, measured by the Environmental Pillar Score (ES), and the moderating role of board independence. Regression methods are employed to test the relationships between the independent variable, anti-corruption commitment, and the dependent variable, environmental performance, as well as to evaluate the moderating effect of board independence. Findings reveal a positive and significant impact of anti-corruption commitment on environmental performance, underscoring the necessity for companies to balance stakeholder contributions and business operations. Anti-corruption measures foster transparency and compliance with environmental regulations, preventing illegal practices that harm both companies and economic growth. However, board independence does not significantly influence this relationship, potentially due to insufficient professional competence and ineffective environmental governance. The study suggests that while independent boards are crucial for accountability, their role in environmental sustainability needs enhancement through targeted training programs. This research highlights the importance of ethical corporate practices and robust governance frameworks in achieving sustainable business operations and environmental protection in Southeast Asia.

KEYWORDS	*Anti-corruption, Environmental Performance, ASEAN 5, Board Independence*

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INTRODUCTION

The current environmental damage is indeed a serious challenge for countries around the world. McKinsey Global Institute's 2020 study shows that climate change can increase economic risk and uncertainty, especially in Southeast Asian countries. *Emerging Asian* countries comprising countries in the region are expected to experience higher climate change impacts than developed countries such as Australia, Japan, New Zealand and South Korea by 2050. This is also driven by economic activity as most economic activity is still supported by the consumption of fuels that are not environmentally friendly.

The global climate crisis requires a comprehensive response, involving cooperation between countries and the business sector. The commitment of Southeast Asian countries in the Asean Climate Forum 2023 to achieve net zero emissions is an important step in meeting this challenge. Recent research shows that companies that implement green practices not only contribute to controlling the risk of environmental damage, but also enjoy economic benefits, such as easier access to finance and improved corporate performance. (Zhang & Ma, 2021). These initiatives reflect the growing realization that environmental sustainability and economic success are closely intertwined.

Overexploitation is common in extractive industries and has the potential to damage the environment and hinder sustainable development. (Papyrakis et al., 2017).. Research shows that corrupt practices can worsen environmental conditions because they lead to irresponsible management of natural resources. Therefore, a company's ethical commitment to fighting corruption is needed, which can support corporate responsibility for the environment. Companies that have an ethical commitment to eradicate bribery and corruption are more likely to direct their organizational resources to improve the company's environmental performance (Sarhan & Gerged, 2014). (Sarhan & Gerged, 2023).. Other similar research also suggests that anti-corruption measures create an environment of transparency and accountability, which can help ensure that environmental regulations are effectively enforced (Boubaker et al., 2014). (Boubaker et al., 2024)..

In contrast, there are other studies that argue differently that a decrease in the level of corruption indirectly leads to an increase in environmental damage caused by economic activity (Cole, 2007). (Cole, 2007). This happens because a decrease in the level of corruption can lead to an increase in per capita income simultaneously with an increase in environmental damage caused by economic activity. In line with this, research by Lisciandra & Migliardo (2017) found that there was a reduction in resources allocated to the implementation of environmental performance as a result of anti-corruption enforcement efforts. Taking into account the mixed findings, it is possible that other factors also play a role in influencing anti-corruption efforts to impact corporate environmental performance.

Intra-company decisions are considered critical to building a clean and environmentally friendly business. Corporate boards play an important role in determining the company's stance on environmental challenges (Bernile et al., 2018) so board characteristics are considered important as one of the determinants of the quality of decision making. One of the characteristics of the board is board independence. the presence of an independent board can reduce the likelihood of fraud and improve the quality of disclosure of environmental-related corporate information (Wu & Li, 2015). Other studies show that an independent board can help make better environmental decisions. (Dong et al., 2023).

Based on these things, this study is expected to explore more deeply how the company's anti-corruption commitment impacts the company's environmental management practices. In addition, the moderating variable of board independence will be analyzed to determine how its role in influencing the relationship between corporate environmental performance and anti-corruption commitment. This research will emphasize how corporate anti-corruption policies affect corporate environmental performance and how board independence in Southeast Asian countries, where most economies are driven by environmentally unfriendly resources.

Agency Theory and Stakeholder Theory

Agency theory, proposed by Jensen and Meckling in 1976, is an important framework in understanding the dynamics of the relationship between company owners as principals and managers as agents. This theory recognizes the potential for conflicts of interest and information asymmetry that can affect managerial decisions and company performance. In this context, contracts and incentives are designed to align the interests of agents with those of principals, but challenges remain as agents may have different personal motivations. To overcome agency problems, companies can implement strong oversight mechanisms, transparent reporting systems, and policies that encourage integrity and accountability. A deep understanding of agency theory can assist companies in designing more efficient organizational structures, promoting good corporate governance, and ultimately, increasing value for shareholders and other stakeholders. This shows how important agency theory is in modern business practices, especially in an effort to minimize opportunistic behavior and ensure that management acts in accordance with the company's strategic objectives.

Stakeholders play an important role in the management and sustainability of companies. They not only influence strategic decisions, but are also affected by the outcomes of those decisions. Freeman & Harrison (2018) acknowledge that organizational value creation is inseparable from interactions with stakeholder groups or individuals. In the context of modern business, environmental issues are becoming increasingly relevant, given society's demands and stricter regulations for sustainable business practices. Therefore, companies that are able to integrate environmental considerations into their business strategy will not only benefit in the form of a better reputation, but also a more secure long-term sustainability.

Stakeholders play an important role in business sustainability. They not only influence strategic decisions, but are also part of a broader value system that includes the social and ecological environment. It is important for companies to recognize and integrate the interests of various stakeholders in their operations. This reflects the understanding that business sustainability is not only measured by profitability, but also by positive contributions to society and the environment.

Thus, companies that apply the principles of sustainability and corporate social responsibility (CSR) tend to be more resilient in the face of global changes and challenges. Environmental issues, which are increasingly gaining attention, are one of the key aspects that must be managed well to ensure long-term sustainability and a positive corporate reputation in the eyes of stakeholders.

Environmental Management Performance

A company's commitment to sustainable practices and responsible environmental management is an important step in building trust and strong relationships with stakeholders. Through the implementation of standards such as ISO 14001 and transparent environmental reporting, companies can demonstrate their social responsibility and contribute to the reduction of negative impacts on the environment. This not only enhances the company's reputation but also ensures the long-term sustainability of the business as well as the economic and social well-being of the community.

Commitment to anti-bribery and corruption practices and environmental management performance are two important aspects of good corporate governance. Research by Sarhan & Gerged (2023) highlights the relationship between these two aspects and how they can influence stakeholder perceptions of the company. Anti-bribery and corruption commitment scores, measured through indicators such as senior management's public statements and the company's code of conduct, serve as a barometer of a company's integrity. On the other hand, environmental management performance, evaluated through environmental-related policies and activities, reflects a company's responsibility towards sustainability. These two aspects, when managed well, not only enhance the company's reputation but also strengthen relationships with stakeholders, which in turn can contribute to the company's long-term success.

Anti-Corruption Commitment

Corruption is a global problem that affects various aspects of social and economic life. This abuse of power for personal gain undermines the principles of justice and harms society as a whole. Empirical research shows a relationship between corruption and environmental regulation and compliance behavior (Chen et al., 2022). (Chen et al., 2022). Corrupt behavior in business not only harms the economy, but also causes damage to reputation and corporate culture. A number of policies in various countries are designed to prevent corruption and ensure integrity, compliance and transparency in corporate operations. By implementing strong codes of conduct and clear reporting procedures, companies can reduce the risk of corruption and strengthen stakeholder trust, supporting long-term sustainability and growth.

Commitment to anti-bribery and corruption is an important step in building effective corporate governance. By ensuring integrity, compliance and transparency, a company not only supports its business sustainability and growth, but also asserts its position as a socially responsible entity (Abidin et al., 2017). (Abidin et al., 2017). Clear codes of conduct, policies and procedures for reporting and addressing corruption are key instruments in mitigating risk and demonstrating a company's commitment to ethical business practices. Moreover, by applying these principles, companies can gain trust and acceptance from stakeholders, which in turn can provide a competitive advantage. Therefore, this commitment not only strengthens relationships with stakeholders but also contributes to the company's reputation and long-term success.

H1: It is suspected that anti-corruption commitment affects the company's environmental management performance.

Board Independence

Principles of good corporate governance according to G20/OECD Princ. Corp. Gov (2016) play an important role in ensuring business continuity and integrity. By promoting transparency and accountability, companies can build strong public trust. The framework proposed by the G20/OECD Principles of Corporate Governance aims to balance the rights and obligations of stakeholders, ensuring that oversight and enforcement are independent and accountable. Such rights are important to maintain the financial and operational integrity of companies, and to address potential conflicts of interest that may interfere with effective oversight.

Good corporate governance is one of the key factors in ensuring business success and sustainability. Board independence, as measured by the proportion of independent board members, plays an important role in ensuring that decisions are free from conflicts of interest and represent the interests of all stakeholders. Research conducted by (Choiriah, 2020) and Wu & Li (2015) show that independent boards can reduce the potential for fraud and improve the quality of environmental disclosures, which in turn can positively affect company performance. Furthermore, the view is corroborated by the finding of a positive relationship between board independence and corporate financial performance. (Alipour et al., 2019) and (Peng et al., 2021). This confirms the importance of having a board that is not only independent but also has a broad perspective and professionalism in overseeing the company's management, so as to fulfill the company's objectives and increase value for shareholders.

Independent boards, whose members come from outside the company, tend to be more objective and less bound by internal corporate interests, so they are more likely to promote transparency and accountability. (Carrillo et al., 2019). This is consistent with agency theory, which states that there is a potential conflict of interest between managers and shareholders. An independent board can help mitigate this problem by acting as a watchdog that ensures that management acts in accordance with shareholder interests and good governance principles. In addition, with increasing public awareness of the negative economic and social impacts of corruption, companies are now faced with greater pressure to act ethically and responsibly. Effective governance and information transparency are therefore key in building trust and reputation, and in mitigating the risks of corruption that can cost companies both financially and reputationally.

H2: It is suspected that board independence has a moderating role in the effect of anti-bribery and corruption commitment on corporate environmental performance.

This research is expected to provide valuable insights for companies in the Southeast Asian region, especially given the high risks associated with climate change. As such, the results of this study can provide guidance for business practitioners and policy makers in optimizing corporate environmental performance by considering relevant factors.

RESEARCH METHODS

This study uses secondary data from companies listed on the stock exchanges in several Southeast Asian countries, especially the ASEAN-5 consisting of Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and the Philippines. With sample selection criteria such as the exclusion of financial services companies that have anti-corruption policies and recorded environmental management performance, this study targets important aspects of corporate governance. Purposive sampling allows the research to focus on companies that are most likely to provide insight into governance practices. With a total of 108 companies to be examined over the six years 2017-2022, the study has the potential to provide a broad and in-depth view of corporate governance in the region, with a total of 648 *firm-year* observations to be analyzed.

The dependent variable in this study uses environmental management performance, which is measured using the *Environmental Pillar Score (ES)* from Refinitiv Eikon. This assessment is an approach to assessing the impact of company policies and practices on the environment. Scores ranging from 1 to 100 provide an overview of the extent to which companies successfully implement environmentally responsible management practices, by minimizing risks and maximizing opportunities to create sustainable value. Research by Sarhan & Gerged (2023)highlighted the importance of this score in assessing a company's environmental performance. The independent variable in this study uses the company's *anti-corruption* commitment, which is reflected in the *Bribery and Corruption Policy Score (ACP)*. This score evaluates how explicitly a company articulates its rejection of bribery and corruption in its code of conduct. Using the same scale, this study collected data from Refinitiv Eikon to assess how strong the company's commitment to integrity and transparency is. While the moderating variable in this study uses board independence (IB), which is considered to improve the company's ability to monitor and control management operations. Board independence, as measured by the percentage of board members who come from outside the company, is believed to strengthen the positive relationship between the quality of environmental disclosure and company performance. Research by Choiriah (2020) and Alipour et al., (2019) have shown that board independence has a significant role in improving corporate transparency and accountability, which in turn can contribute to better corporate performance. This research takes a further step by integrating this variable into the model to understand the more complex dynamics between governance, environmental policy, and anti-corruption in the context of firm performance.

Control variables such as firm size and profitability play an important role in determining a company's environmental performance. Sarhan's research (2023) shows a positive relationship between firm size and environmental management performance, which confirms that larger firms tend to have more resources to invest in green initiatives. This is consistent with the findings by Song et al. (2017)(2017), which indicates that large companies have a better capacity to internalize and transfer knowledge related to environmental practices. The financial flexibility possessed by large firms allows them to more effectively integrate environmental activities into their business operations. Firm size (FIRMSZ) is calculated from the natural logarithm of the firm's total assets.

On the other hand, profitability, which is often measured through *Return on Assets* (ROA), also acts as an indicator of the company's ability to generate profits from its assets. Boubaker et al. (2024) found a positive correlation between profitability and environmental responsibility, which suggests that more profitable companies tend to be more environmentally responsible. Research by Wang et al. also supports this view, showing that financial constraints can negatively impact corporate social responsibility. Therefore, stable and healthy financial conditions are not only important for the growth and survival of companies but also for their contribution to the environment. This confirms the importance of considering economic factors in research on corporate environmental performance, as it has direct implications for companies' ability to participate in environmental protection efforts.

Due to the sample of companies located in several countries, this study uses control variables in the form of the level of state governance and GDP per capita. Governance and GDP per capita are two important indicators that are often used in economic and political analysis. Governance, as measured by the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), provides an overview of how effective and transparent a government is in exercising its powers. The WGI's six dimensions of voice and accountability, political stability and absence of violence, government effectiveness, regulatory quality, rule of law, and control of corruption each provide insight into specific aspects of governance. Scholars use the WGI in empirical studies to engage cross-country comparisons. (Handoyo, 2023). On the other hand, GDP per capita measures a country's economic output relative to its population, providing an indication of the average level of prosperity of its citizens. Both indicators are often used by policymakers to formulate development strategies, by investors to assess market risk, and by academics to conduct comparative studies between countries. Research that considers both indicators can provide deeper insights into how economic and political factors interact and influence each other, as well as their impact on business and the environment. As such, a comprehensive understanding of country governance and GDP per capita is essential in global analysis.

Table 1. Explanation of Variables and Data Sources

No.	Variables	Notation	Definition	Source
1	Dependent: Corporate environmental management performance	ES	The Environmental Pillar Score measures a company's impact on living and non-living natural systems, including air, land and water, and the ecosystem as a whole. Units 0-100	Refinitive Eikon (Thomson Reuters Database)
2	Independent: Company anti-corruption policy	ACP	whether the company explains in its code of conduct that it strives to avoid bribery and corruption in all its operations. Units 0-100	Refinitive Eikon (Thomson Reuters Database)
3	Control: Company size	FIRMSZ	Natural log of the company's total assets	Refinitive Eikon (Thomson Reuters Database)
4	Control: Profitability	ROA	Return on Assets of the company	Refinitive Eikon (Thomson Reuters Database)
5	Control: Country Governance	WGI	Average State governance index. Units 0-100	World Bank Databank
6	Control: GPD per capita	GDP	GDP per capita of the country. Units 0-100	World Bank Databank
7	Moderation: Board Independence	IB	Percentage of board members from outside the company. Unit 0-1	Refinitive Eikon (Thomson Reuters Database)

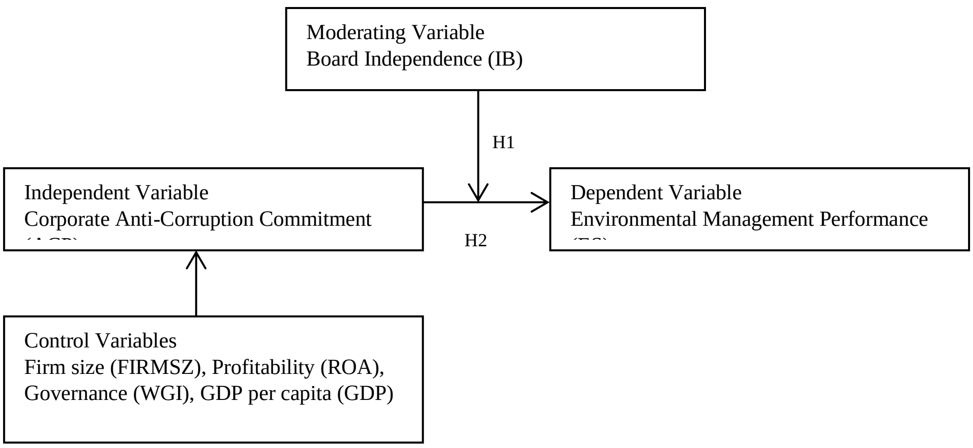

Figure 1. Research Model Framework

To determine the correlation between anti-corruption commitment and corporate environmental management performance, an empirical model (model 1) was developed using panel regression processing as follows:

$$ES = \beta_{0it} + \beta_1 ACP_{it} + \beta_2 FIRMSZ_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 WGI_{it} + \beta_5 GDP_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Meanwhile, to analyze the moderating role of board independence on the effect of anti-corruption commitment on corporate environmental management performance, an empirical model (model 2) is prepared as follows:

$$ES = \beta_{0it} + \beta_1 ACP_{it} + \beta_2 IB_{it} + \beta_3 ACP * IB_{it} + \beta_4 FIRMSZ_{it} + \beta_5 ROA_{it} + \beta_6 WGI_{it} + \beta_7 GDP_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Testing this research model uses panel data that combines annual and time-series data, across companies or across sectors. The use of panel data makes it possible to take into account the heterogeneity of data relating to companies and countries over time.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The regression testing stage begins with descriptive statistical testing, classical assumption tests consisting of data normality and multicollinearity tests and hypothesis testing consisting of the coefficient of determination, F test and T test. The test was carried out quantitatively with the help of *SPSS 29 software*:

Table 1. Descriptive Statistics

Variables	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
ES	1.41	97.41	56.1509	21.61261
ACP	52.84	75.14	62.5685	5.02191
WGI	38.56	88.14	57.27	15.53
GDP	8.03	11.32	9.1718	.95631
FIRMSZ	17.45	24.54	21.57	1.14
ROA	-0.47	0.85	0.067	0.08655
IB	0.19	1.00	0.49	0.16

The table above shows the descriptive statistical test results of 648 observations consisting of 108 companies over the six years of the study, from 2017 to 2022. The results show that the average corporate environmental management performance value is 56.1509. Delta Electronic Thailand PCL has the highest environmental management performance score of 97.41. Based on Delta Electronic's website (deltathailand.com), the company is recorded to have reduced carbon emissions by 21.05 million tons from 2010 to 2022. In addition, greener clean technologies, such as the use of green fuels, accounted for 23% of the company's revenue. S&P Global Sustainability recognized Delta Electronic for its success in delivering ESG performance.

Overall, the company's anti-corruption commitment has an average score of 62.5685 from the company's anti-corruption policy. Indonesian company Bumi Serpong Damai Tbk has the highest score of 75.14. This business develops industrial, residential, office and trading areas. In general, from 2017 to 2022, the company's anti-corruption commitment continued to increase. According to the company's annual report, the company is committed to complying with Indonesia's anti-corruption laws. Through the implementation of anti-corruption policies in the internal environment, the company seeks to protect all stakeholders, including suppliers and business partners. In the company's code of conduct, there are anti-corruption regulations that describe the types of actions that are considered as corrupt behavior, such as: abuse of authority, opportunity, or means due to position or position; receiving and/or promising something to government officials or other parties that can bind to perform actions outside of normal procedures. In addition, the anti-corruption policy is regularly socialized through company media. In addition, the company has fulfilled the seven principles of the Corporate Governance Guidelines of the Financial Services Authority of the Republic of Indonesia in which one aspect, namely anti-corruption and *anti-fraud* policies, has been fulfilled.

Furthermore, correlation testing was carried out using the Pearson method with the following results:

Table 2. Pearson Correlation Matrix

		ES	ACP	IB	ACP_IB	FIRMSZ	ROA	WGI	GDP
ES	Pearson Correlation	1							
	Sig. (2-tailed)								
ACP	Pearson Correlation	0.231**	1						
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001							
IB	Pearson Correlation	0.182**	0.048	1					
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	0.186						
ACP_IB	Pearson Correlation	0.266**	0.595**	0.809**	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	<,001	<,001					
FIRMSZ	Pearson Correlation	0.187**	0.101**	0.179**	0.200**	1			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	0.005	<,001	<,001				
ROA	Pearson Correlation	0.075*	-0.019	-0.028	-0.039	-0.253**	1		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.038	0.597	0.443	0.279	<,001			
WGI	Pearson Correlation	0.072*	-0.067	0.602**	0.426**	0.087*	-0.097**	1	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	0.046	0.065	<,001	<,001	0.015	0.007		
GDP	Pearson Correlation	0.134**	-0.061	0.606**	0.427**	0.172**	-0.135**	0.929**	1

Sig. (2-tailed)	<,001	0.093	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001	<,001

** Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed)
* Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed)

To see how each variable interacts with each other, the first method used is correlation analysis. According to the results of the correlation analysis conducted using the Pearson method, there is a positive correlation of 0.231 between the environmental management performance (ES) score and the anti-corruption commitment (ACP) score; conversely, there is a positive correlation of 0.182 between the board independence (IB) variable and the environmental management performance (ES) score. However, the correlation between ACP and IB shows a positive correlation of 0.048, which indicates a weak correlation between the two variables. In addition, a correlation was found between ES and firm size (FIRMSZ) of 0.187, indicating a positive trend that firms with larger size have better environmental management performance (ES) scores. There is also a positive correlation between ES and Return on Assets (ROA) of 0.075, and a relationship between ES and WGI of 0.072. GDP by 0.134.

Furthermore, after testing the classical assumptions, testing is carried out on the hypothesis that has been compiled. Hypothesis testing is done through the coefficient of determination test, F test and T test. The results of hypothesis testing are outlined in the following table:

Table 3. Hypothesis Testing Results

Model 1

$$ES = \beta_{0it} + \beta_1 ACP_{it} + \beta_2 FIRMSZ_{it} + \beta_3 ROA_{it} + \beta_4 WGI_{it} + \beta_5 GDP_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Model 2

$$ES = \beta_{0it} + \beta_1 ACP_{it} + \beta_2 IB_{it} + \beta_3 ACP * IB_{it} + \beta_4 FIRMSZ_{it} + \beta_5 ROA_{it} + \beta_6 WGI_{it} + \beta_7 GDP_{it} + \varepsilon_{it}$$

Variables	**Prediction**	**Coefficient**	**Significance**	**Coefficient**	**Significance**
Constant		-112.840	<,001	-108.539	<,001
ACP	+	0.266	<,001	0.260	<,001
FIRMSZ	+	2.815	<,001	2.703	<,001
ROA	+	36.755	<,001	35.311	<,001
WGI	+	-0.675	<,001	-0.725	<,001
GDP	+	13.766	<,001	13.165	<,001
IB	+			0.141	0.018
ACP*IB	+			-0.002	.415
Rsquared		0.126		0.133	
Sig (F-test)		<,001		<,001	

Based on the table above, it can be seen in the first model that ACP has a positive relationship with ES with a significance value of less than 0.05. This shows that ACP has a significant effect on ES. The positive coefficient of ACP variable on ES implies that an increase in ACP contributes to an increase in ES. This finding supports that hypothesis H1 is accepted. Meanwhile, in the second model, the T test results show that the significance value of the ACP_IB variable or Sig. ACP_IB is more than 0.05. This indicates that IB moderation does not affect the relationship between ACP and ES, so hypothesis H2 is not accepted.

The results of testing the first hypothesis show that corporate anti-corruption commitment (ACP) has a positive and significant impact on corporate environmental management performance (ES). Companies should be able to balance their contributions to stakeholders and business according to stakeholder theory. Companies should conduct business in an environmentally friendly way and develop environmentally friendly programs as climate conditions continue to deteriorate. Often, corruption arises during the licensing process for the use of environmental resources. To ensure environmental sustainability, various measures are taken to allocate resources efficiently. To prevent corruption that undermines sustainability, all stakeholders, including companies, must commit to fighting corruption. An effective, healthy and sustainable company can be achieved through an anti-corruption commitment. One component of a company's anti-corruption commitment is the provision of policies that cover various efforts to prevent corruption involving businesses. Some policies, such as regulations, codes of conduct, pacts and other rules, can help employees make decisions that reduce the risk of corruption. Anti-corruption measures create a transparent and accountable environment, which can help enforce environmental regulations (Boubaker et al., 2014). (Boubaker et al., 2024). This is reinforced by research by Sundström (2016) which shows that corruption encourages unlawful practices in natural resource management. If uncontrolled, these actions can affect business activities at both the company and country levels, which can hinder economic growth. Controlling this unethical behavior has an impact on the company's efforts to perform performance that supports environmental protection. Environmentally responsible use of resources helps businesses survive. Corporate anti-corruption efforts can prevent companies from avoiding environmental regulations by bribing officials, and companies that engage in bribery are more vulnerable to reputational damage and legal sanctions (Chen et al., 2022). (Chen et al., 2022).

The second hypothesis examines the role of board independence in the effect of anticorruption commitment on corporate environmental performance. The test results show that the second hypothesis is not accepted, thus, this study shows that corporate anti-corruption commitment has a positive effect on environmental performance, regardless of whether the company has an independent board or not. Board independence is considered important for corporate accountability and credibility, but does not necessarily impact social and environmental sustainability. This may be due to several factors that affect the moderating role of board independence. For example, an independent board may have a weak influence in promoting corporate environmental management engagement. McGuinness et al. (2017) (2017) state that weak legal protections may decrease board independence, as independent boards can be easily dismissed by executives with political connections. Michelon & Parbonetti (2012) found that board independence has no significant effect on corporate social and environmental sustainability performance, but is important in directing sustainability disclosure strategies if board members are influential figures in society. Allegrini & Greco (2013) also found that board independence does not affect social and environmental sustainability disclosure, suggesting that while it is important in business management to reduce conflicts of interest, the influence of board independence is not directly related to environmental responsibility. Cultural factors also play a role, where independent board appointments are based on social relationships rather than professional competence (Alnabsha et al. (Alnabsha et al., 2018) which affects the quality of policy making. The lack of professional competence of the independent board can affect the quality of policy making due to less in-depth knowledge of the company's internal conditions and external conditions. Nguyen et al., (2021) found that independent boards do not always have the capacity to pressure managers to provide information on environmental performance. Therefore, it is important for companies to provide training for independent boards to improve their professional competence.

CONCLUSION

The test results show that corporate anti-corruption commitment has a positive and significant effect on corporate environmental management performance, so the first hypothesis is accepted. In the face of worsening climate conditions, companies must run environmentally friendly businesses and prevent corruption in the resource licensing process. Anti-corruption commitment from all stakeholders is needed to support efficient, healthy and sustainable company operations. Anti-corruption policies help create a transparent environment and ensure compliance with environmental regulations, preventing illegal practices that harm companies and economic growth.

On the other hand, the presence of an independent board has no significant impact on the relationship between anti-corruption commitment and corporate environmental performance. While board independence is important for accountability and credibility, in the context of social and environmental sustainability, the role of independent boards is often ineffective. Factors such as the lack of professional competence of independent boards can affect the quality of policy making. Therefore, companies need to pay attention to the professionalism and competence of the board and improve the professional competence of the independent board through competency development programs designed by the company.

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