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New Trends Regarding Sustainability and Integrated Reporting for Companies: What Protection Do Directors Have?

Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis

Deakin University, Australia

Monday, 21 September 2015

12:30 - 1:30 pm

Academic Conference Room, 11/F Cheng Yu Tung Tower

The University of Hong Kong

In this seminar Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis will analyse the trend of broader reporting on social and environmental issues which forms of reporting have been made under general descriptive terms such as corporate social reporting (CSR), sustainability reporting, integrated reporting and responsibility reporting. With a comparison of three jurisdictions namely Australia, Germany and South Africa, he poses the question of whether directors are opening themselves to greater liability by producing these forms of non-statutory reports.

Professor Jean Jacques du Plessis is Professor of Law at Deakin University, Australia, with substantial international expertise in governance as an academic, researcher and practitioner and is the sole staff-elected member serving on the Deakin University Council, the ultimate governance body of Deakin University. He served on the Deakin University Academic Board for 15 years and was involved in the South African Corporate Law Reform process from 2004-2008. From 1996 to 1998 he was the legal advisor to the Executive of the Rand Afrikaans University (RAU) on a multi-million Rand property development. In that capacity he advised the University Council on legal structures and risks associated with the project.

Professor du Plessis has an international reputation for his work evidenced by his being a recipient of the prestigious Anneliese Maier Research Award from the German Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. His area of academic specialisation is corporate law and corporate governance and he has extensive knowledge of the working of boards, including the role and functions of supervisory boards and management boards. In 2014 he convened an International Forum on the topic "Mandatory Board Gender Legislation: Will Australia follow Europe?" He also completed the third edition of his textbook *Principles of Contemporary Corporate Governance* (Cambridge University Press).

Please register online via www.AIIFL.com or email Flora Leung at fkleung@hku.hk to reserve a place.

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