

Foreword

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It is a great pleasure to introduce for the public the results of the 2005–06 China International Crime against Business Survey (China ICBS) conducted by the team of ANU professors and researchers in Hong Kong.

The general aim of the China ICBS is to enhance our understanding of the extent and nature of crimes against business, and their impact on business and confidence in China. As the first large-scale survey of crimes against business undertaken in Chinese cities, the China ICBS shows that it is possible to obtain useful data about crime risks, prevention practices and reactions of business enterprises through empirical studies such as fieldwork, surveys, questionnaires, and so on. It also makes possible valid comparisons of the prevalence of crimes against business in Chinese cities (Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai and X'ian) with others cities similarly surveyed in both emerging economies and developed countries.

China's economic growth since 1978 is no doubt a miracle both at the domestic and the global level. At the same time, crime (common crimes and economic crimes including crimes against business) is also soaring. It is a fascinating terrain for criminologists to verify classical theories, to explore the reason for this phenomenon and possibly to find new explanations.

A privilege once reserved for state power or enterprises in command economies, doing business is becoming fashionable for everybody in China today, and the so-called 'socialist market economy' has been established. But China is still developing its market economy and problems such as distinctions (or discrimination) in status between public and private market actors and conflicts between state monopolies and marketisation still exist in China. The policy of opening and reforming has triggered profound changes in the economic system of China today, while economic changes in turn bring up new situations and changes in the social interest structure, class status, culture, mentality, human behaviour and governmental functions. This social transformation aggravates the phenomenon of institutional shortage. In this context of economic development and social change, business enterprises suffer (as victims) from the differences in status, in policy and in the competitive environment between the public and private sectors, and from bureaucracy and monopolies, but, at the same

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time, they are more inclined towards using bribery and organised crime. Crimes against business in China today reflect not only prominent features of a society in transformation, but also conflicts of interest between public and private, freedom and control, market and government, and civil society and state power.

This book is of great value not only to experts in criminal justice, criminology and sociology who are willing to increase their knowledge about China's economic development, social transformation, crime control and rule of law, but also to businesspeople who just want to do business in or with China.