

Preface

This book reports the results of the first large-scale survey of crimes against business in China. We believe that the survey provides vital benchmark estimates of the risks and costs of crime for businesses operating in various economic sectors in China. These costs are worth monitoring and the survey can play a role in the development of both private and public policy responses, as well as crime prevention. As the first comprehensive attempt to measure the risks of not only common crimes such as robbery and fraud but also newly emergent crimes such as cyber crime, credit card fraud and intellectual property theft, our work will, we hope, encourage further investigations based on the same broad victim-centred methods described here. Our view is that despite the usual difficulties of obtaining the cooperation of business leaders and their reluctance to engage with researchers on such a sensitive topic, large-scale independent prevalence surveys of crimes against business are effective in identifying risks, including those involving bribery and organised crime. They also have much to offer in assisting businesses in the reduction of both the direct and the indirect harms that flow from crime. Such surveys provide public police and private security with an understanding of the nature and impact of crime on business—an impact that ultimately falls adversely on everyday consumers.

The data collection for the study we report in this monograph was completed in May 2007. Although some years have elapsed, preliminary results were reported at the twentieth annual conference of the Australian and New Zealand Society of Criminology in Adelaide, 24–27 September 2007, and selected final results at the sixteenth Congress of the International Society of Criminology conference in Kobe, Japan, 5–9 August 2011. Even allowing for the considerable time needed to clean and check raw data, conduct analysis and re-check data and results, we have taken longer to finalise the work than intended. In part, this delay arose from the usual time pressures upon the research team amplified by changes in post and location, illness, as well as the additional complexities of working across different locations. Yet this research had its genesis even further back, when in 2003 a small grant from the University of Hong Kong with further support from that university's Centre for Criminology enabled us to conduct a small pilot survey of crime against businesses in Hong Kong and also in Shenzhen. The pilot was undertaken in July–August 2003 by the survey team of the Social Science Research Centre at the University of Hong Kong and reported by the first author at the Societies of Criminology first Key Issues Conference, held in Paris on 13–15 May 2004. With the feasibility of the research ensured, the principal investigators (Roderic Broadhurst and John Bacon-Shone) in conjunction with the Institute of Crime Prevention, Ministry of Justice of the People's Republic of China (then under the direction of Professor Guo J. H.), were able to secure

competitive funding from the Research Grants Council of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (7204/04H) in 2005 to conduct the survey in four key cities in China. We are grateful to the Research Council for their support and assistance, especially for extending the time to complete the research.

The survey adapted the relatively untried UN protocol for measuring crimes against business provided by Dr Anna Alvazzi del Frate, then at the UN Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC). In 2004, Dr Alvazzi del Frate was in the process of completing the analysis of an earlier version of this survey conducted in Eastern Europe in 2000 and she gave us invaluable assistance and advice. We draw on the results of that and other similar surveys of crimes against business in the pages that follow.

Given the scale of the project and the numerous challenges encountered in collection and analysis, we owe many debts for the support we have received from the funding committees, our respective universities and the work of our survey teams based at the Social Sciences Research Centre. We also note the support of the Australian Research Council Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security and its Australian National University (ANU) node for their support, without which the final product would have been much less comprehensive. Such support enabled Brigitte Bouhours to assist the project at a crucial time, and she was instrumental in helping to bring the work to its conclusion. Thierry Bouhours became engaged with the project in 2008 and again in the later stages, notably in the final analysis and our interpretations of the results.

Among those who have helped this project, in particular, we thank Lee Kingwa who was the initial research officer and was responsible for oversight of the data collection. Lennon Chang Yaochung, our colleague at the ANU, was also a wonderful aid who, in addition to his comments on an early draft of the manuscript, provided much-needed assistance with finding as well as translating otherwise invisible references and web sites. We gratefully acknowledge the help of Zhong Yueying and Aris Chan for the translation from the English to the Chinese (both Cantonese and Mandarin) versions of the interview protocol and subsequent modifications after the pilot survey. We thank Eduardo Ramirez and Nishank Motwani from the ANU who, in the final stages of producing this monograph, helped us put together the references and appendices.

At various times we also benefited from the help of colleagues T. Wing Lo, Susan Trevaske and Børge Bakken on specific matters. We also acknowledge the generous support and interest of our colleagues at the ANU, especially John Braithwaite and Peter Grabosky, who encouraged us to produce a book-length version of this research. Their encouragement along with the interest and support of Craig Reynolds, of the ANU E Press Editorial Board (Asian Studies), were important parts of the drive to complete this book. We acknowledge the

kind interest of Margaret Thornton, also of the ANU E Press (Law), who gave the idea the attention and support needed to bring the work to fruition. Finally, we thank the reviewers whose thoughtful comments and suggestions we readily incorporated into this work.

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September 2011