

Preface

The book reports and interprets results from a detailed study of the contemporary private sector in China. It is based on the Technical Report on Private Enterprise Development in China commissioned by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC) of the People's Republic of China. The research was undertaken by a team from the Australian National University and Peking University. The Report to the International Finance Corporation has been augmented by additional materials, for example on social perceptions of private enterprise, for this book. Readers' attention is also drawn to the important publication by Gregory, N., Tenev, S. and Wagle, D. *China's Emerging Private Enterprises: Prospects for the New Century* (International Finance Corporation, 2000).

We gained a great deal from the officers of the IFC, including Neil Gregory, Dileep Wagle, Stoyan Tenev, Davin Mackenzie and Jianguo Cui and officials from the State Economic and Trade Commission (SETC), Mr Wei Dong (Director General, Small and Medium Enterprise Department) and Mr Tian Chuan (Deputy Director, Small and Medium Enterprise Department). We thank IFC and SETC for their permission to publish this work. We also thank various government and non-government institutions including the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce (ACFIC) and their regional offices for providing the research team with important support during the fieldwork in the four cities in which surveys were conducted.

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