PREFACE

In 2001 China will host the APEC Summit and Ministerial Meetings in Shanghai. APEC has become an important forum through which China has been able to demonstrate its willingness and commitment to integration into the international economy since it joined in 1991. APEC has been all the more important to China because it is not yet a member of the WTO or the OECD. APEC’s regional base and global objectives closely match China’s strategic interests in the international economy. The meetings in Shanghai will provide an opportunity for China to entrench and extend these interests through APEC.

This book assembles papers that were produced under a three year collaborative research program on ‘China and APEC’ undertaken by the Australia–Japan Research Centre, in the Asia Pacific School of Economics and Management at The Australian National University and the APEC Policy Research Center, in the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. The project was funded under the Australian government’s aid agency, AusAID’s, Australia–China Institutional Links Project. We are grateful to AusAID for support of this work.

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The work on this project and the papers in the volume provide a base for developing ideas that could be helpful to the policy agenda for APEC 2001. More importantly they build on the strong foundations of cooperation that have been laid over the last twenty years between The Australian National University and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in working together on these issues.

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