

# Preface

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Most of the papers in this book were presented at the conference on 'Transformations in global governance: implications for multinationals and other stakeholders', held at Boston University in October 2004. The conference brought together scholars from international business and international relations to focus on an area of growing importance for multinational enterprises and other stakeholders: how global governance is affecting the context in which multinationals operate, which in turn has ramifications for society in general. The study of multinational enterprises is not central to the agenda of most researchers in international relations, and while international business research focuses a great deal on multinationals it tends to neglect broad contextual issues. I hope that the papers presented in this book will stimulate others to broaden their research. This work complements some of my previous work on multinationals' effect on poverty alleviation, the role of NGOs on international business, and multinational–host government relations.

I am very grateful to Professor Fred Foulkes of Boston University's Human Resources Policy Institute (HRPI) for the financial support provided by the Institute to cover part of the conference cost. HRPI brings together researchers and top-level human resources executives from over 40 companies to focus on HR issues. Its membership is extremely interested in various aspects of global management.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this volume, as well as others who participated in the conference. Louis Wells and Yves Doz presented interesting papers that helped stimulate discussion, but were unable to contribute chapters for the book. The discussion at the conference benefited a great deal from the stimulation provided by session chairs: Lou Anne Barclay, Jonathan Doh, Jeffrey Furman, David Levy, Nishi Sinha and Paul Vaaler.

I appreciate the encouragement provided by Michael Lawson, Senior Associate Dean of Boston University's School of Management, and the current and former chairs of the Strategy and Policy department, Professors Kenneth Hatten and Anita McGahan. I would also like to recognize the valuable assistance provided by a number of individuals in organizing this conference. These include Joe LiPuma, who served as conference coordinator, and Daniela Trujillo and Daniel Korschun, who assisted him. Joe and

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*Sushil Vachani*