Preface

Issues of regulation and competition have long been matters of both public policy debate and academic research in developed economies, but until recently were relatively unexamined in relation to developing economies. The Centre on Regulation and Competition (CRC) of the University of Manchester, UK, has been conducting research into regulatory developments and competition issues since 2001, with a primary focus on changes and reforms in developing countries, working together with partners both in the UK and overseas in China, Ghana, India, Malaysia, the Philippines, South Africa and Sri Lanka. This work has been funded primarily by the UK's Department for International Development, with other support from the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Global Opportunities Fund, and from the British Council. Other collaborating agencies include the Foreign Investment Advisory Service of the World Bank, and the Competition Division of the United Nations Committee on Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

This book series is one of the many ways in which the work of the CRC and its partners is disseminated, complementing conferences, workshops, journal publication and policy briefs. This latest addition brings together findings of the CRC's research in regulatory governance, a neglected and sparsely researched context for regulatory and competition reforms, but now regarded as crucial to the understanding and improvement of market-based economic reforms. A particular focus is on case studies from two partner countries, South Africa and the Philippines, which illustrate the limitations of such reforms in delivering essential goods and services to poor communities, and the need for proponents of these reforms to give due regard to the political, social and economic contexts which will determine their shape and outcomes.

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