

Preface

Writing about Asia-Pacific regionalism and its interface with the global system does not only require a comprehensive, multidimensional and multidisciplinary perspective but also an international network of researchers if the goal is a holistic and balanced analysis. While everyone involved in this book project looks back on long-standing experiences and achievements in investigating the Asia-Pacific region in all its facets, the immediate origins of the *The Asia-Pacific, Regionalism and the Global System* lie in two grants provided by the World University Network (WUN). In January 2010, with the generous support of WUN, colleagues from the Universities of Leeds, Sydney, Alberta and Guadalajara met in Mexico to set up the 'WUN Asia-Pacific International Relations Network' which has rapidly expanded since then and now comprises 19 universities from five continents. The first network conference ('Asia-Pacific: Shaping the World') took place in Leeds on 12–13 May 2011. Funded by a WUN grant from the Fund for International Research Collaborations (FIRC), this event brought together key experts on Asia-Pacific affairs from around the world to particularly explore the relationship between different forms of regionalism (economic, business, politico-security, socio-cultural) within the Asia-Pacific and issues of global governance. Over the following months the papers presented at the conference were extensively revised and edited and now form the chapters of this book. We wish to thank all contributing authors for their strong commitment to this project, and Laura Elgar, Jo Betteridge and everyone at Edward Elgar Publishing for their hard work and professional guidance.

We would like to express our gratitude to the WUN office at Leeds and particularly Kirsty Mattinson for the continuous support of our network activities and the funding that has made this project possible. We are also thankful to the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (SMLC) at Leeds and the White Rose East Asia Centre (WREAC), an international Centre of Excellence on China and Japan managed collaboratively by the Universities of Leeds and Sheffield, for providing a fruitful and conducive research environment without which this book project and many related research activities would never have flourished.

Jörn Dosch would like to thank his parents, Gisela and Roland Dosch, for their lifelong support of his academic and other activities, as well as his mentor and friend Manfred Mols who first introduced him to the many faces of Asia-Pacific politics and international relations more than two decades ago. As always he is grateful to his wife Ana Lucia and his children Nils-Mateo and Amelie for their love, patience and encouragement. Christopher M. Dent too would like to thank all his family for their love and support over the years, and for having great faith in him, even though his school qualifications were not that impressive! We hope that you, the reader, will find many new and interesting things from reading this book.

Christopher M. Dent and Jörn Dosch

