Acknowledgments

Both academia and policy circles are becoming increasingly aware of the lessons and insights from Korea’s transformation in human capital and development area and believe that the experience should be widely shared with other countries. The international community expects Korea to provide more relevant lessons for developing countries with a more recent development experience given the ever enlarging gap in human capital between developing and advanced countries. As Korea transformed itself from an aid recipient to a donor, it has tried to invigorate knowledge sharing programs as effective means of contributing to the development of other countries. Based on this perspective, the Korea Development Institute (KDI) and the International Commission on Financing Global Education Opportunity (the Education Commission) have strongly encouraged the authors to write this book.

KDI is the hub of Korea’s knowledge-sharing programs through its Center for International Development (CID). KDI has actively supported the collaboration between the three authors of this book for the past five years. Ju-Ho Lee started his career as a researcher at KDI in 1990 and served as a member of the Korea’s National Assembly (2004‒2008), the Senior Secretary to the President for Education, Science, and Culture (2008), and the Vice Minister (2009‒2010) and the Minister (2010‒2013) of Education, Science, and Technology and returned to academia in 2013 as a professor at the KDI School of Public Policy and Management. Hyeok Jeong provided his leadership and expertise in shaping the system of knowledge-sharing programs as the first Director of Research Division of CID after he came back to Korea from his twenty-year academic career in economic growth and development. Before he returned to Korea, Hyeok Jeong taught at the University of Southern California and Vanderbilt University in the United States and also at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS) in Japan. Song Chang Hong is the current Director of Planning and Evaluation of CID at KDI. He is responsible for designing and monitoring the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP), a unique development cooperation framework of the Korean government with developing as well as developed countries. Before joining KDI, Dr. Hong served as a policy advisor to the Minister of Education, Science,
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KDI hosted two international seminars where the authors of this book had the opportunity to present and receive valuable feedback on the working papers, which are developed into several chapters in this book. In August 2014, KDI with the East-West Center of Hawaii University organized a conference on ‘A New Direction in Human Capital Policy: Trend in Advanced Countries and Implications for Korea’ where renowned scholars such as Julian Betts, Carl Bonham, Flavio Cunha, Susan Dynarski, Timothy Halliday, Sungmin Han, Harry Holzer, Hisam Kim, Jaehoon Kim, Young-seong Kim, Denise Konan, Sumner Lacroix, David Neumark, WooRam Park, Yoonsoo Park, and Jeffrey Tracznynski were invited. At the conference, a working paper version of Chapter 3 in this book was presented under the title of ‘Making Education Reform Happen’ (Lee, J-H., 2014). In October 2014, the KDI Workshop on Human Capital Policy invited distinguished scholars such as Isaac Ehrlich, Richard Freeman, Patrick Griffin, Eric Hanushek, Joseph Kaboski, Changhui Kang, Hisam Kim, Jinyoung Kim, Wonjoon Kim, Yong-seong Kim, Jungmin Lee, Sam-Ho Lee, Yoonsoo Park, Sung-Chang Ryoo, Paula Stephan, and Petra Todd where a draft version of Chapter 2 in this book entitled ‘Is Korea Number One in Human Capital Accumulation?’ (Lee, Jeong, and Hong, 2014) and the working paper titled ‘From Multiple Choices to Performance Assessment’ (Lee, Ryoo, and Lee, 2014), in which a significant part of Chapter 6 in this book was included, were presented. We are very grateful for the comments and feedback from all the participants of the two international seminars.

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