Preface

As a subsidiary of the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI) is committed to a program of research and capacity building that supports the Bank's overarching goal of poverty reduction in Asia. As an important part of this work, in 2003 a series of studies were undertaken on the effectiveness of various measures aimed at channeling resources directly at the poor and vulnerable – so-called 'poverty targeting'. Five important countries were selected for study – India, Indonesia, the People's Republic of China, the Philippines and Thailand. The results of this work were discussed at an internal workshop in Tokyo in November 2003 and the final drafts were produced in mid-2004. Edited versions of these are presented here as country chapters.

In addition in 2003 ADBI commenced work on issues relating to micro-finance with a major conference on this topic held in Tokyo in December 2003. The final chapter of this volume was presented at that conference as a survey of knowledge on the impact of micro-finance institutions on poverty in Asia.

ADBI will be pursuing these topics in more depth in the future, but we are delighted at this stage to be able to publish our material internationally through this joint publication with Edward Elgar Publishing.

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