

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 development 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 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 edition brings together the research of CRC on regulatory impact assessment (RIA). Introduced in the 1990s in a number of OECD countries, the purpose of RIA is to create a culture within government conducive to weighing up both the costs and benefits of a new regulation before it is introduced. Also, RIA can be used to assess the continuing need for existing regulation.

While there is growing interest in the principles and practice of RIA there is very little accessible literature on the subject. This book provides an analysis, supported by case studies, of the principles of better regulation. A key feature of the book is its focus on the problems of applicability and adaptation of RIA practice in developed, developing and transitional economies.

Paul Cook and Martin Minogue
CRC, University of Manchester, UK