Preface and acknowledgements

The book is based on invited papers from scholars in the areas of trade and development presented at an international conference on 'Free Trade Agreements in the Asia-Pacific Region' at the University of Western Australia, Perth, Australia during July 2004. Contributors are internationally recognized academics whose main research interests centre around the impact of regional trade agreements (RTAs) on economic development in the Asia-Pacific region. The conference focused on the following major issues:

1. RTAs – theoretical perspective
2. RTAs, the World Trade Organization (WTO) and exchange rates
3. RTAs, East Asia and the Pacific (APEC)
4. RTAs and Southeast Asia
5. RTAs and agriculture
6. Future outlook of RTAs in the Asia-Pacific region.

The papers were reviewed for rigour and quality.

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