Foreword

The middle of a global financial crisis is perhaps not the best time to be studying multinational banking in China. However, Chen Meng's thoughtful survey of the theory and practice of foreign entry into the Chinese banking market is both relevant and useful. The study examines the difficulties facing regulatory authorities trying to balance prudence and control with market freedoms. The Chinese banking system, as described here, is clearly in need of reform and of refreshing in terms of the introduction of innovative foreign practices. However, the regulatory authorities also need to be mindful of maintaining the stability of the system. Modernizing the system must not mean abandonment of control. From the point of view of the foreign entrants, China's banking market clearly represents a great opportunity. They have clearly been pressing for the removal of restrictions on entry into the potentially lucrative Chinese market. Chen Meng's study traces these developments with great care and with attention to the practical details.

I am delighted to be able to commend this book as it began as a doctoral thesis in the Centre for International Business, University of Leeds. I am sure that it represents a valuable contribution to the literature on multinational banking and to the increasingly valuable studies of the emergence of China as a global superpower.

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