Preface

This book is the final product of five international conferences held since 2001 and organized by Northeast Asia Intellectuals' Solidarity Korea (NAIS Korea). NAIS Korea is a non-governmental organization (NGO) established in 2001 with the goal of promoting regional integration in the form of a 'Northeast Asian Community'; NAIS Korea has more than 500 scholars from Korea as well as international members from throughout the region.

The Incheon Metropolitan City Government of South Korea supported our first international conference as a way for them to commemorate the opening of Incheon International airport on 28–29 November 2001. There was a consensus at this meeting that an NGO to advance solidarity among intellectuals willing to work for the construction of a 'Northeast Asian Community' should be formed. At the first NAIS international conference, the members adopted the 'Incheon Declaration 2001' announcing the official launching of the international NAIS movement.

In 2004, NAIS Korea published a monograph in Korean summarizing the previous years' activities under the title *Toward the Northeast Asian Community: Dreams and Realities of Asian Regional Integration*. The book brought together 17 papers written in Korean by experts and scholars from various fields of politics, economics, society and culture, the family, and science and technology. Since then there has been a strong consensus on the need to publish a book in English that summarized the outcomes of activities and research done by NAIS.

The three co-editors of this volume met in Autumn 2005 at UC Berkeley when Jehoon Park was a visiting scholar there. After he returned to Korea, Park, as General Secretary of NAIS Korea, invited the two Berkeley professors to the 5th international seminar in 2007. At that seminar a variety of new papers were presented and we agreed to work as co-editors to publish this book based on the papers from that conference.

Interest in regional integration and regionalism in East and Northeast Asia has been increasing steadily, but to date most publications have been written in local Asian languages. Those few written in English are mainly by Western scholars. This book brings together a number of both Asian and Western scholars as contributors. It is also somewhat unique in that contributions are made from an interdisciplinary approach covering both

economics and political science. The book deals with various issues including applications of European experiences to Northeast Asia as well as perspectives of each country in the region, together with perspectives from outside the region, most notably from the US. The book contains eight papers from the 5th international conference plus two papers separately invited to address related topics.

We wish to give special thanks to Professor Young-Sun Lee, one of the co-representatives of NAIS Korea. Without his help we would not have been able to complete this publication.

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