About the author

Lois Stevenson, a leading authority on the role of entrepreneurship and micro, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in development and government policy, is a Visiting Research Fellow with Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and has been living in Egypt since 2006. She initially joined IDRC to coordinate the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprise Policy (SMEPol) Development Project, a partnership between the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the IDRC and the Government of Egypt, and to carry out an assessment of the policy, research and institutional capacities for private sector and SME development in 12 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries. Lois organized a number of regional consultations on the private sector policy needs of MENA countries, led a project to carry out Global Entrepreneurship Monitor studies in seven MENA countries, and participated in development of the National Micro and Small Enterprise Development Strategy for the Egyptian Social Fund for Development.

Before joining IDRC Lois spent several years with the Government of Canada, holding directorate positions related to economic framework policies, innovation policy, small business policy and entrepreneurship development. She also spent ten years as a university professor, teaching and researching in the areas of entrepreneurship and small business management. She has authored (or co-authored) 12 books on entrepreneurship-related issues and more than 45 articles and papers for refereed journals and conference proceedings, including several on women entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and entrepreneurship policy.

She has consulted to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) on the development of benchmark indicators for entrepreneurship education policy; carried out assessments for the International Labour Organization (ILO) on policy for women's entrepreneurship in East African countries; and conducted a scientific analysis of the construction of entrepreneurship policy and its practice in 15 countries, including China, as a Visiting Researcher with the Swedish Foundation for Small Business Research (FSF). Lois is a past President of the International Council for Small Business (ICSB), a past President of the Canadian Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship

(CCSBE-CCPME), and a founding member of the Middle East Council for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (MCSBE). She has three degrees, from Dalhousie University in Canada and the University of Bath in the United Kingdom.