Dedication

This book is dedicated to Professor Kiyoshi Kobayashi, who has been a friend, mentor, collaborator and inspiration for the co-editors and many of the authors.

Professor Kobayashi received his doctorate from Kyoto University in 1976. He was a member of the Department of Social Systems Engineering at Tottori University, where he achieved the rank of Professor in 1990. He became Professor in the Graduate School of Engineering at Kyoto University in 1996. He later also joined the faculty of the Graduate School of Management at Kyoto, where he was Dean from 2010 to 2012. At present he is Director of the Research Center for Business Administration and Professor of Infrastructure Economics in the Graduate School of Management and Professor of Infrastructure Management at the Graduate School of Engineering at Kyoto University.

Professor Kobayashi has served as Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Applied Regional Science and the Journal of Japan Society of Civil Engineers. For the past six years he has been Vice Editor-in-Chief of the American Society of Civil Engineering. He has been a member of many editorial boards, including Annals of Regional Science and Papers in Regional Science. He is past president of Applied Regional Science and current president of the Global Business Association. He has been visiting scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis, CERUM (Center for Regional Science at the University of Umea) and the Institute for Future Studies in Sweden.

With 60 books edited or written and 387 refereed papers, he is a prolific scholar. The Japan Society of Civil Engineers has recognized him three times with its Research Prize and with the Distinguished Academic Award in 2012. In 2007 the Danish Ministry of Environment named him among the Top 50 City Creators and Urban Experts. He is a member of the Japan Academy of Science.

Professor Kobayashi’s research is diverse, but a number of themes are prominent. One is the knowledge economy and the roles of creativity and information transfer in regional economic development. His work on creativity in cities has earned him a global reputation as an expert on the urban future. While research in this area is most often descriptive in nature,
Kobayashi applies rigorous analysis in the best Regional Science tradition. His studies of knowledge and information extend to more specific applications, especially in the field of transportation where he has explored the role of rational expectation, limited information and heterogeneous expectation in traffic networks and driver behaviour. Some of his most fascinating work is on the enduring importance of face-to-face contacts, despite the proliferation of electronic communication technology.

Another leading theme of his research is the analysis of catastrophes. His work on this topic is wide-ranging, including economic analysis for impact measurement and insurance, the formation of public trust for disaster risk management, and international externalities arising from fiscal policies for disaster recovery. Professor Kobayashi is one of the leading researchers in this increasingly critical area of research.

Professor Kobayashi has published several books and many papers on the management of infrastructure. He has also organized international conferences and trained many students in this important, practical field. As usual, his analysis integrates social aspects with physical/engineering aspects, stressing the importance of social capital.

He has also been very active in research on economic development in Southeast Asia. In particular, he has collaborated with Vietnamese scholars on the development and application of input–output models for that country. Complementary to this research are his efforts to educate the next generation of Regional Science scholars from low-income Asian countries, both by bringing them to study at Kyoto and bringing educational programmes to their home countries.

Professor Kobayashi has been as prolific in graduate education as he has been in publication. He has supervised more than three hundred graduate students in engineering and management at Tottori and Kyoto Universities. His graduates are currently employed in leadership positions at top firms including Central Japan Railway, Central Nippon Expressway, Japan Airlines, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and many others, as well as in numerous agencies of the Japanese, prefectural and municipal governments. Since 1998 he has supervised 43 students to completion of the PhD degree. Some of these, such as Dr Kakuya Matsushima of Kyoto University, have become top academic scholars. Others have become industry leaders, such as Dr Christakis Mina of Taisei Corporation who is now in charge of a project to build a new international airport in Hanoi, Vietnam.

Professor Kobayashi’s many academic accomplishments attest to his incredible productivity and rigour. But for those who know him, he is distinguished most by his originality of thought. In any encounter with him – whether it be in a formal presentation or a casual conversation – one can expect to be surprised and challenged by what he has to say. He has a
remarkable ability to observe specific phenomena, such as the formation of common interest communities on the internet, explore the underlying processes that give rise to them, and then generalize them to make original and often surprising observations about how knowledge-based innovations and technologies are changing the way the world works. And of course, all this is done with the analytical rigour that is the hallmark of a great scholar.