Preface

The papers contained in this volume, and its two companion volumes, derive from an ongoing collaborative research project on China GATT/WTO membership by the Economics Division of the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the Australian National University in Canberra and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing. This project has drawn together experts from Australia, China, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia to study the potential impact of China's membership of the GATT/WTO and the strategic issues associated with China's negotiation of or admission to the WTO.

The first phase of the research resulted in a conference on ‘China and East Asia Trade Policy’, hosted by the Australia–Japan Research Centre at the Australian National University on 1–2 September 1994, with participation by over seventy analysts from throughout the region. A summary of the conference discussion is contained in a report published in February 1995 by the Australia–Japan Research Centre entitled *China and East Asia Trade Policy*.

The second phase of the research concluded with a conference on ‘China, East Asia and International Trade Policies’, held in Beijing on 22–23 March 1995. The views expressed at the conference — which saw participation by over fifty researchers, government officials and analysts from China, Japan and Australia — are presented in a report just published by the Australia–Japan Research Centre in October 1995 entitled *China, East Asia and International Trade Policies*.

A further conference on the next phase of the research project is scheduled to be held in Tokyo in 1996, leading up to the publication of a major research report that summarises the main results of this research.

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