

FOREWORD

The economic relationship between Japan and China was the centrepiece of a research project carried out by the Business and Economics section of the German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) between 2000 and 2002, focusing in particular on corporate strategies, international management and human resource development. As a result of this research “Focus China – The New Challenges for Japanese Management”, assembles up-to-date research by a number of European, American and Japanese scholars. The book presents an analysis and an evaluation of the various microeconomic aspects of the Sino-Japanese relationship. By focusing on competitive strategies, investment, economic and business co-operation as well as management activities and strategies and other topics, this book will help to close a gap in the landscape of Sino-Japanese literature on the microeconomic level. It will be a useful, if not an essential tool for students, scholars and managers doing business in Japan and China.

The German Institute for Japanese Studies (DIJ) in Tōkyō, founded in 1988, is one of Germany’s foreign research institutes and is concerned with research on contemporary Japan. The Institute is thus a manifestation of the awareness in Germany of the need to obtain a better understanding of Asia and Japan in particular. To this end, the DIJ conducts research in the fields of the humanities, the social sciences and the economy of modern Japan, as well as in the area of Japanese-German relations (www.dijtokyo.org). In January 2001, the DIJ organized, in cooperation with the Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI), an international conference in Tōkyō entitled “Japan and China: Economic Relations in Transition”. We would like to extend our thanks to Mr. Toshihiko Fukui, former Chairman of the Economic Research Center from the Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI), currently President of the Bank of Japan, and Mr. Dennis S. Tachiki, former Senior Economist at the Fujitsu Research Institute (FRI), currently Professor at Tamagawa University, Tōkyō, for their hospitality and friendly co-operation in the course of this conference. The majority of contributions in this volume are based on presentations from this conference.

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