

# Preface

China's radical economic reforms since the early 1980s and its rush to modernize its economy have attracted much attention in the international community, and greatly increased interest in doing business in China. This in turn has focused increased interest and concern within the international business community on the present state of China's industrial technology, and it was to shed more light on this topic that I undertook to write this book.

In compiling materials for this book, I made frequent trips to China during the 1980s to conduct interviews and to inspect industrial enterprises in various regions of the country, from the Northeast region to South China and the Southwestern region. I was able to interview specialists and government officials in charge of China's science and technology policies including members of the State Planning Commission and the State Science and Technology Commission.

Another important source of first-hand information was a questionnaire survey I conducted in 1988 over three hundred industrial enterprises in Tianjin. This survey along with observations of the enterprises and interviews with plant managers did much to help me understand the relationship of technology and entrepreneurship at the enterprise level in China. I was most grateful for the wonderful assistance of my co-researchers at the Industrial Economic Institute of the Tianjin Academy of Social Sciences. Without their help the survey would not have been possible. Also important in the production of this work was the two years from 1984 to 1986 that the Institute of Developing Economies provided me for research in the United States. During that time I had the chance to absorb the research being done in my field in that country. At the same time I was also able to examine the experience of the USSR in the area of science and technology and R&D systems and to compare this with China.

The John King Fairbank Center for East Asian Research and the Russian Research Center, both at Harvard University, and the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies at George Washington University provided a wealth of materials for my research.

I am particularly indebted to Professor Joseph S. Berliner at Harvard's Russian Research Center, as well as Professor Richard P. Suttmeier at Hamilton College and Dr. Leo A. Orleans at the Library of Congress for their academic knowledge. My discussions with them were stimulating, and they have continually encouraged me in my research on this subject.

This book is based on the original Japanese edition, *Chūgoku no kōgyōka to sangyō gijutsu shinpo* [Industrialization and the progress of industrial technology in China] (Tokyo: Institute of Developing Economies, 1988). However this English work is not simply a translation. It has been reorganized and new sections on the results of a field survey I did in Tianjin have been added. Since writing this book and scheduling it for printing, the Tian'anmen Square incident occurred followed by a resurgence of conservative economic and political policy. I have noted these events but have chosen not to comprehensively revise this work as I feel this conservative resurgence is a temporary back-tracking in China's modernization line which began in the 1980s.

In closing I want to thank Mr. Shoji Ito, Director of the Information and Publications Department of the Institute of Developing Economies, and other colleagues for having kindly read my manuscripts and making useful suggestions. Finally, I would like to express my deep appreciation to Dr. William L. Swan for helping to organize and proofread my English manuscript, and to Mr. Yukio Saito, editor of this publication. Without their patience, I would never have succeeded in completing this book.