

<p1>Preface

With the rapid development of China's economy in the past decade, there arises a great demand for a comprehensive report concerning the state of development of logistics in China. Yet an English publication on the subject has been wanting. Meeting this need now is the English version of the *China Logistics Development Report*, renamed *Contemporary Logistics in China: An Introduction*, which will serve as an indispensable document for researchers, academicians and all interested in grasping a deeper understanding of logistics in China.

The *China Logistics Development Report* (called the *Blue Book* for short in China) is authored and compiled by the Logistics Research Center at Nankai University, with the express approval and authorization of the Central Government of China. Since the publication of the first report in 2002, eight subsequent reports have been published on an annual basis, covering the progress, status and significant events in logistics for the decade. Among comparable reports in this field, the *Blue Book* is regarded as the most systematic, objective and authoritative publication. *Contemporary Logistics in China: An Introduction* is the first English edition of the *Blue Book*, written specifically for global readers. This timely publication aims to reflect the state of modern logistics in China since the outbreak of the global financial crisis in 2009.

The publication comprises seven chapters. The first three chapters contain syntheses of the features of China's economic development, the development of the logistics market in China and China's logistics infrastructure, thus providing readers with a big picture of the development of logistics in China. In addition, the first three chapters include a comprehensive analysis of the state of China's economy, shedding light on the broader environment in which the development of the logistics industry in China has taken place. The chapters also include a comprehensive assessment of the development of the industry as well as relevant statistics and perspectives regarding the development of China's infrastructure as it relates to logistics.

Given the pronounced regional differences in China's vast geography, an exploratory study of its logistics by major regions would afford the readers a more focused understanding of the characteristics of regional logistics. Hence, the fourth chapter features a comparative analysis of the development of logistics among the Eastern, Central and Western regions, as well as that in the key coastal areas of the Yangtze River Delta, the Pearl River Delta and the Pan-Bohai Area.

Professions related to the logistics industry are also considered an important aspect of China's logistics. The fifth chapter treats the development of retail chains, automotive logistics, as well as energy logistics, depicting the development of logistics operations and management of these economic sectors/industries, their existing problems and ongoing trends.

The book also explores some hot topics in logistics that involve major events with important social and economic ramifications. Topics covered in Chapter 6 include emergency logistics (giving special attention to the recent Wenchuan and Yushu earthquakes), events logistics (focusing on the 2008 Olympics) and foreign trade logistics. The goal is to enable the reader to obtain a deeper, fuller understanding of the events that shaped the logistics industry in China in 2009. Chapter 7 concludes with a summary of the covered subjects and a perspective for the future of logistics in China.

This book presents the results of a cohesive and integrative study conducted by a team of seasoned researchers, each knowledgeable in their respective subjects. The Logistics Research Center at Nankai University is committed to continue publishing the most relevant and well-founded information on logistics development in China. This publication is intended to provide useful and in-depth information to scholars and researchers interested in the development of logistics in China, but it could also serve as a handy reference for global enterprises in formulating logistics-related business strategies. Furthermore, the pertinent statistics, legal policies and critical regulations contained herein would expectedly be useful to universities, research institutions, media agencies and governmental departments.