

# PREFACE FOR THE CHINESE EDITION

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The growth in China's investments in science and technology over the past thirty years is remarkable. Its reported spending on R&D in 2011 was 22% higher than the year before at 861 billion yuan (\$140 billion). This came to slightly under 2% of GDP – which itself grew rapidly.

This book documents the very substantial efforts Greater China is making in science and technology (Greater China here encompassing Taiwan and Hong Kong as well as the Mainland.) There are several tensions inherent in this enterprise: one is between top-down versus bottom-up initiatives; another is that between things invented in China versus those invented abroad (with the catch phrase for the former being “Indigenous Innovation”). In a world in which information spreads with the speed of light – but institutions adapt more slowly – these topics have their complexities and controversies.

It helps to have some facts and this book presents some (at least our best efforts to do so). We hope that the result helps inform us all on the important progress being made in China in science and technology and some of the obstacles it faces.

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