

PREFACE

The *Handbook of Computable General Equilibrium Modeling* was conceived at a lunch a few years ago that one of us had with Mike Intriligator. Mike likes a good story, especially if it involves economic analysis with a few unexpected twists. Computable general equilibrium (CGE) modeling is a great source of such stories. By the end of the lunch, Mike had suggested that CGE modeling needed its own Handbook in the prestigious *Handbooks in Economics* series that he edits with Ken Arrow.

We thank Mike for his enthusiastic support throughout the preparation of the CGE Handbook. We also thank Ken for his encouragement.

Preparation of a Handbook is not trivial. The first requirement is to persuade leading experts to participate. That we have done well on this task will be obvious to anyone familiar with CGE modeling who looks at our author list. Of course, getting agreement from top people to participate is only a necessary condition for an authoritative Handbook, not a sufficient one. Moving them from agreement to delivery is also required.

To facilitate this process we arranged a 3-day authors' conference. This was held in June 2011 at the World Bank headquarters in Washington, DC. A preliminary version of each chapter was presented by one of its authors. After the presentation, there was general discussion led by a discussion opener (an author of another chapter) who had read the draft chapter before the conference. Not only did the conference generate constructive feedback for authors, it was also effective in giving the whole project sufficient momentum to take it through to a successful completion. We thank the attending authors for their positive attitude to the conference. They gave considerable time and effort to it, and made their own arrangements regarding travel and accommodation expenses. We also thank Dominique van der Mensbrugghe for paving the way at the World Bank, and Kathy Rollins for a superb job in organizing the World Bank facilities to optimize productivity and comfort. The Centre of Policy Studies (CoPS) at Monash University paid for the conference meals and other venue charges. We thank CoPS Director, Philip Adams, for authorizing these expenditures and CoPS Administrative Officer, Louise Pinchen, for providing excellent logistical support.

All chapters were refereed, in most cases by authors of other chapters. We thank the referees for performing this valuable service. We especially thank Maureen Rimmer who took a heavy refereeing load and assisted in all aspects of our editorial work.

Scott Bentley and Kathie Paoni of Elsevier provided high-quality professional support. We thank them.

Both of us were students of Wassily Leontief. His input-output system was the pioneering contribution to empirical economy-wide modeling. We think that he would

have been pleased with the contributions to this Handbook. They show how CGE modeling, built around his input-output table, has enormously broadened and deepened the application of economy-wide analysis.

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