



Editorial

Foreword

In 2011 an ad hoc coalition of companies and business associations (see Acknowledgments below) launched the *International Business Green Economies Dialogue* (GED) project as a proactive contribution to discussions of “green economy” that featured prominently in the Rio + 20 Conference on Sustainable Development (June 2012).

As described on the GED web site: www.green-dialogue.org, the project consists of two major elements:

Green Dialogue events in Washington, Paris, Beijing, Tokyo and Brasilia. These brought together 80 or so participants from business, national governments, academia, international organizations and policy think tanks to discuss issues involved (such as green growth, green economy and jobs) and domestic and international policy approaches.

Green Perspectives papers. A set of invited, peer reviewed papers to be published in this special edition of *Energy Economics*.

Overall, GED aims to inform the debate and to help promote effective policies and approaches for economic growth that better protect and improve the environment.

Editors Beng Wah Ang (National University of Singapore), Richard Tol (University of Sussex) and John Weyant (Stanford University) agreed that *Energy Economics* would serve as host for the special edition. Potential authors were identified and recruited by a selection committee consisting of Messrs. Tol and Weyant, Ray Kopp (Resources for the Future), David Montgomery (NERA Consulting) and Brian Flannery (Exxon Mobil Corporation, now retired).

Energy Economics applied its standard procedures for review and publication of manuscripts submitted for this volume with two extensions. First, they allowed submissions on a wider range of issues to encompass the broad green economy debate. Second, authors were encouraged to approach their subjects from a range of perspectives including original research, review papers and essays that brought expert thinking to bear on the issues.

As the Green Economies Dialogue project began, the peer-reviewed literature was quite limited. Two intergovernmental institutions had developed major framing documents on green growth: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) had produced a *Green Growth Strategy*¹ and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) a *Green Economy Report*.² Papers in this edition provide peer-reviewed academic perspectives on a number of important topics that are part of the green economy debate. Often they bring to bear a body of previous study and consider its implications for the green economy policy debate.

Papers include macro-economic topics such as implications of activities that “green” the economy and whether or not they promote growth; scale and implications of potential financial needs and

wealth transfers; the role of advanced technologies and means for rapid global deployment; definitions (or not) of green jobs, etc. Other papers discuss issues of more particular concern to business. For example, these include papers that consider labels, consumer information and supply chain management. While the *Green Perspectives* papers cover a broad range of topics, clearly they are not comprehensive. For example, as a result of illness, one proposed paper on the extremely important topic of trade could not be completed.

Two important final points to note:

In recognition of their effort, GED provided funding through the United States Council Foundation to award honoraria for *Green Perspectives* papers.

The views expressed in the papers are those of the authors, not the sponsors.

Acknowledgments

Leadership, sponsors and hosts for GED include the following organizations:

Project leadership: United States Council for International Business (USCIB), United States Council Foundation and Business and Industry Advisory Committee (BIAC) to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Sponsors: Chevron, Eastman Chemical, Électricité de France, ExxonMobil, Novozymes, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Proctor & Gamble, Shell, International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM), International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA) and the Institute for 21st Century Energy of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Dialogue Organization and hosts: USCIB (Washington and Beijing), BIAC (Paris), Keidanren the Japan Business Federation (Tokyo), the Brazilian National Confederation of Industry, CNI, (Brasilia) and Resources for the Future, RFF (Washington).

The sponsors extend their thanks and gratitude to all those involved in producing this volume. We hope that it may serve as an important reference for scholars and others long after the recent Rio Conference. We believe that it will inform the ongoing debate on effective ways to improve the environment while advancing social and economic development.

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¹ <http://www.oecd.org/greengrowth/towardsgreengrowth.htm>.

² <http://www.unep.org/greeneconomy/>.