

Foreword

The 1960 Founding Convention of the OECD mandated the Organisation “to contribute to sound economic expansion in member, as well as non-member countries in the process of economic development”. However, until the 1990s, and the end of the Cold War, most activities of the Organisation vis-à-vis non-OECD economies were conducted through official development assistance and the Development Assistance Committee. In the 1990s, that rapidly changed. The OECD now has programmes with at least seventy non-OECD economies, including a number of country specific programmes, notably with Russia, and more recently with China.

It is with great satisfaction that I write a Foreword for this first ever Economic Survey of China by the Economics Department. Following the tradition of surveys of OECD economies, it focuses on policy and structural reforms to improve macroeconomic performance. This comes at a particularly opportune time. While there is great awareness in OECD countries about the increasing importance of the Chinese economy in a global context, there is much less knowledge of the extent to which China’s economic policies have changed, or of the challenges that China still faces in its ongoing programme of reform. But these policies and their success or failure carry major consequences for all of us. This Survey intends to share the best practices of OECD countries, which have faced similar challenges during the course of their own development, while attempting to take into account the size, complexity and specificity of China, and of its on-going market-oriented reforms.

I am confident that this Survey will be of benefit to the Chinese Government, especially those ministries and agencies who co-operated closely with the OECD in its preparation, most notably the National Development and Reform Commission. But it will also be of great benefit to OECD countries, as well as non-OECD economies, who are increasingly engaged with China through trade and investment.

This publication is being released during a time when we are broadening the important co-operation between the OECD and China. I believe that this Survey, and the experience gained through the review process leading to its preparation, will provide the foundation for a deeper phase of engagement based on a better mutual understanding, following our frank and fruitful discussions, of the policies and structural reforms needed to improve the economic well-being of the Chinese people.

While the Survey is published under my responsibility, it has benefited from the views expressed in a Special Seminar of the Economic Development and Review Committee of the OECD in which representatives of the Chinese government actively participated.



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