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#### GLOBAL OIL TRENDS

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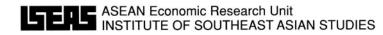
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# GLOBAL OIL TRENDS

# The Asia-Pacific Market in the 1990s

edited by Shankar Sharma Joseph L.H. Tan



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#### Foreword

Even after two decades of dramatic changes in oil supply and prices, there are no signs that this volatility in the oil market is diminishing. Countries are still vulnerable to upheavals in energy prices and supply, as demonstrated by the energy problems triggered by the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990. Among other things, the crisis disrupted oil supply, raised oil prices, fuelled inflation, and adversely affected economic growth, especially in oil-importing developing countries in the Asia-Pacific and beyond.

Market volatility adds to the complexity of analysing and predicting the oil market. Non-economic factors, such as the Gulf crisis, further complicate the analysis. Nevertheless, the strong relationship between oil and the economy makes evaluation of the oil market essential.

This book, one of the first few volumes about the oil market published in the aftermath of the Gulf War, provides insight into current issues and challenges facing the oil market. It focuses on the Asia-Pacific, an economically dynamic region. The region's oil demand has been *the highest* in the world for the last two decades and this is expected to continue into the future. Although the region accounts for only about one-fifth of world oil consumption, almost one-half of the increase in world oil demand is expected from this region.

We hope that the book will be of use to those interested in the global oil market in general and the Asia-Pacific market in particular.

K.S. Sandhu Director Institute of Southeast Asian Studies Singapore

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