Foreword

The notion of social entrepreneurship is rapidly growing and is increasingly appearing in the thinking and practices of both academics and practitioners. Given the global trend of rapidly rising unemployment and poverty rates - even in areas previously regarded as economically stable - the importance and benefits of social entrepreneurship is an urgent matter that needs attention on a global scale.

The focus of this book provides a fresh look at the manner in which business models and strategies are incorporated into this approach to entrepreneurship. Empowering societies and communities through the predominantly altruistic work performed in social enterprises, in conjunction with the transformation of social capital to benefit poor communities across the globe, is truly something that needs to be rejuvenated in the hearts and minds of modern day entrepreneurs.

Contributions from authors throughout the world have been included in this text. It is a much needed contribution to the scholarly literature produced in this field. The need to inject this concept into the thinking and planning within countries with developmental agendas certainly makes sense. Since the advent of the popular text by Charles Leadbeater - *The Rise of the Social Entrepreneur* in 1997, the notion of social entrepreneurship has taken off. Much excitement can be seen in the manner in which the maxims of this approach have been incorporated into the work of socially minded business people, even large global corporations and governments, in welfare services, schools and health care services.

Not only will the purpose of this text serve to educate students in the 21st century to become social entrepreneurs, but the awareness of the benefits and necessity of social entrepreneurship in developmentally driven societies will also be expanded. Social Entrepreneurship has the potential to produce the drivers of social change and economic welfare to millions of people in the world who are unemployed or living on the breadline. It may be the only answer to the most daunting social dilemma of increasing global poverty, and the growing schism between the rich and poor.

The editor and the authors mentioned in this text are duly congratulated on an excellent contribution. May it establish a change in the hearts and the minds of entrepreneurs, governmental policy-makers, and corporate decision-makers to steer our thinking towards the necessity of producing and sharing the benefits of enterprise to benefit all, and towards a sustainable and more humane world.

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