Foreword

Negotiating positions by countries, regions, and socio-economic blocks during the 2015 COP21 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris, France have often been framed by representative in terms that reflect their clients’ perception of economic, political, social, and environmental “convergence”. While the northern, richer, democratic, industrialized countries, for example, are often blamed for contributing the most to climate change because of decades of industrial activities and consumption patterns, the southern, poorer, agrarian, and less-democratic countries complain that they expect to bear the brunt of the social, economic, and environmental problems associated with the “rich countries-induced” climate change. Pundits of the 2015 COP21 conference have speculated that arriving at a meaningful and enforceable agreement will depend to a large extent on how each group that is a signatory to the eventual agreement perceives the agreement’s ability to enable them to either maintain their current stature or help close real or perceived gaps. In other words, it is speculated that any agreement will succeed or fail based on its perceived ability to create desired convergences.

The book, *Handbook of Research on Global Indicators of Economic and Political Convergence*, edited by Dr. Ramesh Chandra Das could not be timelier as the implications of COP21 are discussed. The book is a collection of serious research papers contributed by academicians affiliated with colleges and universities around the globe examining the validity of the assumption that over time certain economic, political, social, and environmental indicators from distinct populations and regions would tend to converge or diverge. The book adopts a common analytical imperative that makes it less cumbersome to compare findings in one chapter to findings in other chapters. By looking at convergence in economic indicators from nine distinct perspectives and the convergence in political, social, and environmental indicators from fourteen distinct perspectives, the book presents a comprehensive view of critical issues that scholars, businesses, policy makers, technocrats, and non-governmental organizations should seek to understand in their respective roles. This book is a must-read for researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and students of economics, public policy, international relations, and environmental studies, to name a few.

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