Foreword

Most countries achieved annual growth at a rate of more than 10% during the 1950s and 1960s. Recent advances in developing countries have also been remarkable. Information technology has played a large role in economic development in many fields. The trend toward growth and advancement, however, has not been accelerated in one area. Although the pace of growth is still high compared to that of other fields and industries, improvement in people’s standards of living lately has been slowing down in most countries. We cannot say that the advancement of IT has brought with it great profits and high utilization as once expected despite the large potential for economic growth using IT. Obstacles in the attainment of such growth have slowed our progress. What should we do? How should IT change to contribute to economic development? What policies should the authorities implement? Little research has been conducted in this field. The 23 chapters from many countries in this book tackle this issue and provide important ideas and suggestions. We are confident that this book answers readers’ demands for information on how to overcome these obstacles so that we can maximize the potential for the contribution of IT to worldwide economic growth and well-being.

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