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ADVANCES IN ECONOMICS AND ECONOMETRICS

Tenth World Congress, Volume II: Applied Economics

This is the second of three volumes containing edited versions of papers and commentaries presented at invited symposium sessions of the Tenth World Congress of the Econometric Society, held in Shanghai in August 2010. The papers summarize and interpret key developments in economics and econometrics, and they discuss future directions for a wide variety of topics, covering both theory and application. Written by the leading specialists in their fields, these volumes provide a unique, accessible survey of progress on the discipline. The second volume primarily addresses applied economics, with specific focus on finance, political economy, trade and firm dynamics, economic growth, and perspectives on Chinese economic growth.

Daron Acemoglu is the Elizabeth and James Killian Professor of Economics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and the recipient of the John Bates Clark Medal in 2005. He is the author of numerous works, including *Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, with James Robinson (Cambridge University Press, 2006), and *Introduction to Modern Economic Growth* (2009). He is the current editor of *Econometrica*.

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Preface

These three volumes contain the invited proceedings from the Tenth World Congress of the Econometric Society. The meetings were hosted by Shanghai Jiao Tong University and were held at the International Convention Center in Shanghai on August 17–21, 2010.

As program co-chairs, much of our effort went into the design of the invited symposia. We chose topics we thought were important, of current research interest, that had reached a sufficient level of development, and with potential for long-run impact on the profession. After considerable discussion, we ended up with fifteen invited sessions, each organized around two papers. We encouraged authors to write papers that are broad but not necessarily comprehensive literature surveys.

Every day of the Congress, three invited symposia were run in parallel, broadly classifiable as one in economic theory, one in an applied field, and one in econometrics, although some of the theory and econometrics were as applied as those that we categorized as "applied" sessions. We decided to organize the three volumes by the same principle, ordering symposia by dates of presentation. Symposium sessions had invited discussants, and about half of them wrote up their comments for publication. These remarks are included in their respective volume after the session papers on which they comment. Volume II contains the Frisch lecture, delivered by Elhanan Helpman, and the volumes also include some papers from participants in the three invited policy panel sessions that we organized. We are very pleased with the policy sessions in terms of the breadth they added to the invited sessions. They were held at lunch time in the central days of the Congress and close one volume each.

We believe that the Tenth World Congress was a success, and we hope these volumes will prove valuable reading for anyone interested in modern economics. We are grateful to the members of our Program Committee,

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whose devoted and skillful work was critical to the success of the program; to the chair of the Local Organizing Committee, Lin Zhou, for a smoothly run operation; and to Scott Parris, our Cambridge editor, for his guidance and support during the preparation of these volumes. We also gratefully acknowledge the staunch support of the Econometric Society President, John Moore, and Executive Vice-President Rafael Repullo, whose efforts were crucial in making the conference a success. Special thanks are due to Roberto Ramos for his expert help when we needed it most. Finally, we express our deep gratitude to Eva González for assisting us in our work with the program and putting these volumes together.

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