TOPICS IN POLICY APPRAISAL

CASE-STUDIES IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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University of Nottingham

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Maynard Bates

Topics in Policy Appraisal

Case-Studies in Economic Development: Volume 2

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General Editor's Preface

As anyone who has taught development economics to undergraduates will be aware, case-study material is very important. It is a medium which helps highlight the key role of country-specific factors (such as institutional constraints) in explaining particular processes or episodes. The problem from a teaching perspective however is that once one has crammed all the analytical material we regard as essential into a programme of lectures, there is precious little time available for the study of particular cases. In the light of this, some years ago the Centre for Research in Economic Development and International Trade (CREDIT) at the University of Nottingham initiated a programme of development seminars designed to fill this gap. We were helped in this venture by Maxwell Stamp plc a leading economic consultancy firm with extensive experience in developing countries. They generously supported our programme, allowing us to bring in outside speakers with specialist knowledge.

The Maxwell Stamp Lectures have turned out to be an invaluable teaching resource to students and faculty alike. Out of these Lectures has grown *Case-Studies in Economic Development*. This is a five-volume series which we hope will prove useful to students and teachers of development economics. The cases are arranged thematically. The first volume focused on *Policy Adjustment in Africa*. This second volume is not geographically specific. It does however embrace a wide range of topics in policy appraisal. As General Editor I am personally very pleased with the way things have worked out in this volume. V.N. Balasubramanyam and John Bates have done an excellent job in editing the papers, as well as setting the scene. The papers themselves cover issues relating to trade shocks, aid, planning, commercial policy and so on. I found them informative and stimulating and I hope others find them equally rewarding.

A number of people who have been involved in this project deserve thanks. First, the volume editors for steering this through to publication. Second, Oliver Morrissey who takes responsibility within CREDIT for organising the Maxwell Stamp Lectures. Last, but by no means least, Maxwell Stamp plc for their generous sponsorship of the Lectures. In particular Martyn Kebell and Ian Harder deserve

our thanks. We value their support highly, as well as the interest they have taken in the Lectures.

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