Yoshitaka Okada

Competitive-*cum*-Cooperative
Interfirm Relations and
Dynamics in the Japanese
Semiconductor Industry

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Preface

This book is the cumulative outcome of several projects. My interest in the semiconductor industry started when I was involved in a United Nations University project titled “Japan’s Self-reliance in Science and Technology for National Development.” The late Professor Toshio Shishido, then the Vice President of the International University of Japan, generously included me in the project as a young scholar along with prominent Japanese specialists in technology and development.

My interest in institutional analysis began when I was invited to be visiting assistant professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1987. I am grateful to Professor Solomon Levine for providing me with such a rare opportunity. There I met Professor Rogers Hollingsworth, who introduced me to the fascinating field of institutional analysis and to a group of top-level scholars working in the field. Inspired by institutional analysis, I began to develop the conceptual framework needed to identify the institutional dynamics of Japanese high-technology industries. Grants from the International University of Japan (1989) and the Japanese Ministry of Education (1990-1991) enabled my colleagues and me to start the project. My role was to investigate the semiconductor industry; Professors Shinichi Watanabe and Ichiro Inukai of the International University of Japan were to inquire into bio-related industries. They gave me invaluable assistance by teaching me an economist’s perspective and enriching my conceptual framework. Later, small grants from the Kajima Foundation (1992) and IBM Japan (1993) enabled me to continue research on the semiconductor industry. Travel grants from the International University of Japan (1993), the Nomura International Foundation (1994), the Murata Science Foundation (1996), and the Japan Foundation (1996) have enabled me to pursue and present this research.

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My conceptualization of competitive-cum-cooperative governance has been advanced through the "Comparison of Capitalist Economies" project organized by Professor Rogers Hollingsworth. My work has benefited from criticism by Professor Richard Whitley of the University of Manchester Business School, who commented on my paper in the capitalist-economies project.

The theory of competitive-cum-cooperative interfirm governance presented in this book is the outcome of the intellectual stimulation that I received from friends, company managers, and many scholars with whom I interacted. Ms. Ellen Jane Hollingsworth, the former Research Director of the Mental Health Research Center, the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and Professor Richard Whitley have given me valuable comments on this manuscript. Fr. Robert Ballon and Ms. Yasuko Hamabata of Sophia University have consistently provided me with valuable assistance when I most needed it: during the Advanced Development Management Program and the last stage of editing this book. I am grateful to Ms. Lisa Schreibersdorf for correcting my English and Mr. David Gear and Mr. Carlos Roberto Salas for assisting me at several stages of completion of this manuscript. Of course, none of them is responsible for the content or for any errors.

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