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Preface

As the field of international finance has evolved, so has the content of *Multinational Business Finance*. In this fifth edition we identify three major trends and themes that continue to differentiate international financial management from its domestic counterpart.

As in previous editions, we perceive the multinational firm to be a unique institution that acts as a catalyst and facilitator of international trade and as an important producer and distributor in host countries where its affiliates are located. The success of a multinational firm continues to be dependent on its ability to recognize and benefit from imperfections in national markets for products, factors of production, and financial assets.

Also carried over from earlier editions is the theme that volatile exchange rates may increase risk, but they also create great opportunities for both investors and firms to profit, given a proper understanding of exchange risk management.

NEW TO THE FIFTH EDITION

This fifth edition recognizes the increasing importance of global integration of money and capital markets, a trend that is creating expanded opportunities for both investors and organizations that need to raise capital. Although global integration of financial markets removes some market imperfections, which impede the flow of capital internationally, excellent opportunities continue to exist for investors to increase their returns while lowering their risks through international portfolio diversification and for firms to lower their cost of capital by sourcing it internationally.

The fifth edition of *Multinational Business Finance* has been revised to reflect changes in the field of international finance occurring since the end of 1985. In particular, we have added separate chapters on futures and options (Chapter 5) and international portfolio diversification (Chapter 12, written by Cheol Eun). A new introductory chapter focuses on trends and themes rather than goal conflict, while this latter topic is now treated as part of political risk in a thoroughly revised Chapter 17.

Foreign exchange risk management is now explained in three separate chapters. Instead of treating measurement of all types of foreign exchange risk in one

chapter and management in a separate chapter, both measurement and management are combined within chapters focusing on economic (Chapter 7), transaction (Chapter 8), and translation (Chapter 9) foreign exchange risk. All other chapters have been updated with the most recent data and any new theoretical contributions found in academic and business literature.

This fifth edition of *Multinational Business Finance* is appropriate for the same audiences as the first four editions. Earlier editions have been widely used in international financial management courses in university degree programs, university-run executive programs, and company management development programs in the United States and abroad.

Readers will find *Multinational Business Finance* most meaningful if they have the background knowledge or experience equivalent to a basic finance course. A previous course in international economics is desirable, but the text is designed to cover sufficient economic material so that a separate background is not essential.

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Preface

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Inevitably woven into the fabric of this book are ideas received from faculty, colleagues, and students at institutions where we have taught, both our home universities of University of California, Los Angeles and Oregon State University and our visiting stints at the University of California, Berkeley; Cranfield School of Management, England; University of Hawaii, Manoa; Northern European Management Institute, Norway; Copenhagen School of Business, Denmark; Institute for the Development of Executives, Argentina; National University of Singapore; and Dalian University of Science & Technology, People's Republic of China. Further ideas came from consulting assignments in Argentina, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Norway, People's Republic of China, Taiwan, the United Kingdom, and Venezuela.

Finally, we would like to rededicate this book to our parents, the late Wilford Eiteman, Sylvia Eiteman, the late Harold Stonehill, and Norma Stonehill, who gave us the motivation to become academicians and authors. We thank our wives, Keng-Fong and Kari, for their patience through the years spent preparing this edition. Eva Hofenbredl and Emily Arulpragasam deserve special thanks for their excellent help in producing the final manuscript.

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