GOVERNANCE IN DEVELOPING ASIA
Public Service Delivery and Empowerment

Raghav Gaiha, University of Delhi, India

Raghbendra Jha, Australian National University

Governance in Developing Asia is one of the first books of its kind to provide an overview of the role that better governance and citizen empowerment can play in improving public service delivery in developing Asia. The World Development Report 2004 set a framework for public service delivery in terms of the short and long roads to accountability of service providers to citizens. More than a decade on, this important book revisits the issue and departs from the WDR framework, highlighting its shortcomings and offering alternative solutions. The contributors present fresh evidence on the relationship between governance and development outcomes, including growth and indicators of living standards. They argue that the Asia-Pacific region must do better in delivering essential public services if it wishes to continue improving the quality of life for millions of its people. They show how the quantity and quality of public services in a country can be improved if the government actively solicits citizen involvement in service delivery.

Researchers and students of public policy and Asian studies will find this to be a useful read. Public policymakers and practitioners in government and non-government agencies will draw important lessons from the issues raised and solutions proposed in this book.

Anil B. Deolalikar is at the University of California, Riverside, USA and Shikha Jha and Pilipinas F. Quising are at the Asian Development Bank, Philippines.