
FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN POSTAL REFORM

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FUTURE DIRECTIONS IN POSTAL REFORM

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PREFACE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This book arises out of the Eighth Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics: "Future Directions in Postal Reform," held in Vancouver Canada, June 7-10, 2000. Leading practitioners, postal administrations, and the courier industry, as well as a number of regulators, academic economists, mailers, consultants, and lawyers came together to examine some of the major policy and regulatory issues facing the industry. Issues addressed included international postal policy; the universal service obligation; regulation; competition, entry, and the role of scale and scope economies; the nature and role of cost analysis in postal service; productivity; interaction of law and economics; future technologies; and service standards.

The conference and the book follow our earlier conferences. In 1990, a conference was held at Coton House, Rugby, England, July 22-25, 1990, in honor of the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Penny Post and the contributions of Sir Rowland Hill. The ensuing book, *Competition and Innovation in Postal Services*, was published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 1991. In 1992, *Regulation and the Evolving Nature of Postal and Delivery Services: 1992 and Beyond* was held at Village PTT, La Londe les Maures, France, on March 18-21, 1992. This conference resulted in *Regulation and the Nature of Postal and Delivery Services*, published by Kluwer in 1993. Both conferences were recognized by the European Express Organization with the Hermes Award 1992 at its annual award dinner in Munich on June 22, 1992. The first workshop, The Workshop on Postal and Delivery Economics, was held June 23-26, 1993 in Daun, Germany. In 1994 a Conference in Stockholm, Sweden, May 18-21, 1994, and a workshop, in Hakone, Japan, June 1-4, 1994 combined to produce the volume *Commercialization of Postal and Delivery Services*, published by Kluwer in 1995. A workshop was held in Naantali, Finland, June 7-10, 1995. A Conference was held in Monterey, California, May 22-25, 1996, and resulted in the book *Managing Change in The Postal and Delivery Industries*, published by Kluwer in 1996. The next book, *Emerging Competition in Postal and Delivery Services* was a direct result of the Fifth and Sixth Conferences on Postal and Delivery Economics: *The Evolving Structure of Postal and Delivery Industries* held in Helsingor, Denmark, June 11-14, 1997; *Emerging Competition in the Postal and Delivery Sectors* held in Montreux, Switzerland, June 17-20, 1998. These combined to produce the book *Emerging Competition in the Postal and Delivery Services*. The Seventh Conference on Postal and Delivery Economics, *Current Directions in Postal Reform*, was held in Sintra, Portugal, June 23-26, 1999. This resulted in the book *Current Directions in Postal Reform*

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The host country plays an important role in these conferences. This year's conference, the *Eight Conference on Postal Delivery Economics*, benefited greatly from the efforts of our hosts Canada Post. Bill Price provided advice, reminders, and assistance on numerous occasions in his role as Canada Post's representative on the organizing committee. In addition, Louis O'Brien and Gerard Power were helpful to us with their advice and assistance.

In the tradition of these conferences we very much enjoyed the speeches by three distinguished executives in the postal sector. We thank John M. Nolan, Deputy Postmaster General, United States Postal Service; Luis Jimenez, Vice President of Global Growth and Futures Strategy, Pitney Bowes; and Peter T. McInenly, Q.C., Vice President—Strategic Planning, Canada Post Corporation. Each, at his dinner speech, provided a unique perspective on the problems facing postal and delivery networks.

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