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## Preface

On April 5–7, 2006, the *9th Econometric Workshop* with the title “Risk Assessment: Decisions in Banking and Finance” was held at the University of Karlsruhe (TH), Germany. The workshop was organized by the Institute for Statistics and Mathematical Economics and the Adolf Würth GmbH & Co.KG, Künzelsau. More than 20 invited speakers and 70 participants attended the workshop. The papers presented at the conference dealt with new approaches and solutions in the field of risk assessment and management, covering all types of risk (i.e., market risk, credit risk, and operational risk).

This volume includes 12 of the papers presented at the workshop. We are delighted with the range of papers, especially from practitioners.

Many people have contributed to the success of the workshop: Sebastian Kring and Sven Klussmeier did the major part of organizing the workshop. The organizational skills of Markus Höchstötter, Wei Sun, Theda Schmidt, Nadja Safronova, and Aksana Hurynovich proved indispensable. Jens Büchele und Lyuben Atanasov were responsible for the technical infrastructure while Thomas Plum prepared the design for this volume. All of their help is very much appreciated.

The organization committee wishes also to thank the School of Economics and Business Engineering, Vice-Dean Professor Dr. Christof Weinhardt, and Professor Dr. Frank Fabozzi (Yale University’s School of Management) for their cooperation. Last but certainly not least we thank Professor Dr. h.c. Reinhold Würth and the Adolf Würth GmbH & Co.KG for their generous support of this conference.

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