

Economic Growth and Environmental Regulation: The People's Republic of China's Path to a Brighter Future

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This volume assembles works of a group of eminent scholars to look at the problem of growth and environment from the perspective of environmental regulation. The questions addressed are: how does economic growth interact with regulation, and what are the best approaches to regulation in use today?

The context for the volume is the current situation in the People's Republic of China (PRC), where 30 years of rapid growth have created a situation in which there are both demands for environmental regulation and the need to choose a future development path. The advent of "A Macro-Environmental Strategy" for the PRC presents an opportunity to ask how and why the country should introduce regulation into the management of its development.

The volume looks at both the demand side of environmental regulation and the supply side. The demand side of regulatory intervention examines how regulation operates to supplement existing resource allocation mechanisms, via effective demand aggregation and implementation mechanisms. The supply side of regulation examines how regulation operates to guide industrial growth down particular pathways, in the pursuit of managed development. Both sides of the environmental regulation involve the important issues of implementation and enforcement.

The volume consists of four parts.

- Part I examines the general questions of growth and regulation and introduces the case study of the PRC and its issues of environmental degradation.
- Part II examines the PRC's experiences with growth and environmental regulation, setting the scene in the sectors of air, water, and ecosystems.
- Part III sets out the relationships between growth and regulation, giving international "best practices" in various sectors concerned with environmental regulation and management.
- Part IV examines the institutional environment in the PRC, looking at both its current institutional context and also the sorts of reforms that are suggested for moving toward the international "best practices" in environmental regulation.

Overall, the volume is an attempt to examine the role of environmental regulation as a means for solving existing problems and creating better futures in rapidly developing economies.