

Preface

This book is for all our fellow Singaporeans, regardless of race, language or religion. It is an integral part of a stream of research on issues relating to the aspirations, values, lifestyles, life satisfaction, and quality of life for Singaporeans. Since the early 1990s, Dr Kau Ah Keng has been involved with different collaborators in this area of research. Dr Tan Soo Juan was part of the research team in 1996 and 2001, while Dr Tambyah Siok Kuan participated in the 2001 study. Research on the wellbeing of individuals and communities continues to fascinate us and many other researchers round the world.

The dataset analysed in this book was from the AsiaBarometer 2006 Survey. Our association with the AsiaBarometer Project began when we collaborated with like-minded researchers in the Asian region in crafting a special issue on Quality of Life in Confucian Asia. This special issue is available in *Social Indicators Research* [92(2), 2009], a leading journal dedicated to the study of quality of life issues (<http://springerlink.com>). Following up on this special issue, we have taken the initiative to provide a more in-depth analysis of the Singapore dataset. In this book, we are able to move beyond the constraints of a journal article and discuss more issues about the wellbeing of Singaporeans. We are also able to provide more comparative analyses with the other East Asian countries surveyed, namely China, Hong Kong, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan and Vietnam. These comparisons give us invaluable insights into what makes Singaporeans similar to or different from her East Asian neighbors.