

Preface and acknowledgements

This is the third book of our common project on Corporate Sustainability, funded by the Dresdner Bank Stiftungsfonds im Stifterverband für die Deutsche Wissenschaft. The first two books¹ focused on aspects of Emissions Trading at the interface of economics and business administration. This book takes a broader perspective and focuses on climate change, risks, and responses of society and business.

As is well-known, climate change is one of the biggest challenges for mankind. Although there is increasing evidence that climate change is already occurring, there is neither sufficient knowledge to what extent climate change poses risks to societies and companies, nor about adequate strategies to cope with these risks. Bringing together scholars from environmental economics, political science, and business management, this book describes, analyses and evaluates climate change risks and responses of societies and companies. The book contributes to the question of how climate change can be mitigated by discussing efficient and effective design of mitigation measures, in particular emissions trading and clean development mechanism. Placing special emphasis on the impact of climate change risks on business, the book investigates in what way selected sectors of the economy are affected and what measures they can undertake to adapt to climate change risks.

The book is based on a workshop held at the Leucorea, the former University of Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, from 28th to 30th November 2005. This workshop brought together young and established scholars from different disciplines and from different countries to discuss topics of climate change, risks, mitigation and adaptation. For the publication of the book the contributions of the participants were reviewed, revised and updated.

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¹ Antes R, Hansjürgens B, Lethmate P (eds) Emissions Trading and Business, Heidelberg/Berlin, Springer-Physica 2006; Antes R, Hansjürgens B, Lethmate P (eds) Emissions Trading – Institutional Design, Decision Making and Corporate Strategies, Heidelberg/Berlin, Springer 2008.

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