

*The WTO and International Trade Regulation.* Edited by PHILIP RUTTLEY, IAIN MACVAY and CAROL GEORGE. [London: Cameron May. 1998. 270 pp. ISBN 1-874698-12-0. £60]

THIS book consists of copies of a number of papers given at the inaugural conference of the World Trade Law Association ("the WTLA"). It is billed as the first Yearbook of the WTLA. There are essays by H. E. Celso Lafer, the Hon. Roy MacLaren, Debra P. Steger, Professor W. R. Cornish, Dr Josef A. McMahon, Professor Norio Komuro, Gerard Depayre, David Palmeter and Philip Ruttley. The volume has an introduction by Lord Slynn of Hadley, as well as an editors' introduction. There are a number of appendices of WTO documents, comprising the texts of the Understanding on Rules and Procedures Governing the Settlement of Disputes (the DSU), the Decision on the Application and Review of the DSU, the Rules of Conduct for the DSU, the Working Procedures for Appellate Review, the Special or Additional Dispute Settlement Procedures in the Multilateral Agreements, the Special or Additional Dispute Settlement Procedures in the Plurilateral Agreements and the Dispute Settlement Decision of the GATT 1947 Contracting Parties Referred to in the DSU. The Constitution of the WTLA is also annexed.

However, although a distinguished list of contributors has been assembled and their contributions are generally of excellent quality, the volume suffers from a lack of focus. The essays vary from the short and very general (such as Cornish's five-page contribution on "Trade Related Intellectual Property") to the detailed examination of discrete topics (such as Komuro's "International Harmonisation of Rules of Origin"). It is difficult to see what readership the book is aimed at and this difficulty is reinforced by the inclusion of so many appendices, the contents of most of which are easily available elsewhere (not least on the WTO website). The uncharitable might conclude that they are padding to justify the book's price.

MATTHEW HAPPOLD

*Designing Privatization Strategies in Africa—Law, Economics, and Practice.* By GERALD BISONG TANYI. [New York: Praeger Publishers. 1997. 124 pp. ISBN 0-275-95574-5. £43.95]

GERALD Bisong Tanyi sets himself a tough task. The book is intended to provide a comprehensive overview of the range, complexity and significance of the legal, economic and practical questions which attend the privatisation of enterprises, and it proposes a strategy for privatisation and the development of the private sector.

Although the book is short, it provides a clear and practical account of a wide range of questions which arise. It discusses such complex issues as the trade-off between efficiency and the encouragement of participation by disadvantaged groups, developing an appropriate and stable institutional environment, and the need for political commitment, transparency and administrative efficiency. It also assesses the various methods of transferring ownership.

The author is an enthusiastic advocate of privatisation, but he recognises that it is not a magic wand for transforming economies and that there are significant prerequisites for successful privatisation.

JANE RICHARDSON