

Public Enterprise in Less Developed Countries

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Abstract

This volume consists of papers chosen from the Boston Area Public Enterprise Group Conference that was held in 1980 and concentrated on public enterprises in less-developed countries. The Boston Area Public Enterprise Group is composed of scholars dedicated to understanding the public enterprises operating in the world's mixed economies. Public enterprises are government-owned firms that sell goods or services in a market. Involved in public production for private consumption, they are a hybrid of government and private enterprise. Thus, an analysis of public enterprise requires insights from economics, management, political science and law. Each of these disciplines is represented in addressing the following questions: Why public enterprise? Who should control public enterprise? How are decisions made in practice? How do public enterprises behave in international markets? How does risk and uncertainty alter public enterprise decisions'? How are incentive structures to be designed'? How do public enterprises compare with other public policy tools for dealing with particular problems'? The contributions combine theory and practice in analysing a variety of less-developed countries.

Suggested Citation

Jones, Leroy P., 2009. "[Public Enterprise in Less Developed Countries](#)," [Cambridge Books](#), Cambridge University Press, number 9780521102919, October.

Handle: *RePEc:cup:cbooks:9780521102919*

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