CONTENTS

FOREWORD ix

PREFACE xi

LIST OF FIGURES xiii

LIST OF TABLES xv

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS xix

CHAPTER 1: WHAT MAKES A CITY MORE LIVEABLE? 1

1.1 A More Liveable Life 1
1.2 Thinking Broadly about the Concept of Liveability 7
1.3 Thinking Sensibly about the Concept of Sustainability 11
1.4 Preview 15

CHAPTER 2: THE EMPIRICAL FRAMEWORK: METHODOLOGY, DATA AND COMPUTATION ALGORITHM 17

2.1 Comparison of Empirical Frameworks Used in Ranking 17

2.2 Fleshing Out the Global Liveable Cities Index Framework 26
2.2.1 Economic Vibrancy & Competitiveness 26
2.2.2 Environmental Friendliness & Sustainability 27
2.2.3 Domestic Security & Stability 28
2.2.4 Socio-Cultural Conditions 29
2.2.5 Political Governance 30
2.3 Selecting Indicators for the Global Liveable Cities Index: Ideal versus Practical 31
2.4 Data Sources, Constraints & Proxies 44
2.5 The Selection of Cities 45
2.6 Computation of Rankings: The Algorithm 45

CHAPTER 3: THE EMPIRICAL FINDINGS AND POLICY SIMULATION 51

3.1 Global Liveable Cities Index Ranking 51
3.2 Policy Simulation 62
3.3 Simulation Results 63
3.4 Asian Liveable Cities Ranking 75
3.5 Discussion of the Global Liveable Cities Index Ranking 82

CHAPTER 4: THE LIVEABLE CITY-STATES OF HONG KONG AND SINGAPORE 85

4.1 How Singapore and Hong Kong Differ in Conditions 85
4.2 Singapore's Push for Ecological Diversity and Economic Sustainability 87

CHAPTER 5: THE GLOBAL LIVEABLE CITIES INDEX IN PERSPECTIVE 89

5.1 The Hard Questions 89
5.2 Details of the Six Other City Indices 90

5.3 The Clout Club and the Comfort Club . . . 93
5.4 Which Club does the Global Liveable Cities Index Belong to? 101
5.5 More Hard Questions 102
5.6 The Punchline 105

BIBLIOGRAPHY 107

INDEX 111