This book traces the development of world trade from the era when the global trading system had been stacked against growth in developing countries to the present time when the membership of the WTO has grown to include most developing countries. It is for this reason that the Doha Round is important: It has given all countries of the world the opportunity to work collectively on barriers of interest to developing countries and to the world's poor. Although the choice is simple, it is not easy. The underlying details of the issues are notoriously complex. Observers have a difficult time penetrating the veil of legal and economic opacity that envelops the negotiations. The details are sufficiently technical and multifarious that experts in one area are often unaware of technical details in another. And details make the difference between opening markets and merely appearing to do so through a vacuous agreement that looks good on the surface but does little or nothing to widen opportunities for poor traders in the global market place. This book provides succinct analyses of the most critical issues facing negotiators, highlighting the choices that most affect development. It is a window into the issues. The WTO negotiations are not the only ones shaping the world trading system. For one thing, regional trade agreements in growing numbers are introducing preferential trade arrangements between subsets of the international community. Then again, a third subject of international policy discussions—aid for trade—affects developing countries' opportunities to participate in the global market. This book details the pitfalls for the world economic system to avoid, and the author hopes that it will contribute to a better world trading system, one that is more equitable and more supportive of development.
The Doha Round of world trade negotiations - also known as the Doha Development Agenda - was launched in Doha, Qatar in November 2001. The talks aimed at further liberalising trade, whilst making it easier for developing countries, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to integrate into the WTO multilateral system. The main issues at stake are: Reforming agricultural subsidies. Ensuring that new liberalisation in the global economy respects the need for sustainable economic growth in developing countries.