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Preface

This book is a collection of selected papers presented at the International Public Procurement Conference, October 21-23, 2004, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, USA. Organized by the Public Procurement Research Center, the Conference was sponsored by the following organizations:

- Curtin University of Technology Business School (Australia);
- Florida Association of Public Purchasing Officers;
- FAU College of Architecture and Urban and Public Affairs;
- The National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc.;
- South East Florida Local NIGP Chapter;
- United Nations Inter-Agency of Procurement Services Office;
- U.S. General Services Administration; and
- The World Bank Procurement Policy and Services Group.

There were forty-six papers submitted for presentations at the conference. Through a peer review process, six papers were selected for publication in the Journal of Public Procurement (Volume 4, Issue 3, 2004); nineteen for publication in this book; and the remaining twenty-one papers are in a CD form of the Conference Proceedings. These papers have been accepted for publication in other publication outlets such as academic journals and books; or need to be revised for publication consideration in future issues of the Journal of Public Procurement.

The book will be a great contribution to public procurement knowledge and practices. Practitioners and academic from various cultural, social, economic and political environments and various organizations share their procurement knowledge and experiences. In our current e-world, the readers of this book should not be surprised to see public procurement practitioners in different countries have experienced similar challenges; and researchers have conducted their research on similar procurement issues.
LIST OF EDITORS

Armando Araujo, Ph.D., is the Director of Procurement in the Operations Policy and Country Services Vice-Presidency of The World Bank. He is responsible for formulating the Bank policy in procurement, (and) promoting and maintaining high quality standards for procurement that is carried out by borrowers.

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Rick Grimm, CPPO, CPPB has served the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing (NIGP) as its Chief Executive Officer since 1998 and is currently the President of the International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management (IFPMM). Under Rick's leadership, NIGP has launched a new academic-based curriculum focused on both the public procurement practitioner and the academic student pursuing studies in public administration.

Kirsten R. Ejlskov Jensen, MA, Chartered MCIPD is Manager of the Procurement Advisory and Development Unit of the Inter-Agency Procurement Services Office of the United Nations Development Programme. She is responsible for providing advisory services in the area of public procurement reform and capacity development for developing countries and international organisations.

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Khi V. Thai, Ph.D., is a Professor in the School of Public Administration, and the Director of the Public Procurement Research Center, Florida Atlantic University. His current research interests include public budgeting, accounting and public procurement.
This chapter empirically evaluates the public procurement system in Croatia, a transition country and a new EU member state. The research is based on empirical evidence collected by surveying a large... Special attention has been dedicated to the assessment of corruption risks in public procurement. The evidence for Croatia reveals that in spite of the EU standards introduced there are still, at least from the point of view of companies, irregularities and lack of trust in the national public procurement system. Keywords. Gross Domestic Product Public Procurement Transition Country Informal Payment Public Contract. These keywords were added by machine and not by the authors. This process is experimental and the keywords may be updated as the learning algorithm improves. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT CHALLENGES: EXTERNAL FACTORS Public procurement practitioners have always faced challenges imposed upon by a variety of environment factors including market, legal environment, political environment, organizational environment, and socio-economic and other environmental factors. Market Environment. 7 CHALLENGES IN PUBLIC PROCUREMENT 7 Market conditions have a great influence on public procurement practitioners effort to maximize competition. Moreover, the market determines whether or not socio-economic objectives of procurement are accomplished, whether or not a governmental