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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.
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If international efforts put forward common goals guiding public procurement reforms, that is, efficient, non-corrupt, and transparent procurement, little information is available on means and, in particular, on concrete solutions that countries can adopt to improve their public procurement systems. In order to define an adequate framework for promoting integrity in procurement, the OECD has surveyed countries’ experiences on effective practices in the full public procurement cycle. A key challenge is to define a clear chain of approval and responsibility in the public procurement process in a context of devolved procurement. Challenges and opportunities in improving access to medicines through efficient public procurement in the WHO European Region. Abstract. This report maps different methods used by countries to conduct more efficient procurement and to improve access to treatment, with a focus on procurement of medicines. Efficient procurement involves more than just obtaining the lowest price; it is about creating a healthy market where high-quality products are available at the right price. Public procurement practice and systems have been acclaimed, based on empirical evidence, as the best means of guaranteeing the provision of public goods to citizens and public expenditure management. The Nigerian public procurement practice, before the enactment of the Public Procurement Act, 2007, has been known to be unprofessional, inefficient and ineffective; as it was based on Treasury Circulars of 1958, which provided only guidelines on public expenditure management. The guidelines of these circulars on public procurement practice were grossly inadequate and created rooms for mal