
PREFACE

This book is a collection of best papers that were submitted to and presented at the 5th International Public Procurement Conference (IPPC5), which was held in Seattle, USA, August 17-19, 2012, and hosted by the National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc., and Florida Atlantic University Public Procurement Research Center. Initiated in 2004, IPPC has become one of the largest international networks of public procurement practitioners and researchers in the world, a very strong evidence of global interest in this emerging profession.

At its inception in 2004, IPPC began a tradition that no other professional conference could match: All conference papers were reviewed and best papers were selected for publication in special issues of the academic *Journal of Public Procurement*, and an IPPC book. Particularly, these publications are published in time for distribution at the conferences.

This year, despite the current global economic crisis, 298 paper proposals (an unprecedented number) and 171 full papers were submitted. Twelve of those submitted papers did not meet our expected standard and were not accepted for presentation at the conference. Papers published in this book were selected from the pool of 158 qualified papers after subjection of two waves of peer reviews, within four weeks, a very short time period for members of the Scientific Committee (listed below) to review at least 8 papers (as each paper was reviewed by three peer reviewers). Without their professional services, it would have been impossible to impartially select excellent papers for this volume. As co-editors of this book, we would like to thank the IPPC5 Scientific Committee members for their professional services. We would like also take this opportunity to thank

1. The following organizations that provide generous financial support of the International Public Procurement Conference (see www.ippa.org):
 - Consip S.p.A., The Italian Public Procurement Agency; and

- The Naval Postgraduate School's Acquisition Research Program.
- 2. The following organizations that host the 5th International Public Procurement Conference, Seattle, USA, August 17-19, 2012:
 - National Institute of Governmental Purchasing, Inc., USA; and
 - Florida Atlantic University Public Procurement Research Center.

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It is important to note that authors of papers selected for this book should be proud of their work as their papers have survived two waves of challenging reviews, and more importantly, their papers were selected from a large pool of papers, at an acceptance rate of 9.5%. We congratulate these authors on their book chapters and the proven quality of their research.

Scientific Committee

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Gian Luigi Albano, Keith F. Snider and Khi V. Thai