

Cooperation and Integration, the path to Government Procurement Development in the Caribbean

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Speakers Biographies



Mr. Jorge Claro

Internationally-recognized expert with over 35 years of experience in the field of Government Procurement. He was the Chief of the Procurement Policy Office of the Inter-American Development Bank from 1992 to 2000. At the IDB, his duties included the formulation and interpretation of the procurement policy of the institution, the coordination of the procurement policy harmonization efforts among the Multilateral Development Banks, the elaboration of procedures manuals and standard bidding documents, as well as the oversight of procurement by borrowers under the US\$ 10 billion a year portfolio of Bank financed projects. Jorge also held the technical representation of the Bank to the Working Group on Government Procurement of the Free Trade Area of the Americas, FTAA.

Jorge recently launched the International Procurement Institute (INPRI) in the United States and Chile. INPRI is a center of excellence in public sector procurement dedicated to the promotion of the procurement profession. Its mission is to provide advice, support, education and training to governments, international organizations and private sector companies, addressing procurement issues with efficiency, efficacy and transparency.

President of the International Procurement Institute (INPRI)



Ms. Marcel Holder Robinson

Fellow Member of the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants-UK; Associate Member of the Information Systems Audit and Control Association-USA; Associate Member of the Institute of Internal Auditors-USA and holds a Masters Degree from Oxford Brookes University.

She is an Adviser in the Governance and Institutional Development Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat providing technical advice to Commonwealth countries on matters of public financial management. As a former employee the Ministry of Finance and Public Service Jamaica, she has over 14 years experience in tax administration and public financial management.

She lectured at two tertiary institutions in Jamaica and also served as a volunteer instructor for the Institute of Internal Auditors, USA.

Acting Advisor Commonwealth Secretariat



Mr. John Wilkins

Head of the Thematic Programmes Group with the Governance and Institutional Development Division of the Commonwealth Secretariat. He served 32 years in the Canadian public service, the last four years in Ottawa advising Treasury Board on governance and service delivery innovations. Previously, he managed in the Province of Manitoba's health, government services, culture, and finance portfolios. He received his MA in Geography from The University of Manitoba and taught 15 years in its Continuing Education Division. In 2009, John was awarded the IPAC Lieutenant-Governor's Medal for Excellence in Public Administration.

Head of Thematic Programmes Group, Commonwealth Secretariat



**Ms. Sharlene
Shillingford McIlmon**

With a strong and dynamic 10-year history leading International development, diplomacy, government relations, and program management across regional and international settings, she offers the breadth and depth of skill essential to contribute to policy analysis, strategic planning, procurement policy development and to project management. In her current role as the Deputy Program Manager, Single Market at the Caribbean Community Secretariat, she inter alia, coordinate relations with external partners including Governments and institutions; manage an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) funded project, “Regional Integration of Public Procurement in the Caribbean” and supervise a Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) funded “Trade and Competitiveness” Project. In addition, she supports the development of strategies, policies and measures to promote market integration, including harmonization of commercial rules, the strengthening of institutional and administrative capacity to operate and monitor the performance of the single market, the building competitive markets which includes Government Procurement and E-Commerce and improved participation of the Least Developed Countries (LDC’s) (of the Caribbean Community) in the Single Market.

Sharlene has a Masters Degree in International Relations and Diplomacy from Schiller International University in Paris. She is a certified PMP with Post Graduate Specialization Trade Policy and Commercial Diplomacy, Public Procurement and Human Development.

Deputy Program Manager, CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME)



Miguel A. Porrua Vigón

E-Government Senior Specialist at the Department for Effective Public Management of the Secretariat for Political Affairs of the **Organization of American States (OAS)**. Previously Miguel was the Director of Government Relations for Latin America at the electronic government company govWorks, based in New York, where he oversaw various electronic government projects in the region. Prior to his arrival in the US, Miguel lived in Montevideo (Uruguay) where he managed projects related to business development and the modernization of the public sector for the Spanish government (Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development, AECID) and the United Nations (UNDP).

Since 1996 Miguel lives in the US where he has held different management positions until joining the OAS in 2002. He obtained his Bachelor Degree in Business and Economics at the University of Oviedo (Spain) and his MBA from Thunderbird Business School (Arizona, USA). Miguel has written several articles and documents on electronic government and recently co-edited the book Latin America Puntogob.

OAS/INGP Technical Secretary



Ms. Leslie Harper

Ms. Harper is a Modernization of the State Specialist at the Inter-American Development Bank. She works on programs that promote the modernization of public expenditure management, specifically in the topic of public procurement. She manages DataGov, the IDB’s governance indicator portal (www.iadb.org/datagov) and co-manages the Electronic Government Procurement (e-GP) Community of Practice with the Multilateral Development Bank Working Group on e-GP and the Bank’s procurement division. Ms. Harper has co-authored several publications on state reform and represented the IDB in numerous international procurement events.

Modernization of the State Specialist IDB



Mr. Carlos Tessore

Mr. Carlos Tessore is a Project Management (PMP) and Risk Management (RMP) Professional specialized in Information Technology (IT), Public Procurement and Local Development. He has been working for more than 25 years in at least one hundred different public and private projects. He has been active in different related fields, including development of business processes, strategy development and operational planning, project design management and coordination and negotiations from the local development and management of donors and grant programs.

Since 2008, he has been working for the ICT4GP Program financed by MIF and CIDA as Regional Technical Support for the Component II Project Financing. He holds a doctorate in science and is an active member of the Project Management Institute.

Consultant-Program ICT4GP, IDB -Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF)



Ms. Caroline Nicholas

Caroline Nicholas is a lawyer with the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs, based in Vienna, Austria. As the Secretary to the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) Working Group on Procurement, she is responsible for the revision of UNCITRAL's 1994 Model Law on Procurement of Goods, Construction and Services, and is also involved in UNCITRAL's work on insolvency and secured transactions. Her previous positions in the United Nations include as an investigator with the United Nations Office for Internal Oversight Services, and as a lawyer assessing claims of the Kuwaiti Government arising from Iraq's 1990 invasion and occupation of Kuwait at the United Nations Compensation Commission.

Secretary of the Public Procurement workgroup Committee UNCITRAL



Ms. Aurora Lara

Commercial engineer, Master Business Administration, her current position is Head of Business Development Area. She has more than 10 years of experience in public and private companies. Expertise areas: marketing, information technologies and public procurement.

Head of Business Development Area since 2010, at ChileCompra, which is a public agency in charge of the procurement system of Chile.

Head of Unit of the Public Registry (ChileProveedores) 2007-2009, at ChileCompra, this position was responsible for the contract management of the registry.

Category manager 2001-2006, at Distribuidora del Pacifico, logistic operator of consumption goods through all the country. This position was responsible for the category management.

Marketing Manager 1998-2001.

Calaf S.A., confectionary Chilean company. This position was responsible for the marketing planning and execution.

Head of Business Development Area ChileCompra



Mr. Javier Davila

Javier Dávila Pérez holds a Doctorate in Financial Sciences from the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education and is currently the Head of the Public Procurement Policy Unit at the Ministry of Public Administration. Among the key responsibilities of his position are designing, proposing, implementing and evaluating the national procurement policy, as well as coordinating efforts on market intelligence for the national procurement system.

With over 15 years experience in the Federal Government, Dr. Javier Dávila Pérez has also held the position of Head of the Liaison Unit for Transparency in the Ministry of Public Administration as well as having previously held positions at the Ministries of the Economy and Energy. Dr. Dávila Pérez has also acted as a Speaker at a number of National and International forums and has published articles in specialized Economic and Financial publications. Along with Management and Public Policy, Public Procurement, Risk Management, Derivative Securities Valuation and Project Evaluation compose his Field of Expertise.

Head of the Unit of Acquisitions, Public Works Secretariat of Mexico



Ms. Patrice Pratt Harrison

Ms. Patrice Pratt is the Head of Trade Related Issues in the Office of Trade Negotiations (OTN) of the CARICOM Secretariat.

Ms. Pratt, a Public Procurement expert with over 14 years of experience, serves as CARICOM's Lead Negotiator for Public Procurement. Prior to coming to the OTN, she served with Jamaica's Ministry of Finance & Planning as Director, Procurement Policy Implementation. She has provided consulting services to the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and has advised a number of Caribbean Governments in respect of public procurement reforms initiatives. In this capacity she has designed, developed and implemented public procurement systems and supporting frameworks to enable policy implementation.

She holds a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Arts in Economics (cum laude) degrees. Ms. Pratt is an Accredited Procurement Professional and member of the Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honour Society).

Office on Trade Negotiation –OTN-



Ms. Angela Russo

Since July 2001 she has been working for Consip, the Italian Public Procurement Agency - entirely owned by the Ministry of Economy and Finance - in charge of setting up a national public procurement and e-procurement system aiming at the rationalization of public spending on goods and services.

Before joining Consip she worked for ten years in the public sector, more precisely at the International Affairs and Cooperation Department, of the Italian National Research Council (CNR)

The main activity, aiming at the development of scientific international cooperation, consisted in handling bilateral agreements on scientific and technological cooperation, with homologous international research bodies and academies representing France, GB, Egypt, Turkey, Canada, Japan, Korea etc.

Head of International Relations CONSIP SpA



Ms. Veniana Qalo

Veniana Qalo is currently an Economic Advisor with the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, and a registered Barristor and Solicitor in Fiji. She holds a Bachelor of Law Degree and a Professional Diploma in Legal Practice from the University of the South Pacific; and a Masters in International Law and Economics (Magna Cum Laude) from the World Trade Institute joint Universities of Neuchatel, Fribourg and Berne in Switzerland. She worked for six years with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji as a Research Assistant and Trade Policy Officer before joining the Commonwealth Secretariat in London in August 2004. Ms Qalo has written and published pieces on a range of trade and international law issues.

Economic adviser, Commonwealth Secretary



Mr. David Mc Dermontt

David is a Principal of International Governance Solutions Ltd, which has specialized in public sector governance, service reform, and the assessment, development and implementation of e-GP strategies and systems since 2003. Previously he had 26 years experience as a senior public and private sector manager in the areas of education, resource development, public sector reform, contract management and strategic procurement. David has consulted in the areas of, e-procurement capability, assessment, strategic planning and implementation, organizational development, contract reviews, e-procurement system implementation and reviews, management training, and contract development and negotiation.

International Procurement Consultant OECS e-Procurement Government



Ms. Valerie Robert

Valérie Robert is a French National in charge of Public Procurement policy at IDLO Headquarters in Rome with an overall responsibility on procurement including field projects and courses provided at the HQ in Rome and through e-learning. She graduated in Public Law at Paris II University, Panthéon-Assas, and specialized in Public International Law at Queen Mary College, University of London, and in Comparative Public Law at Paris I University, Panthéon-Sorbonne.

She started her consulting career together with lecturing at the Law Faculty of Paris II and Law Faculty of Paris I in public law, public international law and civil liberties. Her consulting expertise was mainly directed to provide assistance to public sector in central and Eastern Europe and African countries. Then she moved to Washington, DC working as a consultant expert in public procurement and public sector with the Inter-American Development Bank, the World Bank and CARICOM. She provided her expertise to Latin American and African countries and the in the Caribbean. Further Valérie Robert consolidated her career by providing expertise on the field as Sr. Procurement Expert working in Albania for one year, EU project; and for a World Bank project in Kabul, Afghanistan for two and half years.

Sr. Legal Expert – Procurement Law, Governance, Justice and Institutional Reform at the IDLO



Mrs. Shirley Gayle Sinclair

Shirley Gayle Sinclair is Head of the Procurement and Asset Policy Unit in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Jamaica. The unit is responsible for setting the governance framework for the conduct of public procurement and is leading the process of modernization and reform of Jamaica's procurement system.

Over the past 12 years Mrs. Gayle Sinclair has worked in various aspects of procurement, including trade negotiations and training, and for the last 5 years has led Jamaica's procurement reform programme.

She holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica and a Masters of Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University, Florida, USA.

Head of the Procurement and Asset Policy Unit in the Ministry of Finance and the Public Service, Jamaica



Mr. Guillermo Rozenwurcel

Guillermo Rozenwurcel holds a Degree in Economics from the School of Economics, University of Buenos Aires; and a Master's in Economics from the Pontificia Universidad Catolica of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

He was Chief Economic Advisor to Argentina's Ministry of the Economy in 2000. From 1999 to 2000, also served as Argentina's Secretary of Small- and Medium-Sized Enterprises.

He is Full Professor at the School of Economics -University of Buenos Aires- and the School of Politics and Government - University of San Martin-, and Principal Researcher at CONICET, the National Council for Scientific and Technical Research.

Coordinators of the ICT4GP Program (Component 1) jointly funded by IDRC, IDB and OAS