



جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة
United Arab Emirates University

**The College of Graduate Studies and the College of Business and Economics
Cordially Invite You to a**

DBA Dissertation Defense

Entitled

SUSTAINABLE PUBLIC PROCUREMENT IN THE KUWAIT PUBLIC SECTOR

by

Fatima Al Maraghi

Faculty Advisor

Dr. Adriana Gabor, Department of Applied Mathematics

College of College of Business and Economics

Date & Venue

11:30 AM

Sunday, 28 May 2019

Room 2021, H3 Building

Abstract

Sustainable Public Procurement (SPP) is the act of integrating the sustainable development concept into the procurement operations undertaken by the government. The extension of sustainability to public procurement is an emerging area of research; the literature provides little evidence on how to address SPP in general, and specifically in a developing country context. This thesis aims to bridge this gap by investigating the practices of SPP in a developing country such as Kuwait. The primary objective of this doctoral thesis is to assess the current SPP policies and practices in the Kuwait public sector organisations and to identify the main drivers and barriers currently faced by public organisations in their efforts in implementing SPP. This thesis employs quantitative and qualitative research methods supported by the Purchasing Social Responsibility (PSR) model. The data used in the thesis was collected through tender document analysis, semi-structured interviews, and questionnaires distributed among officials in the Kuwait public sector. The results show that some SPP practices are present in the public procurement process. The government is mainly stimulating local industry through intensive use of local products and resources and supporting local suppliers' business; the findings also convey that health and safety and human rights aspects are the most embedded SPP practices. The results indicate that currently, there is a significant effect of cultural norms and Islam religious beliefs on SPP practices in Kuwait. The finding also shows that financial considerations, whether as the costs of sustainability or its financial benefits, are the most significant factors for implementing SPP in Kuwait public sector organisations. Accordingly, this study has policy implications; I believe that the determinants of sustainability-oriented procurement that resulted from this thesis are useful to public procurement managers, policy makers and SPP scholars, as they could be used as a basis for developing a practical managerial framework, guidelines, and policies to procure more sustainably.

Keywords: Sustainable Development, Sustainable Public Procurement, Public Sector Management, Kuwait, Developing Countries.