

a report by

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Richard W Moras is World President of the International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management (IFPMM). He is also currently Vice President (Materials) for Concept Pharmaceuticals Ltd (Mumbai), a global multinational organisation engaged in the pharmaceuticals business, and he is responsible for global procurement activities in addition to various commercial activities. Mr Moras was previously National President of the Indian Institute of Materials Management (IIMM) and the highest national award was conferred on him by IIMM for his contribution to the profession. His contribution as Secretary General of World Congress for IFPMM in Mumbai in 1993 was another milestone in his dedicated service to the materials management profession. A well-known figure to various educational institutes and universities, Mr Moras has presented many papers overseas, particularly with the American Management Association and European Economic Forum. He acquired his Bachelor's degree in Science and thereafter completed his postgraduate studies in Sociology before successfully obtaining his Graduate Diploma in Materials Management.

As World President of the International Federation of Purchasing and Materials Management (IFPMM), I would like to welcome you officially to *Business Briefing: Global Purchasing & Supply Chain Strategies 2004* – the official commemorative publication to celebrate the IFPMM's 30th anniversary.

In my previous Foreword for the 2003 edition of *Business Briefing: Global Purchasing & Supply Chain Strategies*, I stressed the need for building knowledge structures through federation efforts, which would have a contributory effect not only for the purchasing and supply chain management profession, but also for every individual. With a year of hard work, we have achieved excellent progress in different fields, all of which benefit supply chain managers.

The Global Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) was the first of its kind and was produced by JP Morgan and NTC Research in association with the Institute for Supply Management (ISM) and IFPMM. Federation members of 19 countries pooled their individual PMI data to create a Global PMI, which, we believed, would help the members to make global decisions in various fields including raw materials and new business. A Global PMI series provides the first indication each month of worldwide business conditions, based on data collected from over 9,000 companies.

After long deliberations, the IFPMM and International Trade Council (ITC) signed an historic Memorandum of Understanding to work together in various fields, including establishing new associations and supply chains in developing countries. This relationship will enable the IFPMM to fulfil its mission to spread the supply chain message across the globe.

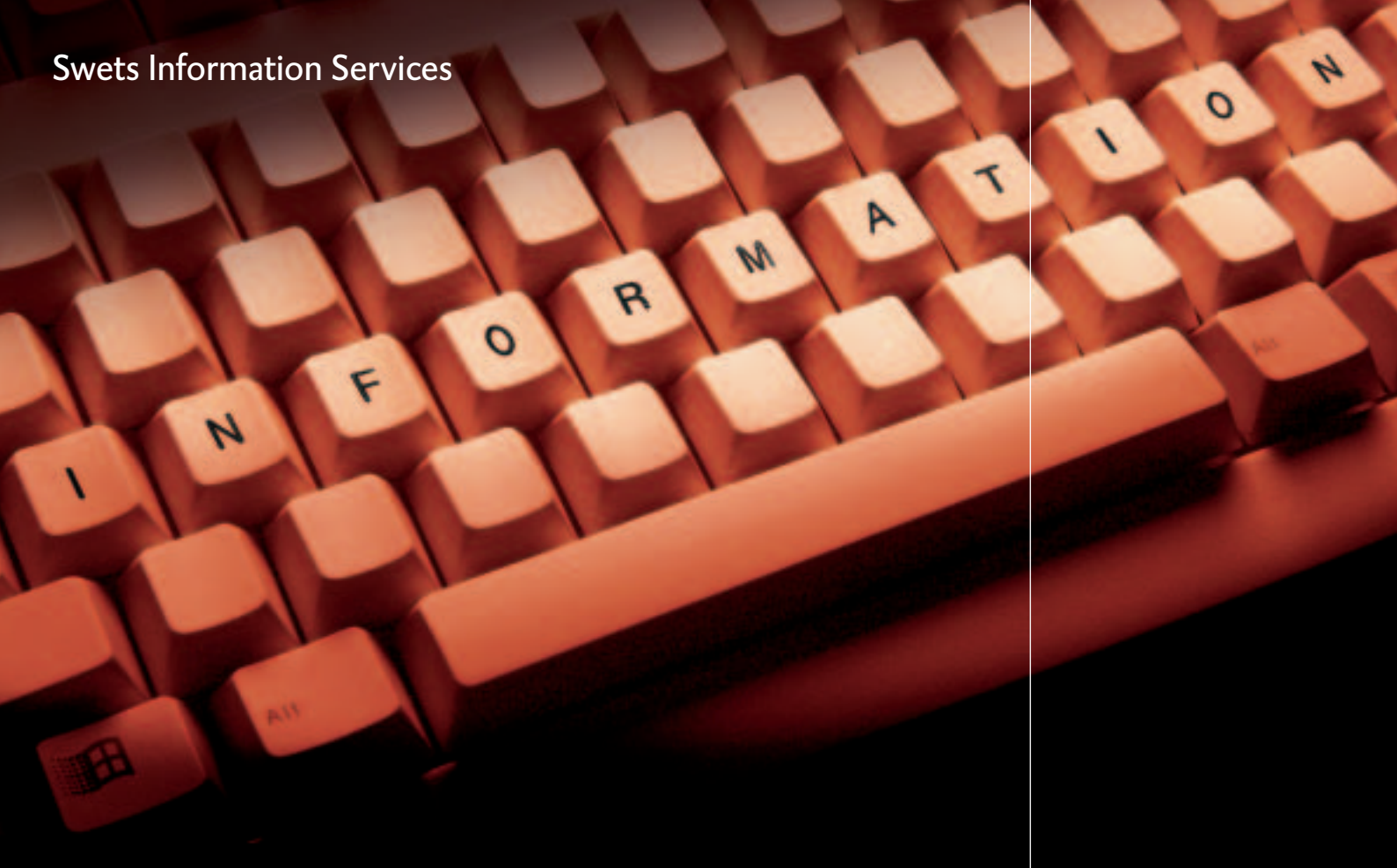
The IFPMM Council that met in Lucerne took some bold decisions in different areas, for example in the area of ethics. It was decided that all IFPMM member associations must have a code for their members (individuals/organisations) by January 2005. The IFPMM will advise on installing these codes, but associations are allowed to build specific codes and incorporate that code in their respective constitutions.

This year also witnessed the enrolment of the Dominican Republic as a member of the federation. In order to build close relationships and provide necessary input for association developments, the 'sent member concept' was introduced for the first time, which will go a long way towards building a strong network of associations worldwide.

IFPMM products like Summer School are continuing to do excellent work, producing Summer School graduates who, in turn, contribute to supply chain research through academic and research institutions. Our relationship with the International Purchasing and Supply Education and Research Association (IPSEERA) is continuing to gain strength and we are planning to have a joint World Congress in 2007, bringing practitioners and academics together on a single platform.

I foresee a great future for the IFPMM, not only creating strong associations across the globe, but also creating worldwide products and services and building relationships with international bodies like the ITC, World Trade Organization (WTO), World Bank and European Union. Our excellent publication, *Business Briefing: Global Purchasing & Supply Chain Strategies 2004*, is continuing to spread the supply chain message informatively and effectively across our associations.

I hope that you will find this publication useful and informative and that the articles will help in the understanding of the challenges faced by the industry today. ■



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