

July 2005

Position Statement – Global FM Federation

Senior volunteer and staff leadership from the British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM), the Facility Management Association of Australia (FMA Australia), and the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) met in Melbourne, Australia on 21 and 22 May to progress the formation of an umbrella organisation of facility management-related associations. During the meeting representatives of founding members of the organisation reaffirmed their commitment to:

- Establish a sustainable governance model
- Provide a framework for a world-wide alliance of facilities management, member-centered organisations
- Capitalise on the capabilities of the member and partnering organisations to promote the benefits of innovation and encourage greater collaboration and commitment
- Utilise diverse culture and strengths to enhance the skills of members and staff and provide them with appropriate resources
- Achieve a transparent and sound management and financial system to support and expand the facilities management global agenda

The team emphasised the International Memorandum of Understanding is focused on creating a worldwide community of organisations providing leadership in facilities management. The planned federation is seen as a single entity speaking with one voice to promote the facilities management profession, rather than a delivery vehicle for professional development programs and/or research projects which it is envisaged will continue to be delivered via the national associations, networks and academia etc. as at present. In effect it would be an association of associations. It is also expected to serve as an incubator supporting countries desiring to form a facilities management-related organisation where one is not yet established.

It is the clear intent that the federation will act as an enabler and catalyst worldwide to further the knowledge and understanding of facilities management and in so doing bring added value to its individual members as a result.

It was recognised that there exists other bodies operating within the wider facilities management community to which the Global FM Federation would wish to interface. It is therefore envisaged that close collaboration and, where appropriate, formal linkages will be developed in order to collaborate to mutual advantage.

Each of the partnering organisations continues to perform due diligence regarding the development of a mutually agreeable governance structure. The formal announcement of a name for the federation and the publication of governance documentation will follow in due course. This information is expected to be available prior to IFMA's World Workplace 2005 to be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA on 23 – 25 October.

During the meeting in Melbourne, a commitment to initial funding by the founding organisations was made and a preliminary budget for the next eighteen months developed. In addition it was agreed to conduct a preliminary investigation into retaining the services of a Secretariat to oversee the day-to-day operations of the organisation and assist in the accomplishment of defined objectives. Lastly, the partners reviewed ongoing facilities management standards development including OSCRE in the United States of America, and PISCES and CEN in Europe and discussed the potential involvement of the federation in these efforts.

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Further Information:

British Institute of Facilities Management

The BIFM is the UK's lead institute representing those who practice facilities management and who work in organisations supplying facilities management related goods or services.

The BIFM has remained the fastest growing professional body in the UK since its formation in 1993. Most members are individual professionals, with a growing number of corporate members.

The BIFM has strong links with facilities management organisations abroad, placing it at the forefront of international issues. The BIFM is a member of the Construction Industry Council and promotes co-operation with leading professional bodies. The BIFM helps to inform decision-makers in business and government about FM and how to improve performance.

Facility Management Association of Australia

FMA Australia is the largest and most respected facility management professional association in Australia, representing those who make the decisions about Australia's workplaces. Members are professionals involved in the strategic, managerial and operational delivery of facilities and services to public and private sector organizations. Since its establishment 16 years ago, FMA Australia has seen significant growth, currently with more than 1,600 members nationally.

With branches in five of the six States and the Australian Capital Territory, FMA Australia works to represent the national interests of the facility management profession and the industry sector. FMA Australia is a member of the Australian Construction Industry Forum and the Australian Sustainable Built Environment Council and is taking a lead role in the implementation of the Australian Government's recently released Facilities Management Action Agenda.

International Facility Management Association

IFMA is the largest and most widely recognized professional association for facility management, supporting approximately 17,400 members. The Association's members are represented in 125 Chapters, 16 Councils, and one Special Interest Group (SIG) in 54 countries worldwide. Globally, IFMA certifies facility managers, conducts research, provides educational programs, recognizes facility management degree and certificate programs, and produces World Workplace, the largest facility management-related conference and exposition.