

16th November 2005

Position Statement – Global FM alliance

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 Philadelphia, USA on 26 and 27 October 2005 to progress the formation of a formal alliance of facilities management-related associations.

The vision of the alliance is: “To be the worldwide community of organisations that provides leadership in facilities management.”

The planned alliance 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 will continue to be delivered via national/international associations, networks and academia etc. as at present.

In effect it will 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.

Background

The three founding partners, BIFM, FMA Australia and IFMA, are signatories to an International Memorandum of Understanding. The IMoU was established to promote international collaboration between the three bodies in the interests of their members and the wider FM community around the world.

This was the fifth formal meeting of the group since May 2004 and significant progress was made in a number of areas. The position statement issued following the last meeting in Melbourne in May 2005 set out the goals of the initiative and once again, in Philadelphia, representatives of the founding members of the alliance 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.

Progress

The name for the new alliance has been agreed as 'Global FM'. This name has been registered and an information website is now live at www.globalfm.org

The organisation will be incorporated as an International Non-profit Association registered in Belgium.

The proposed governance documentation has been extensively reviewed and is being refined with the input of specialist legal advisors.

Work continues on the detailed criteria for (and the rights of) the proposed classes of membership but in principle these are:

- Full member – national or international facilities management associations
- Correspondent member – to assist in the development of national associations in countries where one does not exist
- Sustaining partner – bodies or individuals wishing to support the aims of Global FM
- Associate member – organisations wishing to be aligned with and to participate in the work of Global FM

As more information becomes available it will be published on the Global FM website. There will now be a period of communication and feedback. The founding partners will be communicating and receiving input through their usual channels and contact points for comments are also on the website.

The presentation delivered at IFMA's World Workplace, Philadelphia on 25th October is available on the website. A further presentation on Global FM will be made at the BIFM's Annual Conference in Oxford (27th – 29th March 2006).

Key contacts:

BIFM

Ian Fielder, Chief Executive

+44 (0)1799 508614 ian.fielder@bifm.org.uk

Richard Byatt, Communications & External Affairs Manager

+ 44 (0)1732 522948 richard.byatt@bifm.org.uk

FMA Australia

Karen Hill, Chief Executive

+ 61 3 8346 8108 karen.hill@fma.com.au

Marketing and Communications

+ 61 3 8346 8106 national@fma.com.au

IFMA

David Brady, President & CEO

+1-713-623-4362 david.brady@ifma.org

Donald Young, Vice President, Communications

+1-713-623-4362 donald.young@ifma.org

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 over 18,000 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.