



## Is training important to a Facility Manager?



Upcoming workshop:

What is Facilities Management? What is the job description of a facility manager? Do they get recognition from their colleagues? Or are they just the maintenance guy? So often when interviewing the colleagues of a facility manager, they often have no idea what he does. The answer probably "oh, he fix things around the company"; "we look for him when anything breakdown"; "he is the handy man"; "he is the one who always organize those silly fire drills that disrupt our work and waste our time to evacuate the building."

Facilities management is probably the most misunderstood profession. The practitioner should not be viewed as the handyman or maintenance guy. Throughout the history of businesses, probably the expensive asset is always the building and plant. The highest operational cost normally will be human resource. A facility manager is in charge of the maintenance of the most expensive asset of the company (to ensure the value of the assets do not deteriorate); to provide a safe and healthy working environment for the staff (to cap the rising cost of the human resource).

If the above is true, then the roles of facilities manager should be highly valued and appraise by the management. But why does it take so long for the profession to be given their due recognition by the industry?

The nature of the profession is challenging, spontaneous and constantly evolving. The requirement of a facility manager differ from organization to organization. For example, in a semiconductor environment, the engineering knowledge of the facility manger is very important. However, in a office environment, the management skills of the facility manager is the key for his success. In a MNC, the strategic leadership of the facility manager to lead an international team of facilities staff to align with the organization objective is very crucial.

Thus **continuous training and upgrading one's skill and knowledge** is **vital** for this vibrant profession. Technical skills on its own is not sufficient just as management skills alone will not enable a facilities manager to manage the assets as new technology are constantly being introduced.

A facility manager must be able to evolve with his organization (put on many hats and also new hats) as his organization evolves to meet the changes and challenges of the market economy.

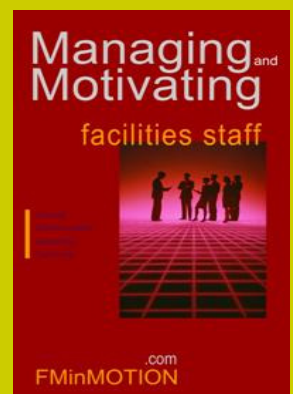
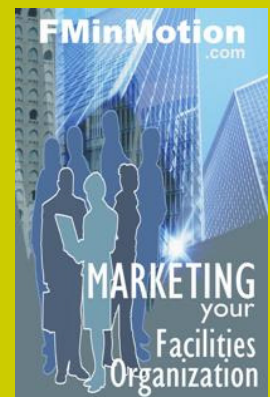
Lastly, a facilities manager must learn to market his team to the management. Make the team more visible to the organization. Learn to be involved in the business of the organization. Work together with the management to achieve the organization goals and objectives.



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