



FMer must always be ready for business



The role of operating, maintaining and managing the facilities and support services of organisations has many descriptions - among them corporate services, operations support services, workplace services and asset maintenance management - and they differ from organisation to organisation. But the profession that probably best represents these functions is facilities management (FM).

The value of FM. The practice of FM is beginning to be appreciated and recognized by organisations as a value-add and a business advantage. Organisations are beginning to realize that the built-facilities and support services represent substantial investments that help to support their core business activities. FM is responsible for the bulk of an organisation's operating expenses; operating facilities systems such as air-conditioning, lightning and ventilation; and delivering services such as security, janitorial and maintenance activities. FM therefore, has the potential to contribute to an organisation's bottom line by ensuring the uptime of all facilities, that the workplace is complying with mandatory requirement, and that the work environment is safe, comfortable and conducive for enhancing the productivity of the occupants.

The practice of FM. The key value of FM is that it takes care of the non-core business functions, freeing organisations to focus on their core business. FM practices intertwine management and engineering, enabling the integration of the workplace with its occupants and their goals. The organisation's demands are translated into expected service levels. FM provides the services that meet these key performance indicators that are agreed mutually between the organisation and the FM company. By making a partnership possible, a FM company can contribute towards achieving the organisation's strategic objectives.

The demand for FM. With rapid advancements in technology and the increasing need to comply with regulatory requirements - such as workplace safety and health, and energy and water conservation in buildings - FM is capable of supporting organisations to keep pace with the changes and enhance their effectiveness and efficiency. FM also has an important role in supporting government initiatives towards going green, which involves reducing carbon footprints, promoting sustainability and other ways to protecting the environment. FM involves far more than just a maintenance function. It has now valued as a potentially significant economic factor that adds value to organisations when their facilities are well managed.

Upcoming workshop:

November 2011



IFMA's FMP :
Leadership &
Strategy
Essentials

17th & 18th

Practical Cost
Optimization
Strategies
for FM on the
24th & 25th



December 2011



IFMA's FMP:
Project
Management
on the
8th & 9th

Competent Facilities
Practitioner Program :
Intermediate Level:
Facilities Operations &
Maintenance on
12th & 13th