

Facilities Management from A to Z

Based on The FM Lexicon by Martin Pickard
published monthly in Facilities by Lexis Nexis between 2008 and 2016



International FM

Every building, in every city, in every country around the world needs to be planned, maintained and serviced. Every organisation with people, property or other assets requires supporting infrastructure and enabling systems. For that reason facility management is a truly global profession, carried out by FM professionals all over the world. All of whom carry out the function with diligence and commitment within the constraints, culture and custom of their own country.

The rich variety of local practice both enhances and complicates the profession when viewed as a global activity. This diversity of practice and focus continues to frustrate businesses that are expanding globally and looking for a transportable FM solution. The profession has developed at different rates and in different directions in response to varying local stimuli, economic pressure and national culture.

In order to optimise local delivery such issues must be absorbed. There can be no one-size-fits-all solution in FM. Local knowledge, expertise and hands-on experience must be harnessed while the development of a truly global profession requires the breakdown of barriers that can be addressed such as time, distance and language. Within the global economy we can utilise our technology, knowledge and professional networks to deal with a 24/7 work day, economic and political intervention and widely differing standards.

It must be stressed that the different position FM holds in each country is not a case of some countries being more advanced than others. FM develops in response to local need and every time a solution is developed in another country, it creates an opportunity for the rest of us to learn. Thus an interest in international FM should not be restricted to those with cross border responsibilities or global ambitions but to everyone seeking to develop their facilities management capability.

The International Facility Management Association (IFMA) is the largest recognized professional association for facility managers in the world. www.ifma.org

Global FM (Global Facility Management Association) is a worldwide federation of member-centred organisations committed to providing leadership in the facility management profession. www.globalfm.org