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Brazil's FM association celebrates 5 years and Global FM pioneer is honoured in UK

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2009 saw two celebrations marking achievements in building the global FM community.

Founded in 2004, ABRAFAC, the Brazilian Association of Facilities, celebrated its 5th anniversary this year. The association now represents more than 450 members from across Brazil. ABRAFAC has worked to raise the profile of both those working in the field and the FM profession as a whole.

The formal concept of facility management began to be used in Brazil around the middle of the 1990s. Although the activity is well established within large organisations and continues to evolve and gain status, FM still remains to be totally understood by local Brazilian organisations.

Brazilian FMs have been enthusiastic in the search for both professional and organisational development, and since the 80s (before the formal adoption of the title of FM) many informal support groups came into existence, each aimed at promoting the exchange of experiences, benchmarking and good practice.

Today's FMs are now tasked with working within the additional framework of the organisation's wider environmental and social objectives and are therefore involved in corporate sustainability in its widest sense.

FM in Brazil is now spreading beyond the corporate environment and gaining space within the field of residential management. Property developers now advertise the specialist management of shared services in their developments as a commercial differential.

The outlook today is full of promise, for both existing professionals looking to further their knowledge base, and those who wish to enter this exciting activity and obtain proper training and guidance. FM is also the subject of formal qualifications, ranging from a variety of introductory operational/vocational courses promoted and supported by ABRAFAC, to a formal MBA at POLI/USP (one of Brazil's most respected universities), now in its 7th year.

The current directors of ABRAFAC would like to congratulate all members on this milestone event and take this opportunity to thank all of the professionals who have worked to raise awareness of the profession and without whom ABRAFAC would not exist.



Stan Mitchell

One of Global FM's pioneers was honoured in London this year.

At a Gala Dinner in London (October 2009) the BIFM Award for Overall FM Industry Impact was presented for the first time. It was given to Stan Mitchell - the citation reads: ""Stan is well known as an influential figure in the development of the facilities management profession. As BIFM Chairman from 2002 to 2004, he played a key role in the restructuring of the Institute during a period of rapid growth and change.

"Stan was also a prime mover in the creation of the 'international association of FM associations' - Global FM and became its first chairman. Whether chairing Scotland region, working on European FM standards, promoting FM in the Middle East and Asia or simply networking, Stan has always been, and continues to be, a great ambassador for facilities management."

Stan Mitchell was a key player in the workshops, discussions and negotiations that culminated in a series of meetings in Philadelphia in 2005 to establish the Global FM alliance.

On receiving the Award Mitchell said: "No one individual in any organisation or any team does it, they do it collectively. They give their time freely and do not promote the profession for their own individual gain.

"It's a fantastic acknowledgement as an award and it's not just for the likes of Stan Mitchell, it's for all the chairmen of all the regions and all the committees who give their time freely to promote the profession."

NOTE TO EDITORS:

About Global FM

Global FM is an international not-for-profit organization based in Brussels, Belgium. It represents a worldwide community of organizations that provide leadership in facility management. Global FM's vision is to achieve Global recognition of facilities management profession and its mission is to promote the strategic value and progress of facilities management. For more information, visit www.globalfm.org.

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