



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**First Ever World FM Day Celebrates Facility Management's  
Contributions to the Workplace**

BRUSSELS, Belgium — (4 Sept. 2009) — Facility management associations and professionals on five different continents recognized the contributions facility management makes to the built environment last week during the first ever [World FM Day](#), held on 28 Aug. 2009. Global Facility Management Association (Global FM) member organisations hosted public events around the world to bring attention to the important role facility management plays in business strategy and achieving environmental sustainability.

“Global FM’s mission is to promote the value that facility managers bring to many organisations, and that is the essence of World FM Day,” said Global FM Chairman Steve Gladwin. “Facility managers are constantly being asked to reduce costs. There’s an increase in awareness of carbon emissions and the role facility managers can play in sustainability, and the impact of globalisation continues to increase. These challenges present significant opportunities for facility managers to raise the profile of our profession, and World FM Day is but one way to give them the recognition they so richly deserve.”

International associations including the Associação Brasileira de Facilities (ABRAFAC), the Association des Directeurs et Responsables de Services Généraux (ARSEG), the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE), British Institute of Facilities Management (BIFM), the Facility Management Association of Australia (FMA Australia), FM-ARENA, the Hungarian Facility Management Society (HFMS), the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) and the South African Facilities Management Association (SAFMA) held public events in Australia, Brazil, South Africa, the U.S. and in countries throughout Europe in celebration of World FM Day.

World FM Day activities around the globe included panel discussions, meetings, award presentations, luncheons, video presentations, social networking and more - all with the goal of raising the profile of the facility management profession worldwide. Here’s just a flavour of what went on.

The first place to celebrate World FM Day was Australia, with more than 350 people attending events held across the country. Subjects covered included greenhouse gas legislation, FM in tough economic times and the FM styles of different generations.

In South Africa SAFMA hosted successful lunchtime events in Pretoria and Cape Town.

Moving into Europe, Switzerland hosted the 5th Facility Management Soccer Tournament! Twenty teams from different FM companies participated, with friendly competition on the pitch and lively discussions about FM off-field.

Arseg celebrated World FM Day in typically French style, with lunch on a “bateau mouche” on the river Seine. Seventy FM practitioners heard Delphine Sergent, board member of Global FM, explain the missions and actions of the federation. The launch of the Arseg International Club and the creation of the International Awards of Excellence in FM were also announced.



HFMS organised a breakfast reception at Kinnarps House in Budapest. The programme included the first public discussion about the Hungarian government's strategy for the development of the FM industry. Participants discussed the importance of FM to an organisation and the role FMs can play in reducing carbon emissions during a video link with the UK.

On the other end of that link, at Google's London headquarters, BIFM hosted a World FM Day breakfast. The audience heard intriguing presentations from Lionel Prodders on 'The History of FM in 5 minutes' and Philip Tidd, managing director of DEGW, on 'Workplaces and work culture around the world.'

Across the Atlantic in the US, IFMA organised a Twitter event, posting a new question for discussion every 30 minutes throughout the day. Questions included: In a few words, how would you describe a facility manager? How do you prove the value of the FM operation to the C-suite? Where do you see FM in 20 years?

Answers and comments came from across America and around the world - search for #worldfmday to follow the conversation.

To learn more about World FM Day, click [here](#) or view the World FM Day [video](#). For more information about Global FM, visit [www.globalfm.org](http://www.globalfm.org).

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**NOTE TO EDITORS:**

**About Global FM**

Global FM (Global Facility Management Association) is a worldwide federation of member-centered organizations committed to providing leadership in the facility management profession. As a single, united entity promoting facility management, Global FM is a conduit for furthering the knowledge and understanding of facility management, sharing of best practices and resulting in added value to the individual members of each member organization. For more information, visit [www.globalfm.org](http://www.globalfm.org).

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