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**ARSEG Workshop: Sustainability Provides Great Opportunities for FM**

BRUSSELS, Belgium — (26 June 2008) — The Association des Directeurs et Responsables de Services Généraux (ARSEG), founding member of the Global Facility Management Association, held its workshop “Sustainability and the Management of the Work Environment” at last month’s Siseg-Proseg Fair in Paris, France. Supported by Global FM, the workshop featured 60 industry representatives and highlighted the contributions facility management can make to the sustainability agenda.

Sustainable development has played a crucial role in Global FM’s activities since the association’s creation in 2006 and is one of the “hot topics” Global FM is concentrating on. Global FM Chairman Steve Gladwin told workshop participants that the association considers sustainability in FM to be a key element of the business management framework.

“Climate change is incontrovertible and the advantages of strong and early action in favour of sustainability are superior to the costs and risks of immobility and neglect,” said Gladwin. “Facility management professionals have to seize the opportunity to play a proactive role and influence the decision making process of the government and large companies in this sector.

“We have the opportunity to show that there is more to our business than fixing what has been broken. Facility management has a strong influence on every stage of an asset life cycle, and Global FM has a significant opportunity to exchange FM knowledge and best practices among its members,” Gladwin said. “In a time where globalisation is accelerating, such an information exchange helps the increasing number of organisations throughout the world that must apply different environmental standards.”

ARSEG CEO Lionel Cottin agreed. “With innovative positioning, facility management must become the key contributor to a more productive and sustainable work environment,” he said.

Gladwin also pointed out the current sustainability projects several of Global FM’s member associations are undertaking. These included the FM Action Agenda in Australia, the Knowledge Transfer Partnership in the U.K. and IFMA’s Green Zone initiative in the U.S.

Global FM’s current sustainability project seeks to understand and compile the sustainability initiatives (past, present and future) that the members of Global FM and other select organizations and businesses are undertaking, identifying commonalities and differences. To do this, Global FM is conducting a survey of its partnering organizations. The results will be presented at Global FM’s sixth International Workshop on 15 October 2008 in Dallas, Texas, alongside IFMA’s [World Workplace 2008 Conference & Expo](#).

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*NOTE TO EDITORS:*

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**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 mission is, using one voice, to collaborate on the development and promotion of the strategic value of facility management. For more information, visit [www.globalfm.org](http://www.globalfm.org).

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