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The IFMA-RICS collaboration



Introduction

The IFMA-RICS collaboration represents the most significant evolution in the history of facility management, providing an unprecedented level of industry support to meet the growing demands of the 25 million FM practitioners around the world.

The two organizations are aligning standards and professional development for the industry, uniting the global FM community to increase consistency and unification of strategy across the life cycle of the built environment. The collaboration offers a suite of professional qualifications in facility management, providing global recognition for FMs of all educational backgrounds, skills, work experiences and career goals. These efforts serve to raise the profile of FM, giving a greater voice and increased status to the profession to shape the future of the built environment and enable business success.

The landmark IFMA-RICS collaboration formalizes the integration of FM into the built environment conversation, recognizing the valuable role FM plays in the effective application of the built environment to meet organizational goals.

The collaboration will also reduce fragmentation in protocols, standards and even the very definition of what FM is. This fragmentation occurs on a global scale as well as a local one. There is variation between FM in Europe and North America and there is often variation between different buildings within a single company's portfolio. This fragmentation costs money, reduces efficiency and undermines the ability of the built environment to contribute to the organizational mission.

The IFMA-RICS collaboration is creating, for the first time, a proposition that will strengthen recognition of the discipline's role in enabling business success.



About IFMA

IFMA (International Facilities Management Association) is the world's largest and most widely recognized international association for facility management professionals, supporting 24,000 members in 104 countries. This diverse membership participates in focused component groups equipped to address their unique situations by region (133 chapters), industry (14 councils) and areas of interest (six communities). Together they manage more than 78 billion square feet of property and annually purchase more than US\$526 billion in products and services.



About RICS

RICS (Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors) is a global professional body. Founded in 1868 RICS accredits 125,000 professionals in 148 countries, promoting and enforcing the highest professional standards in land, real estate, construction and infrastructure. Incorporated by a Royal Charter, RICS is required to promote the public advantage. The name promises the consistent delivery of professional standards – bringing confidence to global markets. There is global demand for RICS professional credentials underpinned by ethical principles and independent regulation.

we.define.fm

Together, IFMA and RICS are developing a common approach to FM standards globally. The collaboration is a means to reaching a deep understanding of the FM sector to ensure all practitioners and their clients benefit from consistent, world-leading professional standards and guidance. The collaboration will focus on training and equipping FM professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to deliver and use consistent international standards. This will not only generate tangible benefits, but will also help create a labor market for FM professionals by clearly articulating to hiring managers what skills and knowledge are needed to effectively execute the FM role. This is a major advancement for a profession which is increasingly seen at the very heart of any business' corporate real estate strategy.

The collaboration will improve consistency and transparency in the property information available and enhance the work of FM professionals by:

- Aligning standards and professional development for the FM industry
- Uniting the global FM community to increase consistency and unification of strategy across the life cycle of the built environment
- Offering a suite of professional qualifications in facility management
- Providing global recognition for FMs of all educational backgrounds, skills, work experiences and career goals
- Raising the profile of FM, giving a greater voice and increased status to the profession
- Shaping the future of the built environment and enabling business success.



Benefits to FM professionals

- Elevated status with executives, built environment professionals and public globally: FM is taken seriously and valued as a profession around the world
- Clear route for entry into and advancement in the discipline: Increased desirability of FM careers among graduates and younger professionals
- FM strategy integrated throughout the life cycle of the built environment: FMs invited to the table earlier and more frequently
- Increased understanding and appreciation of the value of FM in the boardroom: CEOs, CFOs and Corporate Real Estate teams see the value of FM professionals
- Advanced and inclusive global knowledge sharing among peers: Standardized guidance and practice standards demanded by clients
- One stop shop for FM professional development for entry to and advancement in FM: Hiring managers recognise and demand FM credentials around the world

Frequently asked questions

How does an RICS qualification differ from IFMA membership?

In order to join RICS, professionals must qualify for RICS status by attaining a qualification. Chartered status (MRICS) is awarded to individuals who meet the following criteria:

- Hold a relevant bachelor's-level qualification and/or an RICS-recognized professional designation, or have at least 10 years of relevant experience (those with master's degrees may only need five years)
- Agree to be accountable to a strict code of conduct
- Most candidates complete written submissions and a final assessment interview to communicate professional and technical competence
- Complete and report 20 hours of verified continuing professional development (CPD) per year.

CFM credential holders are recognized as eligible for Direct Entry to the AssocRICS qualification with no assessment required. Only the ethics test must be undertaken.

Find out more at rics.org/FMcredentials

In order to join IFMA, individuals must submit a membership application and support IFMA's purposes, vision, mission, goals, core values and code of ethics. Members may include current, former and future practitioners of FM, as well as educators and providers of related goods and services.



Frequently asked questions

Why has RICS chosen to collaborate with IFMA?

The strengths of IFMA with its 24,000 members operating in the FM sector and portfolio of FM training, conferences, knowledge and resources provide a global value proposition that complements the RICS offer in the wider built environment to benefit the FM community worldwide. By extending its global reach in FM, RICS can support the establishment of FM as an attractive career option globally for the next generation and together with IFMA can provide a career path to drive best practices across the world. IFMA's FM expertise supports RICS' vision to expand thought leadership in the FM space, and by gaining greater depth in FM, fulfill its life cycle approach to meeting occupier needs and drive greater value from real estate. An increased number of professionals carrying the dual IFMA and RICS qualifications including AssocRICS will not only advance the FM profession but offers clients a greater pool of trusted, qualified and regulated FM professionals.

Why has IFMA chosen to collaborate with RICS?

IFMA continues to go through strategic exercises of understanding its market position servicing facility managers. To maintain relevancy in the future of the facility management industry, among the association's priorities is advancing the visibility and prominence of the profession. There are over 40 different FM organizations around the globe that all have different standards, credentials and training. IFMA looked at RICS as a global professional body that promotes and enforces the highest professional standards across the built environment. Leveraging RICS' focus on standards serves a unique fit for IFMA. Through alignment of standards and professional development, IFMA and RICS are uniting the global FM community and solving the problem of fragmentation in the FM community. The aim is to increase consistency and unification of strategy across the life cycle of the built environment, helping facility managers get a seat at the table earlier and more often.



Frequently asked questions

Standardizing the profession will also help increase its global professionalism and raise awareness of an industry that has often been misunderstood. It will also create more pervasive recognition of facility management as a career of choice.

Having offices in 42 cities around the world, RICS also provides collaborative value to IFMA in bringing a much broader reach for support of members globally.

Why is this collaboration significant?

The dynamic collaboration of IFMA and RICS is the most significant evolution in the history of facility management, providing an unprecedented level of industry support to meet the growing demands of the 25 million FM practitioners around the world.

The aim of integrating FM into the wider land, construction, real estate and infrastructure family is to:

- Improve the overall quality of built environment
- Optimize space utilization and reduce building operating expenses
- Enhance productivity of building occupants
- Conserve resources to contribute to efficiency and sustainability goals
- Create new pathways for entry into the FM profession.

Frequently asked questions

What does this collaboration entail?

As with any working relationship, the IFMA-RICS collaboration will evolve over time. However, the initial steps will involve leveraging both organizations' existing resources in research, conferences and events, and external relations. IFMA and RICS will also collaborate to offer a suite of professional qualifications in facility management, providing global recognition for FMs of all educational backgrounds, skills, work experiences and career goals. These efforts serve to raise the profile of FM, giving a great voice and increased status to the profession to shape the future of the built environment and enable business success. To receive the latest information, go to www.define.fm and sign up to receive timely updates. Both organizations will prioritize transparency and will continue to proactively involve and share information with internal and external stakeholders throughout the process.

Are IFMA and RICS merging?

No. IFMA and RICS will continue to operate as separate entities. IFMA's board of directors and staff will remain independent. IFMA's membership requirements to join, pricing, and categories will not change. IFMA's chapter structure will not change. Both organizations are collaborating under mutual commitment. Both organizations will benefit by sharing knowledge and resources.



Frequently asked questions

How will this collaboration impact members of IFMA and RICS professionals?

RICS professionals with a stated interest in the FM sector will automatically gain IFMA membership in addition to their RICS qualification and begin receiving full IFMA member benefits.

In general, IFMA members and credential holders will gain:

- Access to an expanded professional network
- Increased support and representation outside of North America
- Heightened status and recognition as market awareness expands
- Greater audience and influence across built environment community
- Opportunity to leverage RICS global infrastructure for joint efforts to advance FM

Members of IFMA will not become RICS professionals unless they fulfill the RICS qualification requirements and apply for admission.

CFM credential holders are recognized as eligible for Direct Entry to the AssocRICS qualification with no assessment required. Only the ethics test must be undertaken. **Find out more at rics.org/FMcredentials**

Frequently asked questions

What if being global isn't one of my priorities or it doesn't affect me?

Global value makes local conversations and positioning even more relevant. Being in a profession that is recognized globally gives the facility manager in a respective country more visibility. With greater visibility comes greater appreciation of the value the FM profession brings into the built environment industry. Individually, as professionals and member associations, we recognize the value. Adding a global component gives the profession amplified reach, allowing more in the C-suite to recognize FM's importance and vital part in every stage of the built environment conversation. Besides the value of knowing that your board and clients truly understand FM, the global nature of the IFMA-RICS collaboration is set to standardize the profession. Among many benefits, standardization helps maximize compatibility, safety, efficiency and quality. On a global scale, it adds a layer of professionalism, showing consistency in definitions and processes despite the geographic location.

Frequently asked questions

Will IFMA and RICS fees change?

No — the collaboration will not impact IFMA's current dues structure or RICS fees.

What does this mean for IFMA's relationship with other industry organizations?

The goal of this collaboration is to create a less fragmented, more inclusive, global facility management community. While IFMA and RICS are the primary collaborators, all organizations with an interest in supporting the health of the built environment are invited to work through IFMA to help foster a robust professional FM knowledge-sharing network worldwide.



Opportunities for professional recognition in FM



A knowledge-based credential demonstrating depth of core FM topic expertise



A knowledge-based credential demonstrating sustainability expertise in FM



A certification that sets the industry standard for practicing facility managers



A qualification demonstrating regulated, technical FM expertise and ethics



A chartered qualification demonstrating regulated, FM professional and strategic advisory expertise and ethics

CFM credential holders are eligible for direct entry to AssocRICS



Opportunities for professional development

Opportunities for professional development

IFMA credential training, along with IFMA continuing education units, CFM maintenance points and RICS continuing professional development, will be delivered on a new RICS hosted Online Academy platform, available to all professionals globally from January 2017 at <http://fm.training>

Continuing education

- A series of more than 60 IFMA online short courses, on-demand recordings, etc. covering all aspects of FM, from introduction to FM strategy to courses on specific topics, such as technology, real estate, asset management and sustainability.

IFMA training

- Essentials of Facility Management workshop series (non-credential program) helps those who are new to the field of FM standardize language across teams.
- Online training, as well as print and classroom materials, supports achievement of the FMP and SFP credentials.
- Facility Management Learning System and CFM Exam Prep Workshop assist individuals in preparing to sit for the CFM exam.

RICS training

- A range of courses in facility management from corporate real estate management through to sustainability. Course formats vary from 90-minute instructor-led web classes to six month online learning programs with a mix of introductory and advanced courses. Training is delivered in line with RICS guidance, best practices and international standards, including the latest industry trends and technologies.

Opportunities for networking

IFMA and RICS offer educational and networking events for facility management practitioners worldwide.

In addition to summits, leaders' forums and other face-to-face events, IFMA and RICS are collaborating to produce World Workplace, the world's largest series of facility management conferences and expositions.

World Workplace India Conference and Expo

Bangalore, Karnataka, India

Nov. 11-12, 2016

World Workplace UAE Conference and Expo

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

March 2017

World Workplace Europe Conference and Expo

Stockholm, Sweden

May 30 - June 1, 2017

World Workplace Conference and Expo

Houston, Texas, USA

Oct. 18-20, 2017





Opportunities for knowledge

IFMA and RICS are collaborating to deliver content on all topics related to the built environment to help professionals stay current on industry trends and insights.

FM Research and Benchmarking Institute

IFMA and RICS are developing key research resources to eliminate limitations and gaps in market insight for the FM industry. These efforts will consist of new IFMA-RICS joint research reports, benchmarking projects, FM toolkits and more to meet the heightened demands of the sector.

Knowledge Library

A comprehensive online collection of FM content resources, such as articles, white papers, research, case studies, how-to videos, podcasts, scopes of work and more. Content published in the Knowledge Library is sourced from both IFMA and RICS and is reviewed by industry-leading professionals to ensure the highest standards of quality and relevance.

Publications

IFMA and RICS will identify opportunities to share content among their existing publications - such as magazines, journals, newsletters and blogs - in order to increase the availability and visibility of FM knowledge.



Visit define.fm to learn more about the IFMA-RICS collaboration and to explore how you can join the define.fm movement.

The IFMA-RICS collaboration represents the most significant evolution in the history of facility management (FM), providing an unprecedented level of industry support to meet the growing demands of the 25 million FM practitioners around the world. The two organizations are aligning standards and professional development for the industry, uniting the global FM community to increase consistency and unification of strategy across the life cycle of the built environment. The collaboration offers a single suite of professional qualifications in facility management, providing global recognition for FMs of all educational backgrounds, skills, work experiences and career goals. These efforts serve to raise the profile of FM, giving a greater voice and increased status to the profession to shape the future of the built environment and enable business success. Visit www.define.fm to learn more about the IFMA-RICS collaboration.



Contact us:

IFMA: communications@ifma.org

RICS: definefm@rics.org