



The Hong Kong Institute of  
Facility Management

# The FM Communicator

Newsletter Issue No. 17 & 18, 1<sup>st</sup>Q and 2<sup>nd</sup> Q 2007

## **Dear Members / Professionals / Friends / Readers,**

**We have had a very busy first half of 2007** with various seminars, site visits, and not least of all, the HKIFM-PSDAS events which included technical visits to Yokohama, Japan and Zhongshan, Zhuhai, and Macau under the theme of “Sustainable Development in Japan and China – A Twin Countries’ Adventure”. Professional exchanges have also been made with counterpart institutes in the world and we were asked to sponsor or support relevant conferences. Meanwhile, the economy in the region, China in particular, continues to show strong growth notwithstanding various cooling measures and the roller-coaster-like A Share Indexes.

## **A Message from our New President Mr. Po Chi Lau**

Dear Fellow Members,

I am delighted to have been elected as President of the HKIFM for the Council 2006/2007.

There is probably no occasion more appropriate than this moment in my first President's Address for me to express my thanks for your support and active participation in events and activities of our Institute in the past years. I am together with our Council, looking forward to your continued support and participation as you did in the previous years.

Going forward in the year ahead, we are expecting bigger challenges as we grow in our technical capabilities and competitive market. We look forward to increase our membership by attracting more young members, distinguished professionals, academics, and establishments. By working closely with government departments, academic and professional institutions, and other related organizations inside and outside Hong Kong, we hope to become a technical and professional information source centre for all involved or interested in all aspects of facility management knowledge.

Many thanks for the great work and achievements accomplished before me by my predecessors- the various past Presidents: Dr. Chan Man-Wai, Dr. Daniel Ho, Mr. Frankie So, Mr. Kenneth Chan and Mr. Alfred Sit.

I look forward to be working with you all to accomplish our plan for the busy and interesting Year of 2007.

I would like to send you all my warmest greetings and wish you all the best, every success and prosperity in the New Year and beyond.

With sincere regard,

From LAU Po-chi  
President

### **Useful and Enlightening Content from:**

We have spotted a few very interesting articles in [www.rfpmagazine.com](http://www.rfpmagazine.com) including ones on owning and buying / selling virtual real estate, starting your own institute, or the like.

### **From RFP (Real Estate Facilities Projects) Magazine:**

**Your Own Little Slice of Nothing:** this article describes another website [www.secondlife.com](http://www.secondlife.com) through which users not only live a 2<sup>nd</sup> life in a virtual world but can buy, sell, and develop real estate as in the real world. The intriguing feature is that the users, reported to number more than 7,000,000 already, can transact such virtual real estate in the real world (e.g. via EBay) using real world money (e.g. US\$).  
[http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp\\_pages/realestate\\_3.html](http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp_pages/realestate_3.html)

**My Own Private Institute:** this article surveys whether there is a need for more professional real estate and facility management institutes and finds that most respondents think there is no need for more, though there is a dire need for proper technical courses and talks.  
[http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp\\_pages/facilities\\_7.html](http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp_pages/facilities_7.html)

**Building Facilities in China and India:** this article reports on the various facility development challenges which exist in China and India and suggests viable project solutions.  
[http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp\\_pages/facilities\\_1.html](http://www.rfpmagazine.com/rfp_pages/facilities_1.html)

### **Announcements:**

**Next PSDAS Scheme:** we are now planning for our next PSDAS and initially the theme is likely to be focused this time on portfolio management. A task force will be set up to manage the process.

**Technical Visit to Princess Margaret Hospital** will be held on 12 July 2007 (Thurs) afternoon. Enrol now!

### **Recent Events:**

A CPD talk titled "**Risk-based approach in evaluation of facility capital work projects**" featuring the latest hospital projects was held on June 21, 2007 at IVE(Morrison Hill). Attendees were intrigued and questions were raised.

**The HKIFM - PSDAS "Sustainable Development in Japan & China - A 'Twin-Countries' Adventure"**: Our President Mr. P. C. Lau and other members traveled to Yokohama and Tokyo, Japan in March this year, visiting various modern facilities and meeting up with our Japanese counterparts in the process. On a separate occasion, our President and members also made visits in June this year to various facilities and developments in Zhuhai, Zhongshan, and Macau, fostering rapport with both civic and private organizations operating in these cities.

**The HKIFM 7th AGM & Annual Dinner 2006 & 6th Anniversary Celebration** was held on 15 December 2006 (**Friday**) at World Trade Centre Club. The event was well attended with members and their guests.

### **Useful Web Resources:**

We seek to introduce members and readers to **potentially useful and / or interesting web resource including web-sites and web-pages**. Members and readers are also encouraged to submit such resource for our consideration. In this issue, we have found:

[www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com) = perhaps many members would find it strange that we (or your humble editor to be exact) find the YouTube website worth recommending, especially when the “Bus Uncle” image still lingers strongly. No doubt much of the content in YouTube can at best be described only as ‘entertaining’ i.e. lacking somewhat in intellect, a closer review reveals there are actually plenty of video footages on ‘serious’ topics, ranging from politics, economics, cultures etc to science, religion, and real estate.

Think of it this way = 10 - 15 years ago, most computers were not connected to the internet. Today, an internet-disabled computer is practically a piece of junk, no matter how many Gs it has and so on. Not only that, imagine a world without Wikipedia, Google, Yahoo, or for that matter YouTube, let alone the internet itself, plus many of the more popular data, information, and news sources. Essentially this would mean nightmare to some and inconvenience to most.

As such, your humble author thinks that not only would websites like YouTube thrive (whether YouTube itself will prosper is another question), they would become a part of everyday life, business and professional ones included. And what do the YouTube and the likes of it do? They offer a sense of communities.

Your humble author thinks it is worthwhile for the HKIFM to consider making itself known via YouTube.

### **The Lighter Side:**

We would like to share **a few jokes or light-hearted stories that we overhear or come across via the web / email from time to time** with members and readers. Members and readers are again encouraged to submit such resource for our consideration:

**James Bond finally evolves!** From more brains to less, from fewer muscles to more, and from being a nitpicky guy frowning upon a stirred dry martini to being a ‘couldn’t care less’, he changes fast too. 2 years to be exact between the last and this latest Bond movie ‘Casino Royale’. The producers must also be congratulated for their daring trial of reinventing Bond. One might have thought such a change could mean a movie bomb yet reportedly the ladies dug him, and it was a ticket success. He also goes back to driving an Aston Martin, back to being more British than EU.

**Naturally, Bond changes for a good reason: the box office** (i.e. to improve movie ticket sales and DVDs), and your humble editor thinks this in turn reflect the changed audience. First, it is suspected more gals than guys watch Bond these days (especially starting in the late 1980s when Bond became less ‘promiscuous’ thus decreasing his ‘movie escapism value’ for guys generally). Second, ladies today are more educated themselves thus a Cambridge-educated Bond impresses less than a muscle-bound guy (especially when most muscular guys are now either in Iraq or Afghanistan). Third, ladies dislike nitpicky guys because guys who complain about a stirred dry martini could also nitpick about the ladies’ hairdos, dresses, tastes for food and wine etc (i.e. what guys think cool and reflective of their good taste and attention to details could be seen by the other gender as being overly fussy and unmanly).

Times have changed, guys. Even James Bond is now made for the ladies’ fancy (and fantasy), not yours!

**We hope you have enjoyed reading the above** and we would certainly look forward to receiving article contribution from members. We also need help on various committee work and those interested could use the attached form indicating their interest. Thank you.

Best regards,

For and On behalf of the Editorial Team / HKIFM,

Stephen Chung

---

Notes: The HKIFM and / or the relevant authors or publishers reserve the copyrights of such content including but not limited to articles, analyses, charts, graphics, and the like contained herein. No unauthorized copying, distribution, or publication is to be carried out unless prior, proper, and written approval has been sought from us or the relevant authors or publishers. Content contained herein may or may not reflect the opinion of the HKIFM or its members at large, and inclusion of content contained herein, be it in the form of text, graphics, web-links, and the like, does NOT in any way imply its accuracy, applicability, practicality, or the like, has been verified, vetted, or approved by the HKIFM or its members at large. The HKIFM or its members do not take any responsibility for claims, losses, or damages arising out of the reference to and use of such content contained herein.