Editor’s Note

On Excellence in Facility Management Award (EFMA) 2014, document submissions have been received from all applicants / nominees in mid June 2014. They are being organised for passing to the Judging Panel for adjudication. The results would be announced in the Institute’s Annual Dinner 2014 on 13 November 2014.

The Joint Forum on Property Management Services Bill was successfully held on 7 June 2014. Members’ feedback in the Forum will be sent to LegCo and Home Affairs Department via a joint letter by all the organisers to highlight members’ concerns before enactment of the Bill.

It is with great pleasure to welcome Guardian Property Management Ltd which have recently joined the Institute as Professional Facility Management Establishment (PFME).

In July, we have organised a technical visit to the Sha tin Racecourse of Hong Kong Jockey Club to be held on 26 July 2014.

The FM Blog in this issue introduces the Sick Building Syndrome and Building Related Illness. These and other indoor environmental problems have a direct and indirect impact on health, comfort and productivity of the occupants, as most people nowadays spend a high percentage of their time indoors.

Edward LEE
Immediate Past President & Director of Communications
News and Announcement

New Professional Facility Management Establishment

Guardian Property Management Ltd has recently joined the Institute as Professional Facility Management Establishment (PFME). PFMEs are organisations that are active in advocating quality practice in the management of the built environment and facilities and the promotion of facility management as a prime profession.

Recent Event

Joint Forum on Property Management Services Bill

The forum was held on 7 June 2014 at Lecture Theatre 401, Amenities Building, City University of Hong Kong. It was jointly organized by Chartered Institute of Housing Asian Pacific Branch (CIHAPB), Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong, (CITY U), The Hong Kong Association of Property Management Companies (HKAPMC), The Hong Kong Institute of Facility Management (HKIFM), The Hong Kong Institute of Housing (HKIH), The Hong Kong Institute of Surveyors, Property and Facility Management Division (HKIS, PFMD), Housing Managers Registration Board (HMRB) and Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

The Property Management Services Bill was published in Gazette on 25.4.2014 and has also been introduced to the Legislative Council (LegCo) for 1st Reading and commencement of 2nd Reading Debate on 7.5.2014. The forum was held to gauge members’ views and feedback on the Bill before resumption of 2nd Reading Debate, Committee Stage and 3rd Reading. Members’ feedback in the Forum will be sent to LegCo and Home Affairs Department via a joint letter to highlight our members’ concerns before enactment of the Bill.
Upcoming Event

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<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Technical Visit to The Hong Kong Jockey Club, Sha Tin Racecourse</td>
<td>19 July 2014 (change of date to 26 July 2014)</td>
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Supporting Event

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organizers</th>
<th>Event Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Training on HVAC Design: Level I - Essentials</td>
<td>ASHRAE-Hong Kong Chapter</td>
<td>30 July - 1 Aug 2014</td>
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CPD Requirements for Members

Continuing professional development (CPD) is a common requirement of most professional institutes to ensure effective execution of professional duties throughout the members' working life. With the approval of the Council, the Institute has laid down the CPD requirements for its members.

In brief, all members (including fellows) and associates should complete a minimum of 20 hours per year on a mandatory basis starting from 1 July 2014. The CPD may come under 3 categories: (1) education and training, (2) community, institutional, and social services, (3) private study. A minimum of 10 hours should fall within the type of education and training, of which at least 4 hours should be related to activities organized by the HKIFM. Private study should be subject to a maximum claim of 5 hours per year.

The detailed requirements have been uploaded to the HKIFM homepage. Please click HERE for details.
**FM Blog**

**Sick Building Syndrome and Building Related Illness**

Most people nowadays spend a high percentage of their time indoors. Sick building syndrome (SBS), building related illness (BRI), and other environmental problems in buildings can have direct and indirect impact on health, comfort and workplace productivity of the occupants.

According to United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sick building syndrome is used to describe situations in which building occupants experience acute health or comfort effects that seem to be linked to time spent in a building. Yet, no specific illness or cause can be identified. The complainants may be localized in a particular room or zone, or may be widespread throughout the building. In contrast, building related illness is used when symptoms of diagnosable illness are identified and can be attributed directly to airborne building contaminants.

In respect of SBS, building occupants may complain of symptoms associated with acute discomfort such as headache; dizziness and nausea; eye, nose or throat irritation; dry cough; dry or itching skin; difficulty in concentration; fatigue; sensitivity to odours and allergies. The cause of the symptoms is not known. Most of the complainants report relief soon after leaving the building.

As regards BRI, building occupants may complain of symptoms such as cough; chest tightness; fever, chills; and muscle aches. The symptoms can be clinically defined and have clearly identifiable causes. The complainants may require prolonged recovery times after leaving the building.

It is important to note that complaints may also result from other cause like a preexisting illness or other allergies, job-related stress or dissatisfaction and psychosocial factors. Nevertheless, studies show that symptoms may be caused or exacerbated by indoor air quality problems.

**Recruitment**

HKIFM is committed to promoting the facility management profession in the territory. Just contact us via email: communications@hkifm.org.hk, if you wish to join the various committees to work with our experienced Committee Directors for the well-being of all members.

Please contact Mr Edward Lee, Immediate Past President & Director of Communications, should you have any comments and suggestions on this issue of FM Communicator.

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