



Interview with: **Javier Villalobos**

President of the Costa Rican Association of Facility Management (ACFM)



Today we are interviewing Javier Villalobos, president of the Costa Rican Association of Facility Management (ACFM), a booming and vertiginous association, and today Julio will tell us the keys and his vision on the Facility Management.

1.- The ACFM was born as a result of the LSDFM event organized by CIFMERS GLOBAL in Costa Rica, but as the youngest association in the sector worldwide, how do you explain its fast formation and growth?

Due to certain circumstances the association was not established before. What happened was that many Costa Rican professionals had not realized that they were working in FM and others that we were already involved in FM, worked in continental or global companies without the chance to have a meeting point. The fast growth is occurring because the ingredients and conditions, especially the experience and human talent, is already in the country, we just needed to meet and organize.

2.- What can the association provide its members and to the companies that want to participate?

We intend to provide a framework of formality and professionalism to the Facility Management activity, through dissemination, education, certification and regulation. Simultaneously, we want to be a platform or an interaction space for what we call "cross-pollination", that is, we expect collective experience to emerge, proliferation of best practices, networking and contacts between partners. And we also want to contribute with activities for the development and exchange between consumers and suppliers of FM, whether these are products, services or solutions.

3.- Compared to Europe and other Latin American countries, what is the status of Facility Management in Costa Rica?

Obviously Europe and the United States are leading the global FM, but Costa Rica is closely following countries like Brazil, Chile, Argentina and Uruguay. In a few months of existence we have already participated in international events in Mexico, Uruguay and Argentina. We have had approaches with EuroFM and with IFMA Spain. At a national level, we are working with the Costa Rican Technical Standards Institute (INTECO) on the topics of the ISO 41000 standard and with the Technological Institute of Costa Rica (ITCR), we are collaborating on their FM career plans. In summary, we are a little behind but strongly moving forward.

4.- On April 19th, the association will officially be presented in San Jose, what expectations do you have about this event and what will the participants find?

We are expecting the participation of the Top 100 Facility Managers of Costa Rica, as well as suppliers of products and related services and key representatives of other chambers, government and academia. We have been working hard on a strategic vision for the FM, as a development engine that can elevate the competitiveness of Costa Rica, in the global markets of shared services and the medical and specialized manufacturing, in which we compete. Our main expectation is to open the eyes of participants, about the economic and professional potential of the FM, and that we all get on the train, to develop in the best way this industry.



Luis Gómez / Laura Gómez / Adrián Chaves / Javier Villalobos / Julio Flores / Raquel Degadillo