



Interview to:
Ali Al Suwaidi
MEFMA Board Member



Today we interview Ali Al Suwaidi, MEFMA Board Member and one of the speakers in the EFMC, where he shares with us his vision about the Facility Management.

1. Middle East has faced a very rapid Real Estate development in the last decades and due to this, a lot of new legislation has been introduced. What is the role of MEFMA in that process?

MEFMA has always played critical role since inception in 2009 under the umbrella of Dubai Land Department and its regularity arm (RERA- Real estate Regulatory Authority). Legislation were introduced mainly through RERA and Dubai Economic Department and MEFMA role is more as the Voice of the industry creating such an amazing awareness and knowledge base platform.

2. Is MEFMA taking part in the implementation of new legislation like regulatory function, training activities, awareness initiatives, or any other?

MEFMA works closely with Dubai Real estate Collage among other government entities with Arabian Gulf Countries including KSA, Qatar and Kuwait establishing needed professional training platform driving awareness initiatives that has huge impact on government and industry understanding of Facility Management challenges in the region.

3. How are the building / business asian owners looking at the FM profession: as a technical discipline or as management?

Over the past five years most of the building owners and real-estate development companies have understood the importance role of strategic FM as profession rather than only a technical discipline and this is why we have an increasing numbers of comprehensive total FM and Integrated FM tenders.

4. How are you combining the fact of being a member of the board of MEFMA and also a Facility Manager in big company?

I am proud to be one of the founding board members of MEFMA as none profit organization. This volunteer role had helped me to learn more and develop my communication skills and FM strategic skills that helped me throughout my career in FM. During my last 18 years career in FM in Middle East I have managed more than 1,000 of different facilities including my role as First FM head for the tallest tower in the world. I urge all readers to start allocating more time in volunteering to none profit professional organizations which will certainly give huge return to your career path!

5. You will participate in the EFMC in Madrid, what do you expect from it?

I have participated in the latest EFMC conference in Prague few years ago and it will be amazing to come back again this year. Most important aspect of such participation is closing bridge between Arabian Gulf Region FM industry and Europe.

Moreover, very important driver of my participation is to share the story of Souq Al Jubail (Biggest Fresh Food Market in Arabian Gulf Region) Facility Management and Sustainable change management strategy using FM best practice and stakeholder's management engagement approach. This has transformed the shift of the market from 30 years setup to new technology base 60 Million Dollar facility.

Also, networking, knowledge sharing and learning new creative ideas are other drivers to my participation.