



International Facility Management Association

Press Release

1 E. Greenway Plaza, Suite 1100 ■ Houston, Texas 77046-0104, USA ■ 713-623-4362 ■ FAX 713-623-6124 ■ [www.ifma.org](http://www.ifma.org)

March 4, 2009

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Andrea Sanchez  
713-623-4362  
[communications@ifma.org](mailto:communications@ifma.org)

### **Industries Forum 2009 Brings Industry-specific Professional Development Opportunities to Vancouver**

HOUSTON — (March 4, 2009) — Workplace professionals from across North America will meet in Vancouver, B.C., Canada, March 31 through April 2, 2009, for the International Facility Management Association's third annual Industries Forum — a three-day conference offering facility practitioners educational sessions, facility tours, networking events and best practices they can implement into their own organizations.

Professionals with specialized knowledge have a distinct advantage in the workplace. According to an April 2008 article in Consumer Reports Money Adviser, job security in tough economic times is reliant upon specialized skills. Held at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, Industries Forum will present in-depth educational programming specific to the various industry sectors represented by [IFMA's councils](#) and communities of practice — including airport facilities, corporate real estate, restaurant and food service facilities, and the public sector.

Industries Forum will offer conference participants a keynote presentation on sustainability and the chance to attend 20 educational sessions, eight facility tours and various networking events. Attendees will also be able to earn Continuing Education Units for their participation that count toward their professional designations.

“This is a once-a-year opportunity for many of the FMs in these industries to get face to face with each other and focus on the facility management concerns they're dealing with,” said Jeff Tafel, IFMA director of councils. “That's the huge value: participants get to completely immerse themselves in these unique issues for a couple of days and talk about banking, airports or manufacturing very specifically.”

Industries Forum will begin on Tuesday, March 31, with registration and a welcome reception. Christopher Hodges, P.E., CFM, IFMA Fellow, of Facility Engineering Associates will open the second day of the conference with the keynote presentation, “Sustainable Facility Management: It's not just about the Environment,” on April 1. Hodges will discuss how facility professionals can efficiently and effectively manage their facilities in the face of limited resources and an economic downturn.

Following Hodges' presentation, conference participants will attend educational sessions covering topics such as cost reduction and operational efficiency, change management in turbulent times, the economic outlook for 2009 and its effect on the real estate market, and “cleaning on the cheap.” Speakers will include representatives from the Corporate Realty, Design & Management Institute; Cushman & Wakefield; Manhattan Software; and Wind Energy Consulting and Contracting. Day two of Industries Forum will also feature facility tours of the Vancouver Airport and Envision Financial.

Industries Forum will conclude on Thursday, April 2, with educational sessions on energy efficiency, developing a facilities business strategy, how technology can help people get through a recession, financial strategies for an efficient bottom line, LEED® principles, and best practice sharing. Representatives from BC Compliance Group, Cushman & Wakefield, the Greater Toronto Airports Authority and Work Design Collaborative will present. The final day of Industries Forum will also include facility tours of the Vancouver Museum of Anthropology, the Vancouver Convention Center, as well as the [CK Choi Building and Life Sciences Centre](#) at the University of British Columbia.

Registration for Industries Forum is still open to IFMA members and nonmembers. To learn more about how you can be a part of Industries Forum, or to view the conference program, visit [www.ifma.org/learning/events/if09](http://www.ifma.org/learning/events/if09).

IFMA is the world's largest and most widely recognized international association for professional facility managers, supporting more than 19,500 members in 60 countries. The association's members, represented in 125 chapters and 15 councils worldwide, manage more than 37 billion square feet of property and annually purchase more than US\$100 billion in products and services. Formed in 1980, IFMA certifies facility managers, conducts research, provides educational programs, recognizes facility management certificate programs and produces World Workplace, the world's largest facility management conference and exposition. For more information, visit the [IFMA press room](#) or [www.ifma.org](http://www.ifma.org).

###