



Address

To be delivered by

Mr Moonilal Lalchan

PRESIDENT

**Trinidad and Tobago Chamber
of Industry and Commerce**

4th CARIBBEAN FACILITIES MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE & EXPO
“ENHANCING PRODUCTIVITY DELIVERING RESULTS”
WEDNESDAY 15 / THURSDAY 16 MAY 2013
HILTON TRINIDAD
OPENING CEREMONY
8:00am – 9:15am

Good morning and Welcome to the 4th Caribbean Facilities Management Conference and Expo!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Chamber of Commerce, I extend a warm and hearty welcome to the Honourable Carolyn Seepersad-Bachan, Minister of Public Administration and her

government colleagues for being a part of this Opening Ceremony. We are cognizant of your very hectic schedule and are certainly pleased that you have taken the time to join us for another year at this important event in the Chamber's business calendar. The Chamber, and our participants from both the private and public sector here, are all very much interested in hearing more on the Government's plans for management of the many facilities that fall under its purview, and we feel encouraged that the State is giving its support to the development of a Facilities Management culture for the enhancement of productivity in Trinidad and Tobago.

I also extend a warm welcome to our International speakers – Mr. Peter Winters and Mr. David Hewett. Welcome to Trinidad and Tobago and thank you for choosing to speak at our Conference.

I welcome each one of our local speakers, our participants and to our Sponsors and Exhibitors for their unwavering support and contribution towards this trail blazing event.

Ladies and Gentlemen, today I am pleased to be standing before you to open our Facilities Management and Maintenance Conference, now in its fourth year of existence. In 2009 when we first staged this Conference, we anticipated that the

private and public sector would recognize the importance of having an event such as this one and indeed the response was great. Since that time, we have seen the Conference grow from strength to strength, and we continue to strive to deliver a quality, knowledge-filled event!

At the last Conference, we strove to focus on the theme of Building an FM Culture here in T&T and the wider Caribbean. This Conference is an extension of that theme, as we now want to show that, with a proper FM Culture, we can **Enhance Productivity to Deliver** Results. The Chamber is of the strong belief that our *buildings should serve people* – **not** the other way around! Therefore, this year, we want to help each and every business and

State enterprise to reach your ultimate goal of operating your facilities cost efficiently and sustainably while ensuring maximum comfort for its occupants.

This pioneering Conference is unique. Nowhere else in the Caribbean will you find a Conference of this caliber and magnitude. It is our hope that Trinidad and Tobago will one day become the gateway in the region for training programmes and the dissemination of information on the latest trends and technology in the area.

Facilities Management and Maintenance—or FMM – is defined as the integration of processes within an

organization which are devoted to the maintenance and care of commercial or institutional buildings.

It is still a relatively young profession globally, yet it is a field which is rapidly growing. It is certainly in its nascent stages here in T&T and the Caribbean region, but as the Chamber seeks to improve the way we do business locally and globally, we are committed to a leadership role as we seek to educate our stakeholders and make Facilities Management a more recognized field in T&T.

Over the years, the Conference has attempted to do just that and lift the role of FM in Trinidad & Tobago. Making that connection between the role of FM and productivity is key. We have made

strides, but we recognise that we still have considerably far to go to make FM a key component in helping our local organizations better compete on the world stage.

Over the years the discipline has evolved to encompass not only building maintenance and care but also to have the latest technology at one's finger tips. This can mean putting in place a viable computerized maintenance management system and other necessary software to better manage the firm's overall FMM goals and objectives. Other areas which fall under the scope of facilities management include public safety, energy saving strategies, proper workplace security and safety, space planning, systems and telecommunications -

and this list can go on. Our Facilities Management Committee Chair, will give you more concrete examples of practical FM practices implemented in well known organizations.

Best practices in FMM are continuously improving. It is a profession which encompasses multiple disciplines to ensure functionality of the built environment by integrating people, place, processes and technology and is a core area within any establishment which should neither be overlooked nor underestimated.

The Chamber is of the belief that the Caribbean region **MUST** keep abreast with advancements and other areas of progress being made within this field

because it is a profession which requires a high level of expertise skill and training.

Businesses locally and regionally need to be mindful of the benefits of investing in a sound FM programme which can indirectly and directly affect a Company's bottom line. Cost effectiveness is a priority for all business establishments especially when considering the current challenges being experienced within the region. Particularly for Tobago, where the tourism sector is suffering tremendously from the economic downturn, Facilities Management must play a key role in improving our tourism product by upgrading and maintaining our various hotel facilities.

The practice of facilities management may not directly solve all problems within a business, but paying heed to the principles of FM and putting these into practice can minimize the impact external forces can have on work productivity, competitiveness and the lifespan of buildings and equipment.

As leaders of our organizations, we are **ALL** facilities managers and therefore we must develop a proactive approach to deal with our assets which are responsible for keeping the wheels of productivity turning.

For those of you who are new to maintenance, attending this conference is a great opportunity for

you to understand the role of facilities management and the importance of investing in a proper FM programme. Over the next two days, this conference will provide you with further information on the international industry practices and trends.

We are pleased to bring to you a panel of international and local speakers who come from varied backgrounds, and who will sensitize both private and public sectors on best practices on the facilities management. I encourage you to read more about our speakers and the organizations they represent in the booklets provided to you.

Our Chamber's Facilities Management and Maintenance Committee, spearheaded by Roger Salloum, has done a tremendous job in working with the Chamber staff to bring this Conference to you, and, as the newly elected President of the Chamber, I wish to congratulate them in advance on a job well done.

This year we expect to see **more** networking, **more** collaboration and **more** information sharing.

We look forward to the presentations from our renowned speakers and to the participation of all our attendees at the forum discussion.

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for participating and I wish you a successful Conference.

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