



Partnerships Across the Oceans

APPA's International Strategic Alliance with TEFMA (Australia/New Zealand)

By Chris Kopach

On September 10-14, 2016 I had a great opportunity to attend the TEFMA Board Meeting and Conference in Auckland, New Zealand, hosted by TEFMA President Colin Reiter and his wife Marcella. There, my wife Lynda and I had the opportunity to build on relationships already established and nurtured by previous APPA Presidents.



The Strategic Alliance benefits APPA in the ability to learn from our international partners new trends in sustainability, facilities management opportunities when resources are limited, and the same challenges of addressing deferred maintenance with buildings that are from the 1600s in some cases. We thought we had problems!

WHY HAVE AN INTERNATIONAL STRATEGIC ALLIANCE?

When it all comes down to the same issues of staffing, succession planning, professional development, building efficiencies, and emergency challenges, what a great opportunity to have APPA with more than 100 years of experience share the knowledge, information, processes, and training programs with our international facilities organizations that are less than 25 years old.

TEFMA BOARD MEETING AND CONFERENCE

Over the course of several days the international relationships with our facilities partners in TEFMA (Australia/New Zealand), AUDE (UK), and HEFMA (Southern Africa) were renewed and strengthened. The latest updates of all the great items that are available from APPA were shared with the TEFMA Board, and an International Perspectives in Facility Management Benchmarking was presented during one session with conference attendees.

The conference started with a welcome reception at the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Over the next several days we heard entertaining and insightful keynote speakers including Paul Roberts from the University of Oxford, reviewing university challenges throughout the world and staying viable during the age of technology. There was Glenn Martin from Martin Aircraft Company discussing putting your dreams into reality in developing the flying jet back (yes, right out of *The Jetsons*).

The sessions were informative and allowed information sharing between all. These topics included:

LEADERSHIP TOPICS:

- Green Gown Sustainability Award Winner - Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand



- sharing their journey toward carbon reduction
- Influencing academic decision-makers for better process outcomes

TECHNOLOGY TOPICS:

- Campus Energy Systems: An International Perspective held by our own Dan Bollman, associate vice president at Michigan State University, and Geoff Dennis, past president of TEFMA
- Smart Campus Initiative at the University of Melbourne—Facilities Management using Wireless Big Data
- The Future of Learning

CHALLENGING TOPICS:

- The “X Factor” in Transforming Customer Experience
- Change Management vs Cultural Change
- Never let a good crisis go to waste: Seizing the opportunities from the Christchurch earthquakes.


Jeff Field, and Jacqui Lite, senior policy and risk advisor from the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, New Zealand, discussed the two major earthquakes that hit their campus in 2010 and 2011 and the outstanding effort by the community to get the university back up and running.

The conference ended with the Awards Dinner, and the signing of the new International Strategic Alliance, forging new friendships that will last a lifetime.

ABOUT TEFMA

“TEFMA is a professional association promoting excellence in higher education property and facilities management by providing its members with access to vital networking, professional development opportunities and a wealth of sector resources. TEFMA Members manage extensive property asset portfolios throughout the Australia, New Zealand and Pacific regions and Hong Kong.” — *TEFMA Business Partner Handbook*

TEFMA currently includes 85 higher education institutions, with 1,100 in-

dividual members, and has tracked detailed sector facilities management data from 20+ years through its Benchmark Survey. 

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