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HEFMAmania news letter.



THE VOICE OF CAMPUS FACILITIES
MANAGEMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE
EXCELLENCE.

A NEWSLETTER BY HIGHER EDUCATION
FACILITIES MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION
(HEFMA) SOUTHERN AFRICA

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT: A NEW ERA IN CAMPUS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT

- HENDRIK ESTERHUIZEN

As we progress through 2025, HEFMA continues to rise as a leading force in shaping the infrastructure landscape of higher education across Southern Africa. This year, our engagements have taken us from global conversations in Cardiff to powerful forums in Umhlanga, and from strategic boardrooms to cutting-edge campus tours. Each step reaffirms our vision of delivering future-ready, sustainable, and inclusive educational environments. We stand at the forefront of transformation, not just managing infrastructure but co-creating the learning spaces of tomorrow.

As we reflect on the remarkable strides taken in the first half of 2025, one truth stands out, HEFMA is not only witnessing change, but we are driving it. Whether it's through digital transformation, smart maintenance strategies, sustainable design, or leadership development, we remain committed to helping institutions build campuses that are inclusive, innovative, and future-ready. The journey ahead will require bold thinking, continuous learning, and collective action.

We invite every member to stay involved, contribute insights, and be part of this exciting evolution. Let us continue to reimagine our campuses, not as collections of buildings, but as ecosystems of possibility for students, staff, and communities alike.

I am immensely proud of the strides we've made, and I invite all members to keep engaging, sharing, and building with us.



**HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR
THE HEFMA 2025 CONFERENCE?**

**IF NOT, DON'T MISS OUT ON AN
OPPORTUNITY TO NETWORK WITH
DELEGATES FROM ALL OVER THE
GLOBE, GAIN KNOWLEDGE FROM
INDUSTRY EXPERTS AND MUCH MORE.**

Facebook: HEFMA Page www.hefma.org.za

LinkedIn: HEFMA Southern Africa

TO REGISTER, GO TO:

<https://www.hefma.org/forums.html>

INTRODUCTION OF THE TVET MATURITY DEVELOPMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

In January 2025, HEFMA launched the TVET Maturity Development Subcommittee, a strategic workgroup focused on transforming facilities management across all 50 South African TVET Colleges as well as colleges in the SADC region. This initiative marks a turning point for the sector, aiming to professionalise infrastructure development, improve organisational structures, and strengthen Facilities Management capacity.

The subcommittee's vision is to become the preferred support platform for TVET Colleges seeking best practices in infrastructure and facilities management. Its mission is to advance campus infrastructure, modernise FM operations, and build professional capacity across the sector.

The subcommittee is led by the Chairperson, Ms Swazi Dlamini (Central Johannesburg TVET College), with support from the Vice Chairperson, Ms Lerato Maloka (Goldfields TVET College) and the Secretary, Ms Thapelo Kekana (Waterberg TVET College)

The dynamic and regionally diverse team of professionals committed to transforming facilities management in the sector also include the following office bearers: Mr Fadiel Simmins (Northern Cape Rural TVET College), Mr Sibabalo Tywabi (Northlink TVET College), Ms Yanela Mlambo (Port Elizabeth TVET College), Mr Malibongwe Mpithi (King Hintsa TVET College) and Mr Khwatheleni Tshitangano (Tshwane North TVET College).

Together, they guide strategic planning, regional engagement, and progress reporting to HEFMA's Executive Committee and the Department of Higher Education & Training.

TVET professionals are encouraged to:

- Join monthly meetings
- Participate in benchmarking
- Share best practices and challenges

Key activities this year include a national appraisal of FM maturity, preparation of formal reports for HEFMA and DHET, and the presentation of results at the 2025 HEFMA Annual Conference. The subcommittee will also support institutions in tracking Energy Performance Certification progress and convene monthly workgroup meetings to share insights and strengthen collaboration.

This initiative shifts TVET Colleges away from reactive maintenance toward a structured, proactive approach to facilities management. It encourages shared learning, regional benchmarking, and coordinated problem-solving to elevate the entire sector.

The TVET Maturity Development Subcommittee is positioned to deliver lasting, sector-wide improvements. With clear direction, committed leadership, and strong stakeholder support, 2025 marks the beginning of a new era in higher education infrastructure.

HEFMA 2025 CONFERENCE : REGISTRATION & SPONSORSHIPS

HEFMA 2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE



SAVE THE DATE | **13 - 16 OCT. 2025**

North West University (Potchefstroom Campus)

CONTACT US

✉ hefmanw@hefma.org

☎ 065 886 6347

The event will bring together facilities and infrastructure leaders from universities, TVET colleges, international bodies, government, and the private sector to engage in insightful discussions, exhibitions, and networking opportunities.

Registration is open, and sponsorship opportunities are available for organisations looking to showcase their brand to over 250 delegates from across Southern Africa. Visit www.hefma.org to register or contact mahara@unisa.ac.za or admin@hefma.org for sponsorship details.

Follow us on social media to stay updated on what is happening!!!

Please remember: you must not share information from the discussion boards with anyone outside of your higher education institution/other members.

Welcome to the Global Discussion Board

AUDE & HEFMA LAUNCH A GLOBAL DISCUSSION BOARD FOR FM PROFESSIONALS



Mr Syd Cottle, Chair of AUDE

A New Era of International Collaboration Begins

HEFMA is proud to announce the official launch of the Global Discussion Board, a landmark initiative created in partnership with the Association of University Directors of Estates (AUDE). This new digital platform is a collaborative space for estates and facilities management professionals in higher education institutions across the globe, including those in Southern Africa, the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, the United States, Australia, and New Zealand.

The Global Discussion Board represents an exciting evolution of our long-standing strategic alliance with AUDE and fellow international partners APPA and TEFMA. This platform offers a space where professionals can connect, engage in meaningful dialogue, ask questions, and share innovative ideas and real-world experiences. Whether it's sustainability strategies, digital innovation, infrastructure resilience, or student-centric campus design, the board is designed to tackle shared challenges and explore new opportunities together.

The origin of this initiative is a testament to the power of professional networking. The idea was sparked by a serendipitous conversation between Mr Syd Cottle, Chair of AUDE and Director of Estates at the University of Liverpool, and Mr Lindokuhle Mzolo, Immediate Past President of HEFMA and Campus Maintenance Manager at the University of Johannesburg. Their conversation, which took place during the HEFMA 2023 Conference at the University of the Free State, planted the seed for what has now blossomed into a dynamic and inclusive global community.

Speaking on the launch, Mr Cottle remarked,

"Whilst this is a nice story, it's not necessarily about me and Lindo, it is about shining a light on the power and opportunities that arise through networking and collaboration. The story helps to tell this."

Echoing that sentiment, Mr Mzolo shared his enthusiasm for this new development:

"I am very excited that the discussion board has finally launched. It is one of the initiatives that strengthen collaboration within our international alliance, but it also gives members a direct platform to engage with peers and exchange information, experiences, and explore opportunities."

HEFMA encourages all its members to take advantage of this valuable platform, which is open free of charge to all members of AUDE, APPA, HEFMA, and TEFMA. By joining, you become part of a global conversation that strengthens professional practice, fosters innovation, and enhances institutional knowledge-sharing across continents.

To join the Discussion Board, follow these simple steps to register for a free AUDE account:

1. Visit the dedicated [AUDE landing page](#) and complete the registration form.
2. From the institution dropdown menu, select HEFMA.
3. Under "Interests", select Global Discussion Forum.
4. AUDE will review and approve your registration, after which you'll receive a confirmation email with access to the discussion board.
5. Please take time to read the [usage guidelines](#) and additional support information once you've logged in.

For any support queries, feel free to contact the AUDE team directly at: info@aude.ac.uk

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE : AUDE 2025 - CARDIFF, WALES

The AUDE 2025 Conference, held at Cardiff University in Wales, brought together visionary leaders from around the globe under the theme, ***“A Place Where We Feel We Belong”***. HEFMA's presence, through the leadership of President Hendrik Esterhuizen, signalled the growing influence of Southern African voices in global facilities management conversations. The conference explored how future universities, especially in the 2035–2050 horizon, are being shaped by social, technological, economic, environmental, and political trends. The dominant vision that emerged was one of a smaller, greener, more creative, and community-integrated campus. Spaces will no longer be rigid or fixed but modular, adaptable, and designed to foster human connection and creativity.

A strong focus was placed on energy efficiency and smarter maintenance strategies. It was alarming to note that more than 50% of university energy consumption often occurs while buildings are unoccupied. In response, presenters stressed the need to implement smart controls, occupancy-linked systems, and rigorous time management of facility operations. IoT sensors, environmental monitoring, and data integration are becoming critical tools to reduce carbon emissions while simultaneously enhancing indoor quality and cognitive performance.

Another key focus was the importance of using data as a strategic asset. Many institutions are *“data-rich but insight-poor”*. Transforming raw information into powerful decision-making tools through integrated platforms like Power BI and combining datasets on energy, space utilisation, student experience, and building performance will redefine how we plan and operate campuses. Presenters also emphasised the need to build data competency among FM teams, so staff can not only collect data but also use it confidently to drive decisions.

AUDE also reminded us that shaping the future FM team must go beyond technical skills. Institutions must refine job descriptions, close skills gaps, embrace cross-functional collaboration, and attract younger generations such as Gen Z and Gen Alpha. These future professionals think differently, value digital inclusion, and need workspaces that reflect their always-connected, collaborative lifestyles.

Campus site visits were among the most inspiring parts of the trip. Cardiff University showcased open-plan buildings powered by battery trains and filled with natural light and flexible furniture. The University College London impressed with its heritage architecture coupled with smart central heating systems and design features promoting interaction. At the University of Hertfordshire, participants toured simulation labs, hacker zones, vehicle manufacturing sites, and sustainability-focused buildings. Each campus demonstrated how tradition and innovation can blend to create beautiful, efficient, and inclusive learning environments.



University building with themed area



International delegates



Interior of the New Spectra building



University's heritage building



HEFMA BUSINESS PARTNER EVENTS

AUDE Summer School 2024 AWARD WINNER TSHISEVHE NESENGANI AWARDED AT THE AUDE 2025 CONFERENCE

Ms Tshisevhe Nesengani, Head of the Infrastructure Maintenance Unit at the University of Venda, has been awarded the 2024 AUDE Summer School Best Project Award. As the HEFMA-sponsored delegate, she participated in the prestigious six-month international programme hosted at the University of Manchester, which brings together emerging leaders in higher education facilities management. Her team's project, titled **"Enhancing Customer-Centric Practices in Capital Project Delivery within Higher Education Estates"**, was selected as the best among the 2024 cohort. The project focused on integrating the voice of students, staff, and service teams into capital project planning using global customer service frameworks such as ISO 9001 and Customer Service Excellence.

The group's innovative approach emphasised post-occupancy feedback, user-driven design, and data-informed service delivery to improve institutional performance and satisfaction. Their work culminated in strategic recommendations for AUDE and higher education leadership. In recognition of their achievement, Ms Nesengani and her team were honoured at the 2025 AUDE Conference Gala Dinner at Cardiff University. This accomplishment marks a significant milestone for both the University of Venda and HEFMA's ongoing efforts to elevate professional excellence across the Southern African facilities management community.



AUDE 2025 Summer School international delegates

HEFMA Rising Star: AUDE Summer School 2025 DELEGATE

HEFMA was proud to sponsor Mr Lindokuhle Mzolo from the University of Johannesburg to attend the AUDE Summer School 2025. This prestigious program is designed to develop the next generation of higher education FM leaders, and Mr Mzolo's reflections highlight just how transformative the experience was. He expressed heartfelt gratitude to HEFMA and UJ for the opportunity and shared that the program not only enhanced his strategic leadership skills but also broadened his understanding of crisis management, sustainability, smart campus strategies, and collaborative leadership.

He described the experience as a life-changing journey that equipped him to contribute meaningfully to the future of facilities management. The training, discussions, and networking with international peers provided deep insights into navigating FM during financial constraints and emphasised the evolving skillsets required to succeed in this dynamic field.



Left: Mr Lindokuhle Mzolo (HEFMA Immediate Past President and Conference Presenter), Ms Tshisevhe Nesengani (AUDE 2024 Award Winner), Mr Hendrik Esterhuizen (HEFMA President)

SHARPENING THE EDGE OF ASSET MANAGEMENT

— INNOVATE SUSTAIN THRIVE —

HEFMA BUSINESS PARTNER EVENTS

SAAMA 2025 Conference: Sharpening the Edge of Asset Management

The SAAMA 2025 Conference, hosted at the aha Gateway Hotel in Umhlanga on 12–13 June 2025, focused on sharpening the strategic and digital capabilities of asset management across sectors. Representing HEFMA, Ms Kubayi (President-Elect) and Mr Nonjabe (Assistant Director: Information Services) attended the event, which aligned perfectly with HEFMA's mission to lead innovation and resilience within higher education infrastructure.

Keynote speakers addressed the growing need for digital transformation and national collaboration in asset management. Presentations delved into AI integration for predictive maintenance, robotics in facilities operations, and leadership for the digital era. Educational institutions were called to embrace remaining useful life modelling, ISO-aligned maintenance, and sustainability models inspired by public-sector entities like Eskom and Transnet.



Left: Ms Lony Ngobo (Conference Keynote Speaker),
Ms Hlamarisa Kubayi (HEFMA President-Elect)



Left: Mr Simphiwe Hashe (SAAMA President), Ms Hlamarisa Kubayi (HEFMA President-Elect), Mr Monde Nonjabe (HEFMA Assistant Director: Information Services)

A standout insight for HEFMA was the potential use of digital twin technology to simulate space utilisation, emergency scenarios, and HVAC performance. The application of real-time condition monitoring, AI-powered diagnostics, and lifecycle costing models is increasingly relevant for managing complex university estates. HEFMA's delegates also engaged with SAAMA vendors, such as Collaborit, Yellotec, and Pragma, to explore future collaboration and possible campus pilot projects.

The conference made clear that higher education must not only keep up with best practices, it must lead with bold, data-driven, and student-centred asset management strategies.

HEFMA 2025 STRATEGIC PROGRAMME: DELIVERING VALUE THROUGH CONSISTENCY



HEFMA remains unwavering in its commitment to structured, responsive, and value-driven leadership.

The 2025 Annual Plan continues to guide our activities through monthly Executive Committee meetings, regular webinars with strategic partners, quarterly Institutional Members Forum engagements, and focused COO Forum sessions.

Our participation in key industry conferences, such as AUDE and SAAMA, ensures that we stay aligned with global best practices.

Additionally, our ongoing collaboration with public and private stakeholders creates shared platforms for sustainable transformation in higher education facilities.

2nd COO Forum held at the University of Pretoria: Driving Operational Excellence

On the 9th of May 2025, the second HEFMA COO Forum took place at the University of Pretoria, gathering representation from all HEFMA members, including the University of Botswana. The event was elevated by a keynote address from Professor Francis Petersen, Vice Chancellor and Principal of UP, who passionately advocated for positioning facilities management as a core strategic function in universities.

The forum featured impactful presentations on sustainability innovation, campus safety, and the use of digital tools to enhance operations. It reaffirmed that collaboration across institutions and regions is vital for unlocking operational excellence and consistent service delivery in FM.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Workshops:

Be on the lookout on our social media pages and website for updates

Due date Call for Papers

25 July 2025 - Submit to Dlaminis@cjc.edu.za

3rd COO Forum Meeting

13-14 August 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

Institutional Members Forum

18 September 2025 - SAVE THE DATE!

Benchmarking Survey 2025: Your Voice Matters

HEFMA is excited to announce the relaunch of its institutional Benchmarking Survey in early July 2025. This revised tool aims to gather critical data on the state of facilities management across higher education institutions. The survey is designed to support evidence-based planning and influence support from national partners such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET).

All HEFMA member institutions are strongly encouraged to participate. By contributing data, we can collectively map the challenges, identify opportunities, and build a clearer picture of where support and intervention are most needed. The benchmarking exercise is not just about data; it's about ensuring our sector's voice is heard in the national conversation on campus development and resilience.