The thirteenth face-to-face Council meeting of the Global Forum on Maintenance and Asset Management was held in Cincinnati, Ohio, USA from 12th -15th October 2015 in conjunction with the annual SMRP conference. Hosted by the Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals, Global Forum members were active in participating in the conference and contributed with several presentations.

*Left to right, back row to front row:* Bjarni Ellert Ísleifsson, Zensuke Matsuda, Erik Helms Nielsen, John Hardwick, Robert Lash, Dave Daines, David McKeown, Edmea Adell, Celso Azevedo, Nezar Al Shammasi, Johannes Coetzee, Shon Isenhour, Vlad Bacalu, Tsutomu Nakamura, and Craig Seibold (Richard Edwards not present at the photo time.)

During the meetings in Cincinnati, the GFMAM Council members focused on key areas to ensure both sustainment of what the association has developed ensuring ongoing value to the Maintenance and Asset Management Community plus continual improvement growth projects to advance the efforts of the association forward.

It was a busy week as the Council worked together on several joint activities and projects. The summary of tasks and project work are as follows:
Marketing:
The members have validated a new logo for GFMAM and have validated the marketing strategy for the next year. GFMAM aims to be more known in the world as a reference for Maintenance and Asset Management in addition to communicating GFMAM projects to the industry. All the efforts will be driven for reaching these objectives.

Maintenance Framework:
The aim of the project is to identify the essential requirements of Maintenance and Reliability professionals and the relationship to Asset Management. Over the past six months, the team carried out the finalization of the Framework to show the relationship between Maintenance and Asset Management as outlined in the GFMAM AM Landscape document. The team presented to the GFMAM Council the Framework and it was approved for publishing on October 15, 2015.

Asset Management Maturity:
With the publication of the ISO 55000 series of standards, the Global Forum recognized that the accelerating interest in Asset Management would benefit from more guidance on Asset Management maturity. The meeting approved the position statement that has been developed over the last year. This position statement defines the key principles of Asset Management maturity and is intended for organizations who wish to develop guidance around how to assess Asset Management maturity. The position statement will be published on the Global Forum web site.

The Value of Asset Management:
The project is well under way with a major achievement being the development of a Value Model as a conceptual model of value creation from asset management. The Value Model and the definitions of concepts were thoroughly discussed, reviewed and improved by the project group, other members of GFMAM and of the member societies. The main content of the project document are finalized, but still open for further review for quality improvements. A first fictional case study has been written for review of content and format. Project completion is due by the end of the year.
The Competency Specification Review:
Work on reviewing the Competency Specification has commenced with the scope being to review the requirement for the asset domain knowledge and understanding recommended for auditors and assessors of Asset Management. The project timeline has the objective of producing a draft revision by June 2016.

The use of Conformity Assessment Bodies (CAB’s)
From the introduction of the ISO5500 series of standards GFMAM member associations have noticed confusion in the marketplace around the conformity assessments of organisations against the standard. There can be confusion with the terminology associated with conformity assessment for the certification of management systems, and who can issue certificates of conformity. A document was produced to explain the differences of Conformity Assessment, Accreditation, and Certification and will be available on the Global Forum web site.

Asset Management Scheme for Accreditation Bodies:
Discussions were held with regards to the GFMAM considering a MOU to manage the technical content for an ISO55001 Accreditation Scheme (Asset Management Scheme) that has been developed by JAS-ANZ (The Joint Accreditation System of Australia and New Zealand). Agreement was reached to progress discussion on the MOU content.

Conclusion:
The SMRP Conference that hosted the 13th face to face GFMAM Council meeting provided an excellent forum for interaction between SMRP and GFMAM members. A significant amount of work was completed by the team whilst interacting on a wide range of events and activities.
A notable event was the award of the Society of Maintenance & Reliability Professionals annual CMRP Veteran Professional Award to GFMAM Vice Chair Nezar Al-Shammasi. We now look forward to the next face to face meeting scheduled with the IAM Conference in Edinburgh during the week of the 20th June 2016.