PREDICTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS, 2015

CoreNetNZ Predictions and Resolutions 2015, hosted by AECOM, featured five speakers, each with a wide range of expertise in commercial real estate.

Bob Bull and Nigel Rye introduced the night and reminded us of events coming up, including two MCR classes, growing interest and participation in the Leadership Development Programme, and the annual Symposium, to be held this year at Shed 10. Watch this space for more details.

David Maurice served as moderator for the evening and kept things rolling at a brisk pace. After a quick look back at the success of the predictions from 2014, Chris Dibble of Colliers took the podium.

Chris started with a focus on the Cricket World Cup and the boom it will be to Christchurch in particular. After a review of market trends in 2014, Chris predicted that international pressures will keep lending rates low, spurring higher international investment in New Zealand, and that offices will need to house more people in less space for more money. Landlords will need to figure out how to meet changing demands of the corporate real estate sector.

Tim Rosenberg of Venator Search predicted an England versus All Black final in the Rugby World Cup, and we hope not only that he is correct, but that the boys bring the cup home again. Tim focused on attracting and retaining talent in New Zealand, predicting that half the attendees would be tapped by recruiters in the next 12 months. Companies need to develop their "employment brand," part of which is the environment in which they work, and Tim suggests that retention won't be "all about the money." Good relations with management is another key to talent retention, and we'll see more and more emphasis on those relationships in the coming year.

Craig Coote of JLL predicted a banner year for emerging New Zealand pop duo Broods. His opinions on the cricket were, perhaps, not shared by all, predicting a South Africa over New Zealand win. Overall, Craig predicts lots of growth in the job market, again emphasising the attractiveness of New Zealand for foreign investment. He reckons office space will grow, but premium options are tight. This should be mitigated by new stock coming on the market by year end. Compatible with Tim's take on retention, Craig feels that innovations in workspaces will follow company principles more than market pressures, a trend worth noting.

Mike Dennehy of Qube gave us his perspective on technological advances in 2015. His prediction: health and wellness apps are poised to make a splash. "Sitting is the new smoking" he reminded us, and he suggests that changes in our attitudes toward ourselves will alter our perceptions of our working habits. Furthermore, Google Glass's relaunch will ultimately fail, 3D printing will become more available and affordable, and legislation will start to catch up with drones and driverless vehicles. The biggest controversy in 2015: data privacy. Watch out for what's being watched!

Laurie Aznavoorian of AECOM finished off the series with an overview of five points that will test our creative thinking in 2015. The key points are:

- Curated experiences
- Show don't tell
- The Internet of sharing things
- Being authentic
- Reinvention

Among the specific changes to watch for, a blurring of public and private spaces, more casual working environments, more personalisation in the workplace, and multi-purposing of workspaces.

A quick wrap up from David and our attendees adjourned for beverages and conversations, with more than a few laughs, a few new LinkedIn contacts, a whole lot of new ideas to carry us into 2015.

Details of our next event out very soon!

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