



Retail Excellence Retail Retreat smashes all records - Largest supported retail conference in Ireland

Retail Excellence, the largest retail industry representative body, recently held a very successful Retail Retreat and Expo in Croke Park on May 9th and 10th and beat all attendance records set in previous years. Retail Excellence represents 1750 members operating over 10,000 stores across Ireland. The Retail Retreat is held on an annual basis and is focused on driving standards and helping retailers be the best they can be with tips on a diverse range of topics relating to best practice in the retail industry.

500 delegates along with Minister Leo Varadkar, Minister Pat Breen, Minister David Stanton and a host of other TDs and Senators attended the opening ceremony on the Tuesday evening where guests were treated to dinner and an engaging performance by David Meade, “mentalist” and BBC personality.

On Wednesday May 10th almost a thousand CEOs, Directors and Business Managers from the retail industry attended the full day conference, with 92 Corporate Partners and Preferred Suppliers showcasing their goods and services and a host of global and world class speakers who addressed the attendees.

Head of Public Affairs and Communications at Retail Excellence Lorraine Higgins said "The 6th annual Retail Retreat was a retail spectacular unmatched in previous years. Every year we continue to strive to improve on the year before and encourage the best global speakers in retail to impart their wisdom, knowledge and experience to our members. The event has become a priority event in the calendar of leading CEOs, Directors and Business Managers in retail and this year was an experience like no other. We had a varied list of presenters who covered a diverse range of retail issues including the online revolution, online fraud, retail crime, turning customers into fans, the food revolution, how to deliver an experiential shopping environment and the future of retail”.

“We were particularly delighted with the vast array of speakers in attendance which included CEO of the world's largest retail association, the US-based National Retail Federation, Matt Shay, retail futurist and founder of 22nd&5th Howard Saunders, Researcher and Lecturer David Meade, and Chief Marketing Officer with Ryanair Kenny Jacobs, among others. We take retail excellence seriously so it's important we are ahead of the curve in bringing the best advice, vision and the latest trends to the Retreat so our members can benefit and implement changes in their own operations. In fact we are already working on next year’s programme so we can continue to drive standards in the industry.

“The significance of retail to the Irish economy cannot be understated with 282,000 workers employed in the industry. This is why the development of top class retail standards and skills, the promotion of vibrancy and competitiveness are essential to its future. We at Retail Excellence recognise this and look forward to another great event next year”. Lorraine Higgins concluded.

Ends.

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About Retail Excellence

Established in 1995, Retail Excellence is owned by the members, for the members. We are an organisation which invests in innovative and exciting learning, market intelligence, human resources services, Government representation and member networking initiatives. Retail Excellence has over 1,750 leading retail companies in Ireland. Our members are the most progressive and innovative retailers. Retail Excellence is by far the largest retail industry body in Ireland.