

HFMA AGM looks to breaking down barriers through growth

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The Health Food Manufacturers' Association (HFMA) recently held their AGM and annual seminar in London. Members and guests were hosted at the Wellcome Collection for a day which included the formalities of the AGM, the presentation of awards and a packed programme of presentations for the afternoon seminar programme.

'Breaking Down the Barriers to Trade Through Growth' was the overarching theme of the seminar programme with the intent of looking at how we can help take our industry forward in a successful way by overcoming barriers and obstacles whether it be economic issues, trading restrictions, or political impact. Beginning with a panel discussion chaired by Theresa Cutts, HFMA PR and Marketing Consultant with Katy Rose, Waverlex; Jalal Janmohamed, Wren Labs; and Andy Thomas, Better You all considering how as an industry we stick at what works or should we look at diversifying into different delivery systems, technology.

Topics ranged from personalised nutrition, new delivery systems, apps to support supplements and the role of AI in an industry where sustainability and environmental impact is always on the agenda. Other topics included political updates from Tom Bradley, Cavendish Consulting; Trading Opportunities with David Bharier from the British Chamber of Commerce, Growth, Import and Export from James Beringer from the Food and Drink Federation and Sukh Gill from the IHTA covering the Relation between the UK and Ireland in the natural products industry.

All speakers acknowledged that from sourcing raw materials through to reaching the consumer, we currently face many challenges, however there was also consensus that there are still opportunities for growth and expansion as well as creating strong relationships with industries overseas and those closer to home such as the Irish trade.

Martin Last, Director General HFMA, commented, 'The day was a wonderful opportunity for members to come together and catch-up face to face as well as gain valuable insights and learnings during the day. I would like to thank everyone for attending and our speakers for their excellent presentations.' Martin added, 'The speakers all gave fascinating and worthwhile presentations which gave everyone something to take away. We can't escape the fact that as an industry we face many challenges but can also be optimistic that there are future opportunities at home and abroad. Members can also be assured that the HFMA will continue to keep working on their behalf with Government and regulatory bodies.'

Ends

Notes to Editors

Photos attached

Nick Bennett HFMA Chair addresses the AGM L-R Nick Bennett, Martin Last HFMA Director General, Tom Moses HFMA Treasurer.

Martin Last introduces the panel discussion. L-R Martin Last, Jalal Janmohamed, Andy Thomas, Katy Rose, Theresa Cutts.

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