

20 June 2017

## Media Release

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# Hotel conference explores the future

From collaborative cooking areas to robotic concierges and living hotels that look different every time you visit, the latest in hotel design and service trends will feature at next month's New Zealand Hotel Industry Conference.

On in Auckland, 20 July, the conference is the largest and most important annual event dedicated to New Zealand's valuable hotel sector, attracting more than 300 delegates, including senior hotel executives, investors and developers.

Speakers this year include Alan Watts, InterContinental Hotels Group's Chief Operating Officer, who is responsible for 267 hotels in nearly 40 countries. One of the largest hotel companies in the world, IHG's brands include Indigo, a high-end boutique hotel experience that reflects the neighbourhood where it's situated.

"International speakers also include Greg Farrell, an Executive Director with Aedas Interiors. Based in Hong Kong, Greg is at the forefront on hotel interior design trends," says Stephen Hamilton, Director Horwath HTL which co-hosts the annual conference with Tourism Industry Aotearoa.

"We expect this session will really excite and inspire the conference delegates. There is so much innovation taking place in hotels around the world as they respond to changing consumer expectations and technological advances."

Infrastructure initiatives, priorities and funding options will also be discussed and debated at the conference, says TIA Hotel Sector Manager Sally Attfield.

"Recent research commissioned by TIA identified more visitor accommodation as one of the priority infrastructure types needed to support the future growth of New Zealand's booming tourism industry.

"Delegates will hear from experts from the private and public sectors on what is happening in this space – both the challenges and potential solutions. This will be followed by a panel weighing up the pros and cons of building new hotels versus converting existing spaces.

"Hotels are experiencing record results, but the question of when and where to invest in new infrastructure and how to pay for it is a hot topic," says Ms Attfield.

### TOURISM INDUSTRY AOTEAROA

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Registrations are open for the conference, which will culminate with a gala dinner and the presentation of the New Zealand Hotel Industry Awards 2017.

Go to [www.nzhotelconference.com](http://www.nzhotelconference.com) for more information on the conference programme and registrations.

## **About the co-hosts**

### **TIA Hotel Sector**

TIA's hotel sector represents the interests of more than 150 members throughout New Zealand, including international chains, large independent and privately owned hotels. TIA hotel sector members employ 11,979 staff nationally, with annual revenues of more than \$1.3 billion.

TIA's hotel members contribute to a monthly performance survey conducted by The Fresh Information Company. [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz)

### **Horwath HTL**

Horwath HTL Limited is a consulting firm specialising in the hotel, tourism and leisure industries, providing specialist consulting services to a wide range of private sector clients and public sector stakeholders including developers, investors, funders, owners and operators. Horwath HTL is affiliated with Crowe Horwath International, a network of more than 140 independent accounting and advisory services firms with 560 offices in more than 100 countries.

### **Platinum Sponsor**

The conference Platinum Sponsor is Scenic Hotel Group.

### **For further information, please contact:**

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## KEY FACTS

- Tourism in New Zealand is a \$95 million per day industry. Tourism delivers around \$40 million in foreign exchange to the New Zealand economy each day of the year. Domestic tourism contributes another \$55 million in economic activity every day.
- Tourism is New Zealand's biggest export earner, contributing \$14.5 billion or 20.7% of New Zealand's foreign exchange earnings (year ended March 2016).
- 13.2% of the total number of people employed in New Zealand work directly or indirectly in tourism. That means 332,322 people are working in the visitor economy.
- The [Tourism 2025](#) growth framework has a goal of growing total tourism revenue to \$41 billion a year by 2025.

Visit [www.tia.org.nz](http://www.tia.org.nz) for more information

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