

The Future is Not to Sit and Wait but Create for oneself

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The New Year is here with us.

We have come to the time of the year when we reflect on the past year and welcome the new year with new hopes and aspirations.

Looking back at 2019, I think it was a tough year both in Korea and abroad. Internationally, economic indicators such as economic growth, unemployment, and inflation were not good due to the U.S.-China trade conflict, the Korea-Japan economic war, and the North Korean nuclear issue. At home, politically and socially, it was a tough year with the sluggish real estate market and we seem to have spent the year experiencing the faltering economy of the nation as the rift between the political camps and generations deepened.

While experts say that the global economic outlook for 2020 will be the most difficult year since the 2008 global financial crisis, the OECD predicted the domestic economic growth rate to be 2.0 percent, whereas the Korean government forecasts 2.4 percent which will be better than 2019.

At this juncture in the year, the government seems to be working on various policies to increase investment in order to revive the construction market which the government has so far turned a blind eye. It is encouraging, but we must now show ourselves that we are not a fragile construction industry (CM) that is at the mercy of the ups and downs of the market conditions as dictated by the government.

Professor Zig Zigler of the University of Southern California said that we can't achieve anything if we don't try and that we must face challenges with courage at all times.

We seem to be more obsessed with making plans for next year than with planning the future for the long run.

It would be advisable to establish and implement short-term plans one by one within the whole scope of mid- and long-term plans that always cater for changes.

I believe if we make mid- to long-term plans with the market and the competitiveness in mind and follow through with detailed short term plans one by one, we will be able to achieve solid results with stability.

In this regard, CMAK has been work actively, focusing on expanding the market and we will continue to do so. As for the competitiveness, we believe it is the responsibility of our member companies to cultivate their own competitiveness. This policy may differ from the associations in Europe and the US but I believe it's because of difference in the nature of their members.

In another aspect, the domestic market these days is quite chaotic. Many areas, such as institutions, routine functions, business areas and their functions, are fragmented which often confuse the people working in the industry and impedes their progress due to mutual distrust

At such times, the government should always listen to the many voices of the market and prepare necessary policies and systems, and our industry should not merely follow blindly but judge its position accurately so that the management of our business will not be disrupted.

In the year of the clever and witty rat, we wish you all the wisdom and hope that this year will be a better year for all the CM professionals.