

Title: **SHARPENING YOUR FORECASTING SKILLS**

Dinner Speaker: **MICHAEL J. MAUBOUSSIN**  
Credit Suisse, Global Financial Strategies

**Importance:** Why this matters:  
All of our investment processes and decisions are based on forecasts. Maubossin and others have demonstrated that most individuals are poor forecasters, yet they are overconfident in their forecasting ability. He discussed ways to improve and debias our forecasts.

*“many pundits were hard pressed to do better than chance, were overconfident, and were reluctant to change their minds in response to new evidence.”*

**Investigation:** "Speaker analyzed XXX data to address the questions yyy, zzz, etc."  
Mauboussin discussed the characteristics of superforecasters, and how to develop better forecasters. The dimensions include:  
3. Personality: actively open minded, probabilistic, thoughtful updaters  
4. Teams: Psychological safety, dependability, structure and clarity, meaning, and impact.

**Innovations:** Are there new techniques of interest in the data or approach to the problem?  
1. De-biasing training  
2. Superior forecasts require proper calibration and incorporating level of conviction.

**Insights:** 1-2-3, what are the three most important things the speaker offered?  
1. “Beliefs are hypotheses to be tested, not treasures to be protected.”  
2. Foresight is a real and measurable skill.  
3. Superforecasters are actively-open minded, intellectually humble, numerate, thoughtful updaters, and hard working.  
4. Teams can be better than individuals, but only under the right conditions. Smaller teams outperform larger teams. The best approach is to give everyone an opportunity to speak once before anyone has a second turn.  
5. Integrating base rates can sharpen forecasts.  
6. Getting good answers is different than asking good questions.

**Audience rating: 4.67**