



CARIBBEAN
HOTEL
ASSOCIATION

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**NATIONAL HOTEL ASSOCIATION LEADERS MEET IN BARBADOS TO EXCHANGE IDEAS,
EXPERIENCES, AND TRAIN IN CRUCIAL ISSUES
~ Intra-Caribbean mentorship program under development ~**

ST. MICHAEL, Barbados (May 16, 2007) – Members of the Caribbean Society of Hotel Association Executives (CSHAE) will meet in Barbados, from May 17 to the 19th, for the 2007 edition of the Annual Leadership Conference. This educational meeting focuses on association management and emerging issues in the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry. The two-day business development program is backed by the Caribbean Hotel Association, the Caribbean Tourism Development Company (CTDC), and the Caribbean Regional Sustainable Tourism Programme (CRSTDP) funded by the European Commission.

“The Association Executives act reciprocally as resources for insight and expertise. They are also CHA’s link with the members of the hotel and tourism industry at a local level. The purpose of Leadership Conference is to develop the mutual partnership among the association executives - and with CHA. The two-day meeting gives us a unique opportunity to meet and discuss the current trends and issues affecting our industry and our region,” said CHA’s president and Barbadian hotelier Peter J. Odle.

Training sessions will address topics such as energy management systems, new training tools available from CRSTDP, as well as preparedness and preventative measures for the upcoming hurricane season.

In addition, Association Executives will participate in two group discussions, where new executives (with 18 months or less in their position) will be introduced to the new “Operational Manual for Executive Directors and Presidents of National Hotel Associations” and toolkit developed under the CRSTDP project. Meanwhile, more experienced association executives will provide their input into the development of a Strategic Plan for CSHAE, led by three-time President, and the Executive Vice President of the Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association, Sue Springer. “We will be reviewing the implementation of a proposed peer-to-peer mentorship program for hotel association executives in the Caribbean,” advised Springer, who has already made official visits this year to the hotel associations in Anguilla and the British Virgin Islands, to research the needs of the proposed program.



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The Barbados Hotel and Tourism Association will treat attendees to true Bajan hospitality with a gourmet evening arranged by the Barbados Culinary Team, as a preview of their participation in the upcoming Taste of the Caribbean 2007.

Further, in the tradition of Leadership Conference, the 2007 Newsworthy Awards for Excellence in Hotel Association Communication will be presented. This award recognizes communication efforts to advance awareness about the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry by national hotel associations – on issues such as community-based tourism, tourism and the environment, sustainable tourism development, best practices, and social, economic and development issues, among others.

Participants confirmed include Trudy Nixon, Anguilla Hotel & Tourism Association; Neil Forrester, Antigua Hotel & Tourist Association; Isauro Cruz, Asociación de Hoteles de Cozumel; Frank Comito, Bahamas Hotel Association; Susan Springer, Barbados Hotel & Tourism Association; Donna Bradley, Belize Hotel Association; Doronda Dee Smith, Bermuda Hotel Association; Marion Wilson, Bonaire Hotel & Tourism Association; Donald B. Werdekker, Curaçao Hospitality & Tourism Association; Pancy Cross, Grenada Hotel and Tourism Association; María I. Soto, Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism Association; Tiffany Parris, St. Kitts and Nevis Hotel & Tourism Association; Silvanus Fontenard, St. Lucia Hotel & Tourism Association; Dawn W. Smith, St. Vincent & The Grenadines Hotel & Tourism Association; Bernadette Nathaniel, Trinidad Hotels, Restaurant & Tourism Association; Caesar Campbell, Turks & Caicos Hotel & Tourism Association, and Rik Blyth, US Virgin Islands Hotel & Tourism Association. They were joined by the CHA staff, who took the opportunity to strengthen their working relationship with the national hotel association executives and discuss ways to make the mutual collaboration more productive.

CSHAE is an independent organization for the professional development of national hotel association executives of all member countries of CHA. Member countries include Anguilla, Antigua, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bermuda, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico: Cozumel, Mexico: Quintana Roo, Puerto Rico, St. Barthélemy, St. Croix, St. Eustatius, St. Kitts & Nevis, St. Lucia, Sint Maarten, St. Martin, St. Thomas/St. John, St. Vincent & the Grenadines, Trinidad & Tobago, and Turks & Caicos.

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About the Caribbean Hotel Association – www.caribbeanhotelassociation.com

The Caribbean Hotel Association is dedicated to excellence in hospitality, leadership in marketing, and sustainable growth in tourism, to the benefit of its membership and that of the wider Caribbean community. It aims to be a regional forum that will advance the Caribbean hotel and tourism industry. The members of CHA represent the entire spectrum of hospitality industry's private sector, from 835 member hotels representing some 127,000 hotel rooms in 36 national hotel associations, to 520 allied members including airline executives, tour operators, travel agents, trade and consumer press, hotel and restaurant suppliers, and others.

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