



CARIBBEAN
HOTEL & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

Source: Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

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MAJOR SUPPORT FOR CARIBBEAN TRAVEL MARKETPLACE IN JANUARY

Officials encouraged by registration for key Caribbean business event

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO (December 18, 2017) - The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) reports strong sponsor and delegate interest in the upcoming Caribbean Travel Marketplace to be held at the Puerto Rico Convention Center in San Juan.

CHTA's Director General Frank Comito said major airlines, tour operators, meeting planners, destinations, hotels and attractions have already signed up for the annual event where the Caribbean travel trade assembles to do business.

Following a meeting with the Host Committee in San Juan last week, Comito disclosed the overall year-over-year registration pace was encouraging, and assured that all systems were in order for the January 30 to February 1, 2018 event.

Produced by CHTA, Marketplace brings together hotel and destination representatives; online travel agents; tour operators; Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) planners; and members of the media.

"We were very encouraged by what we saw in Puerto Rico," said Comito, who observed the metro area busily preparing for the opening of the winter season. "The strong recovery from Hurricane Maria, a Category 5 storm, is a testament to the spirit of the Puerto Rican people as they get their lives back on track and get ready to welcome tourists to the island," he added, after observing firsthand numerous hotels and restaurants were already back in business and contributing to the economic resurgence of the U.S. territory. "They are ready for us and they are going to be even more ready on January 30 next year!"

The Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC) reported last week that more than 100 hotels are open and operating. More than 4,000 restaurants are taking orders and serving up meals. Major tourism attractions island-wide have been cleaned up and restored.

"It's been the continued collaboration with Governor Ricardo Rosselló's team and tourism industry partners that has resulted in tremendous progress and we're thrilled to be officially open for tourism," said José Izquierdo, executive director of the PRTC. "Tourism is a vital contributor to the island's economy, so reaching these milestones not only will help build a stronger, better Puerto Rico, but showcases the resiliency in our people and destination."

Comito reported that registration for the region's leading travel marketing event is only slightly behind pace compared with last year's numbers, with more than 170 supplier companies, more than 50 buyer companies and close to 600 delegates already confirmed for the meeting. "With six weeks to go, we are on target to equal or surpass last year's attendance," he said, adding that next month's event is shaping up to be "another incredible opportunity to kickstart the region's marketing efforts for 2018 and beyond."

The event opens on the evening of Tuesday, January 30, preceded by educational sessions earlier in the day. For more information, visit www.chtamarketplace.com or call +1 305 443-3040. Details about registration can be found at <https://www.chtamarketplace.com/registration-fees>.

Caribbean Travel Marketplace, produced by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Convention Center District Authority, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, Meet Puerto Rico, and the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association, is hosted by Interval International, JetBlue Vacations and Mastercard. Platinum Sponsors include ADARA, AMResorts, Cable & Wireless, CaribbeanWE, Condé Nast Traveler, Expedia, Figment Design, Hotels.com, Marketplace Excellence, OBMI, Orbitz, Sojern, STR, Travelocity and Travelzoo. American Airlines, ARDA-ROC, Best Western, Brides, Delta Air Lines, Destination Travel Network, Duetto, Northstar Meetings Group, Lexicon Travel Technologies, Martha Stewart Weddings, Prevue Meetings, Rainmaker, Recommend Magazine, Simpleview, Symova, The New York Times, Time Inc., TravelClick and Travel Channel have joined the event as gold sponsors.

About the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean's leading association representing tourism interests for national hotel and tourism associations. For more than 50 years, CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working together with 1,000 hotel and allied members and 32 National Hotel Associations, CHTA is shaping the Caribbean's future and helping members to grow their businesses. Whether navigating new worlds like social media, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, data and intelligence or looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on matters that matter most.

For further information, visit www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com .

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