

Dear CHTA Member:

I am pleased to report that the CAST website is currently in the final stages of development and is nearing completion. The website will provide vital information on the activities and services provided by CHTA's environmental arm. CAST expects to implement this important website before the end of the year.

During this year, CAST participated in the efforts to publish two books of great interest to CHTA members: "[*Disaster Risk Management for Coastal Tourism*](#)" and "[*Manual of Best Practices for Safeguarding Sea Turtle Nesting Beaches*](#)."

I also wish to inform you that CAST will continue to offer the capability formation services to CSHAE and CHTA members in the following areas:

- Sustainable management in hotel operation
- Implementation of hotel environmental systems
- Preventive systems and disaster risk management in hotels
- Optimize use of tourist areas' cultural and natural resources
- Obtaining UNESCO declarations as cultural and natural World Heritage

CAST also assists members with request for funds from international organizations to support projects that are profitable for Caribbean tourist areas. CSHAE members interested in designing or implementing projects in its own tourist area are encouraged to utilize CAST for consultation as well as assistance creating formal requests. If approved, CAST will see projects through to completion and aid in the realization of the endeavor's goals.

Currently, CAST is working on the CHENACT project development in Barbados, focused on Caribbean hotels' energy efficiency management. The program cost over \$2 million and it is financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), Caribbean Alliance for Sustainable Tourism (CAST), Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA), GTZ, CDE and Barbados Government.

CAST is also available for you and all your organization members to give our attention for any requirement related to our activities, ensuring a quick answer. As CAST Executive Director, you can contact me at adolfo@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com or arqueoeco@hotmail.com.

Adolfo López
CAST Executive Director