



CARIBBEAN
HOTEL & TOURISM
ASSOCIATION

For Immediate Release

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PUERTO RICO TO HOST 2018 CARIBBEAN TRAVEL MARKETPLACE

SAN JUAN (April 19, 2017) - Puerto Rico will host the 2018 edition of Caribbean Travel Marketplace, the Caribbean's largest marketing event, at the Puerto Rico Convention Center from January 30 to February 1, 2018.

Produced by the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), in collaboration with the Puerto Rico Convention Center District Authority, the Puerto Rico Tourism Company, and the Puerto Rico Hotel and Tourism Association, next year's event will feature two days of business meetings that match hotels and destinations with online travel agents, tour operators and Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions (MICE) planners through a busy program of thousands of pre-scheduled appointments.

"We are honored to host the most important Caribbean tourism event of the year as we evolve our position as a regional leader in the meetings and conventions business," said Omar Marrero, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Convention Center District Authority.

"CHTA's strategy to bring more MICE planners to next year's Marketplace is very well aligned with our objective to continue to grow this crucial category," said Marrero, who is also the Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Ports Authority and the Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority.

"Puerto Rico takes great pride in announcing that this prestigious travel event will be returning to our island," said José Izquierdo, Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company (PRTC). He said that PRTC looks forward to working with CHTA officials, its members and all on-island partners to welcome delegates to 'La Isla del Encanto' (Island of Enchantment)."

"This is an excellent opportunity to partner on the ground with our regional affiliate," said Miguel Vega, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Puerto Rico Hotel & Tourism

Association . He noted that CHTA plays a key role in driving business to the destination and the region by developing and maintaining strong ties with global buyers interested in the Caribbean. "Caribbean Travel Marketplace is a marquee event that provides an excellent opportunity for stakeholders here to network with some of the world's leading travel professionals and, more importantly, share what we offer on our islands to the world."

In a joint statement, CHTA's President Karolin Troubetzkoy and CEO Frank Comito said: "We look forward to returning to Puerto Rico and partnering with both the public and private sectors in such an incredibly welcoming destination." The CHTA officials, whose organization represents the interests of national hotel and tourism associations, noted they anticipate working with local partners, including the team at Meet Puerto Rico and destination management companies, to attract global meeting planners as well as buyers who specialize in niche markets such as spas and wellness.

In 2017, Caribbean Travel Marketplace, hosted by The Bahamas, attracted 114 buyer companies from 20 countries. More than 1,100 delegates from 31 countries participated in more than 10,000 pre-scheduled appointments.

The Conference opens on the evening of Tuesday, January 30 and will be preceded by educational sessions that day. For more information, visit www.chtamarketplace.com or call +1 305 443-3040.

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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