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CARIBBEAN TECHNOLOGY EXPERTS REVEAL TOP 5 AI INNOVATIONS AND STRATEGIES FOR 2025

For Lauderdale, Fla. – February 6, 2025 – Artificial intelligence (AI) is reshaping industries worldwide, and hospitality in the Caribbean is no exception. At the most recent <u>Caribbean Hospitality Industry Exchange Forum</u> (CHIEF), hosted by the <u>Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association</u> (CHTA), industry experts shared insights into how AI is set to revolutionize the guest experience, streamline operations, and preserve the region's vibrant culture.

Here are the top five trends every hospitality leader should know:

1. High Tech Meets High Touch

Al isn't about replacing people—it's about empowering them. By automating repetitive tasks, Al frees up staff to focus on delivering personalized, authentic guest experiences. Adam Mogelonsky, a CHIEF panelist and Partner at Hotel Mogel Consulting Limited, emphasized, "Hospitality is fundamentally a people-to-people industry. Al should liberate teams to enhance human connections with guests." This approach ensures that while technology streamlines operations, the heart of hospitality—genuine, meaningful interactions—remains at the forefront.

2. Data Integration Will Unlock New Revenue Streams

Despite having access to vast amounts of guest data, many hotels struggle with siloed systems that limit its potential. Experts predict that 2025 will be the year of seamless data integration, made possible by advanced APIs and middleware. With real-time analytics and machine learning, hotels can unlock actionable insights to enhance the guest journey and drive revenue.

3. Cost-Effective Al Solutions Are Within Reach

For businesses with limited budgets, Al-powered chatbots offer a practical starting point. These virtual assistants operate 24/7, handle multiple languages, and address both guest and employee needs. Christus Gill, Information Technology Manager at Zoëtry® Marigot Bay St. Lucia and CHIEF panelist, noted, "Al chatbots are an affordable, efficient way to enhance productivity and guest satisfaction, allowing staff to focus on higher-value interactions."

Beyond chatbots, hotels can start integrating accessible AI tools to address specific needs. "In terms of what AI can do in the near-term," said Mogelonsky, "consider contextual marketing messages, prearrival upselling, websites with adaptive content, dynamic room availability, personalized itinerary planning, responsive staff scheduling, guest feedback semantic analysis, and predictive maintenance." These innovations provide a roadmap for hotels to implement AI solutions that immediately drive results and improve operations.

4. Cybersecurity Must Evolve with Al

As AI evolves, so do cyber threats. The hospitality industry's reliance on sensitive guest data—including names, addresses, passport details, and credit card information—makes it a prime target for hackers. High staff turnover further amplifies the risks, as new employees often gain access to critical systems before receiving adequate cybersecurity training.

Many hotels focus heavily on hardware and software security solutions but neglect the critical role of employee education. "Al is being leveraged by hackers to conduct sophisticated attacks, including evolving social engineering tactics. Cybersecurity training is critical in equipping employees to identify and respond to these threats effectively," Gill added.

By prioritizing ongoing training for all staff, hotels can better safeguard sensitive guest data, mitigate the risks of human error, and create a culture of security that adapts to the latest threats.

5. Preserving Caribbean Culture Through Al

Al can play a transformative role in showcasing and preserving the Caribbean's rich heritage. From traditional recipes and local folklore to iconic lyrics, Al-powered platforms can bring the region's cultural treasures to life for both guests and younger generations. "Training Al agents with local knowledge is an innovative way to make Caribbean culture more accessible and engaging, bridging tradition and technology," said Gill.

As the Caribbean hospitality industry embraces these trends, AI is poised to redefine the guest experience while honoring the region's unique identity. By staying ahead of these innovations, hospitality leaders can position themselves for long-term success in a rapidly evolving landscape.

Resources & Next Steps:

Staying ahead in AI requires continuous learning. For those looking to explore best-in-class AI-powered solutions, <u>Hotel Tech Report</u> offers comprehensive reviews and resources on top AI technology providers, helping hotels select the right tools to enhance guest experiences.

To further support hospitality professionals integrate AI effectively, the <u>CHTA</u> provides a range of curated, up-to-date materials – from webinars to educational tools.

For additional insights, **key Al takeaways** from CHIEF can be found <u>here</u>. The **CHTA Al Guidebook**, offering practical implementation strategies, is also available <u>here</u>.

To stay informed on more CHIEF insights, visit www.chtachief.com.

Looking ahead, **CHIEF 2025** will take place in **Miami this November**. For more details, contact **membership@caribbeanhotelandtourism.com**.

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About the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean's leading association representing the interests of national hotel and tourism associations. For more than 60 years,

CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working with some 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 helping to navigate critical issues in sales and marketing, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, climate change, data and intelligence or, looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on issues which matter most.