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## CHTA APPOINTS TWO YOUNG LEADERS TO BOARD AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN MILESTONE STEP TOWARD INCLUSION OF NEXT GENERATION OF HOSPITALITY PROFESSIONALS

**MIAMI, Fla. (April 17, 2025)** – In a groundbreaking move that underscores its commitment to developing the next generation of Caribbean hospitality leaders, the [Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association](#) (CHTA) has appointed two rising hospitality professionals from its **Young Leaders Program** to serve on the CHTA Board of Directors for the 2025–2027 term. The appointments follow the by-law changes adopted at the association’s Special Meeting on January 31, 2025, which created new pathways for young professionals to help shape the future of the region’s hospitality and tourism industry.

**Yatsuri “Sue” Marshall, General Manager at Bay Gardens Marina Haven** in Saint Lucia, and **Mikael Doumeng, Director of Digital Marketing at Bolongo Bay Beach Resort** in the U.S. Virgin Islands, were selected from the inaugural CHTA Young Leaders cohort through a formal nomination process. In addition to his Board appointment, Doumeng has also been named the Young Leaders representative on the CHTA Executive Committee.

“These appointments represent more than a title—they signify action,” said Vanessa Ledesma, CEO of CHTA. “We are realizing our commitment to give emerging leaders a voice at the decision-making table. We’re proud to support the leadership journeys of Yatsuri and Mikael and are confident they’ll bring valuable perspective, passion, and innovation to CHTA.”

### The Young Leaders Program was established with a clear mission:

- To help develop the next generation of leadership within CHTA and its member destinations
- To support the professional growth of young industry talent
- To ensure young professionals are included in decision-making
- To foster stronger regional networks
- To infuse fresh thinking that strengthens both National Hotel and Tourism Associations (NHTAs) and the CHTA

Sanovnik Destang, President of CHTA, emphasized the importance of cultivating future-ready leadership across the region.

“Our industry’s long-term sustainability relies on the energy, innovation, and perspective of emerging professionals,” said Destang. “By opening new pathways to leadership through the Young Leaders Program, we’re not only investing in CHTA’s future, but also reinforcing the strength and continuity of Caribbean tourism as a whole.”

For more information about the Young Leaders Program and CHTA’s ongoing initiatives, visit [www.caribbeanhotelandtourism.com](http://www.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.