



CARIBBEAN  
HOTEL & TOURISM  
ASSOCIATION

**Remarks by CHTA Director General and CEO Frank J. Comito  
Grant Signing Ceremony  
CARPHA-IDB Regional Tourism Health Information, Monitoring and Response Systems  
and Standards to Enhance Sustainable Tourism Project  
Wednesday, January 27, 2016**

Thank you Dr. Indar, Dr. Hospedales, and CTO Secretary General Riley. First, I wish to extend the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's congratulations to CARPHA for being awarded this very timely and important Grant.

We also wish to recognize the Inter-American Development Bank. The IDB continues to be a constructive partner with the region, contributing to the development of our people, our businesses and our Governments.

The health and safety of our guests and employees has been a longstanding priority for the hospitality industry. Indeed, we could not be defined as being in this hospitable industry without this guiding priority.

The hotel and tourism industry led the charge with Governments in the region beginning over sixty years ago by voluntarily adopting health and safety standards and good practices – first as guidelines for the industry, and shortly thereafter helping to regularize them through regulations and legislation.

As our industry has grown and as new and unexpected health, safety and environmental threats have emerged, so too has the need for ongoing training, coordination and information dissemination. So we are indeed pleased to be a supporting partner with CARPHA to help to mitigate threats to our industry and our residents.

If one were to sit down today to write a grant proposal to the IDB on addressing health, safety and environmental threats, they would certainly have in their mind front and center the latest threat to quickly affect our industry and our people – the zika virus. Ironically, this threat presents this project and our industry and government's with a timely opportunity to draw upon new resources to write a new page on best practices and standards which can guide and improve our capability to mitigate health, safety and environmental threats.

All that we do cannot be done effectively without collaboration. And CHTA is pleased to see that public and private sector collaboration is a fundamental mandate within the project. When we work together, drawing upon one another's strengths and expertise, we make a far greater positive difference.

We look forward to being part of the success of this important initiative.