



Hugh Riley
Secretary General
Caribbean Tourism Organization
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Port of Spain, Trinidad

It is an honor and pleasure to be here for the signing of this landmark agreement – a CARPHA/IDB Technical Cooperation Agreement, which provides funding for the critical purpose of executing a **Regional Tourism Health Information, Monitoring and Response System**.

On behalf of the Caribbean Tourism Organization, which I have the honor to represent, and our private sector partner the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association, let me begin by expressing both gratitude and congratulations to CARPHA and to the IDB for their visionary approach to the nexus between health and tourism – a combination that clearly touches the life of every citizen of the Caribbean.

To Dr. James Hospedales and his excellent team here at CARPHA, we pledge our complete support and collaboration in executing this project.

As fate would have it, there is no better time than now, for the Caribbean to be creating a mechanism for monitoring and responding to health threats; and certainly no better time for the IDB to be lending its funding support.

In 2014 when we signed a Memorandum of Understanding between CARPHA, the CTO and the CHTA, one of the stated intentions was to pursue public/private/partnerships that would ***“draw on technical***

expertise and ensure full involvement and participation in projects and programs.” End of quote.

We’re living it. This type of cooperation is a model which our entire region must follow. It combines our skills, minimizes duplication and conserves already scarce resources. Most especially, this particular model focuses on execution; the actual implementation of projects for the benefit of the populations we serve.

A partnership of this nature also gives us the comfort of knowing that when we face a challenge – no matter how daunting it might appear – we are not alone. We’re stronger together than apart.

Thank you, Partners.