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Editorial

It is with great pleasure and pride that we present this second edition of the Caribbean Tourism and Hospitality Investment Guide, produced against the backdrop of a healthy performance of the industry in 2016 and projected continued growth this year.

The region is poised to attract 30 million visitors in 2017 and Caribbean hoteliers are optimistic about the performance of the hotel sector as the region’s key foreign exchange earning sector continues to grow at a faster rate than the global tourism growth rate.

According to the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), the region is projected to record positive growth across the board in 2017. The economic expansion is expected to be largely driven by increased tourism activities and construction mainly related to the tourism industry.

One of the most important developments in 2017 is without a doubt the collaboration now underway between the CTO, its strategic partner the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA), and CARICOM. The Heads of Government have agreed to support initiatives addressing the facilitation of travel, human resources development, building the creative industries and the marketing of the Caribbean brand.

Investor confidence in the region remains high as evidenced by attendance at major Caribbean investment conferences and the numerous new properties and other tourism facilities that have opened or are in the construction phase across the region. This includes new and upgraded airports, port enhancements and attractions.

The Investment Guide showcases a wide range of investment opportunities. In the accommodation sector capital is required for high end, boutique and eco-resorts as well as guest houses.

CTO member countries are also seeking investment to expand the medical tourism and health and wellness sectors. There are investment opportunities for new restaurants and cafes, sports tourism facilities and new convention centers, yachting and marine services, new attractions, river and land transportation services, and to develop the creative industries.

This publication is made possible because of the advertising contributions of CTO Member Countries, investment and tourism agencies, and other stakeholders. We appreciate your support.

I would also like to express my sincere thanks to the editorial team who worked tirelessly to produce this publication.

As you explore this Guide, you will see myriad projects in our diverse locations that are ripe for investment. Our Investment agencies are eager and ready to discuss their projects and to engage in mutually beneficial collaboration aimed at expanding and upgrading our tourism and hospitality facilities and products, which would enhance the sector and bolster the region’s economies.

Sandra Ann Baptiste
Editor
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Top 10 Reasons to Invest in The Caribbean

- Projections of Continued Economic Growth Across the Region
- Stable Political Climate
- Robust Performance of the Tourism and Hospitality Sector
- Ideal Location – easy access to markets in north, south and central America and a bridge to Europe
- Openess to Trade
- Generous and Flexible Investment Incentives
- Excellent Air and Sea Accessibility
- Modern and Expanding Infrastructure
- Skilled Labour
- Supportive Investment Agencies
When discoverer Christopher Columbus landed in what is now called the new world, or the Americas, over five hundred years ago, he landed on an island in the Caribbean. We are the gateway to the New World and our legend as a preferred destination for leisure and business has grown by leaps and bounds ever since.

The Caribbean is indeed legendary for its rich history, diverse culture, friendly people, political stability and its investor friendly climate.

Further, the Caribbean’s year round warm weather, its proximity to the largest and wealthiest market in the world – North America; its pristine environment, breathtaking marine resources, highly integrated and open economies, and simplified tax code are just some of the competitive advantages that make the Caribbean a preferred multi-destination within a destination.

As our region emerges from the global recession, coupled with the threat of terrorism in Europe and the Middle East, there is a surge in foreign direct investment interest in the Caribbean in not only traditional tourism related projects but in alternative energy and environmental projects due to the high cost of energy, global warming and CARICOM’s commitment to the post millennium goals and the Paris Accord; this is everybody’s business.

Caribbean governments are working with other small island nation states in minimizing this threat to its way of life and very existence by accessing international funding and entering into regional and global public and private sector partnerships to realize these post millennium goals. The corresponding capital outlay is enormous and the investment possibilities and prospects are both endless and attractive.

The Caribbean Tourism Organization has a vested interest in this regional initiative as reduction in energy costs also lowers the operating costs for the tourism industry, thus improving our competitive advantages in attracting more investment and more tourism.

As Chairman, I am pleased to participate in the production of the Caribbean Tourism Organization Investment Guide for 2017 and I encourage our readers to learn more about our region, its centuries old cultural connection to the Americas and Europe - and learn about the incredible, exciting and diverse investment opportunities that await them in the Caribbean.

Hon. Obelia H. Wilchcombe, MP
MINISTER OF TOURISM