



(l to r): Frank Comito, CHTA CEO; Emil Lee, CHTA President; Jonathan Hernandez, Team Puerto Rico, 2015 Caribbean Chef of the Year; Peter Olsacher, Judge.

Chef of the Year - WINNER Puerto Rico (left to right): Frank Comito, CHTA CEO; Emil Lee, CHTA President; Jonathan Hernandez, Team Puerto Rico, 2015 Caribbean Chef of the Year; Peter Olsacher, Judge.

Zika virus situation, which has required some advocacy and outreach. It's been a coordinated effort, a partnership effort between the public and private sectors, working in collaboration with the regional umbrella group, called CARPHA, the Caribbean Public Health Agency organization that represents ministries of health throughout the Caribbean. We've been working diligently on education, training, getting the right kind of information out there – mitigation and effective control techniques - and looking at it not only from the hotel and tourism industry's point of view, but looking at it as a broader collaborative response by governments, communities, and our industry in the private sector, in dealing with a matter that, if it's not handled as well as it could, might have broad consequences on our economies and our industry, and, quite frankly, the social health and welfare of the residents of the Caribbean.

Can you talk a little about the nuts and bolts of the Association? Who are your members and are their different tiers of membership?

We're a federation of national hotel and tourism associations, so the region's national hotel and tourism associations are members. We also have over 600 hotel members from the Caribbean and another 400 allied members, both within the Caribbean as well as external partners – tour operators, wholesalers, airlines, people who do business with the tourism industry, even banks and other kinds of financial institutions. We also have what we call partner organizations that we work with like the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association; the Caribbean and Central American Action, based out of Washington; the Caribbean Council, based out of the United Kingdom; and IATA, the International Air Transport Association. So we have a number of affiliated memberships, which are really reciprocal memberships – there's quite a few of those.

What kind of events do you hold for your members?

"We have four key events throughout the year. We just completed our annual marketing event called Caribbean Travel Marketplace, which was held in the Baha-