

**Welcome remarks by the Director of Peru's Diplomatic Academy,
Ambassador Liliana Torres-Muga, to Dr. Alan Bollard, Executive Director
of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC)**

August 12, 2013

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, professors and students:

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you to Peru's Diplomatic Academy Javier Pérez de Cuéllar.

Tonight, we have with us a very special guest: Dr. Alan Bollard, from New Zealand, Executive Director of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum, or APEC.

Dr. Bollard, you are indeed most welcome. We are glad to have you at our Diplomatic Academy, as well as other distinguished persons, such as Mr. Michael Chapnick, Director of Communications at APEC Secretariat; Ambassador Juan Carlos Capuñay, Director-General for Asian and Pacific Affairs at Peru's Foreign Ministry; members of REDAP, that is the Peruvian Network for Pacific Studies; and members from ComexPeru, which is the Peruvian Society for Foreign Trade.

Dr. Alan Bollard has graciously accepted an invitation from Peru's Foreign Ministry to give us a talk on challenges and opportunities amongst countries of the Pacific Basin.

Thank you very much, Dr. Bollard. We know that you have a tight schedule. You have just landed in Lima and you are flying tomorrow to Cuzco, to participate in a Ministerial Meeting organized by APEC. on matters related to forest conservation and rehabilitation.

Incidentally, a group of students of the Diplomatic Academy is now in Cuzco collaborating in that important meeting.

Prior to his election as APEC's Executive Director, a high position that he is holding since January 2013, Dr. Bollard has brilliantly performed other important responsibilities in his native New Zealand, as Secretary of the Treasury, Governor of the Reserve Bank, Head of the Commerce Commission, Head of the Institute of Economic Research. He is the author of books and many articles on Economics and on Pacific matters.

APEC was created in 1989 and will be celebrating next year its silver jubilee, its 25th anniversary. Concrete achievements have been attained by its 21 economies during this period. It is known that Lima hosted APEC Summit in 2008. The same will happen in 2016.

Challenges are huge and so are the opportunities in the Pacific region, as we are going to learn from Dr. Bollard's lecture today.

Let me finish these welcoming remarks with a nostalgic note. The New Zealand flag, that of your wonderful country, dear Dr. Bollard, was flying not too long ago on top of the Embassy's premises, a few blocks from here, on Salaverry Avenue.

Unfortunately, the New Zealand Embassy in Lima ceased to exist and the same happened some years later with the Embassy of Peru in Wellington. New Zealand and Peru are two countries with much in common, besides being two active economies in

the Pacific Basin. I trust that soon, both Embassies may be reinstalled in the respective capitals.

Before giving the floor to Dr. Alan Bollard to address this distinguished audience, I am pleased to invite Ambassador Juan Carlos Capuñay, for some preceding remarks.

Muchas gracias. Thank you. Kia ora